

# Recruitment Methods & Tool Utilization at OHSU: Report of Research Findings

## INTRODUCTION

In fall 2018, OCTRI began the IRB approved protocol project “Clinical Research Recruitment Methods and Tool Utilization at OHSU”. The study aimed to understand the use and perceived effectiveness of research recruitment methods and accrual outcomes at OHSU, so that best practices can be established and outcomes measured longitudinally. Through this, OCTRI aims to support OHSU in improving research accrual outcomes.

## METHODS

This mixed-methods project had three main data sources:

- **Survey of the research community:** Completed by 144 OHSU investigators, and research staff, asked about utilization and value of specific recruitment tools and methods.
- **Accrual data from clinical trials:** Obtained from eCRIS, the clinical trial management system, and analyzed using parameters from the NIH CTSA “Accrual Metric”. The metric was calculated for the 442 clinical trials enrolling at OHSU during 2017.
- **Targeted interviews with research teams:** Conducted with 24 OHSU research staff members identified by the survey and over or under-enrolled accrual data, and inquired about recruitment facilitators and barriers.

## MAIN FINDINGS

OCTRI’s analysis found three main themes throughout the data sources.

### Theme 1 –

Direct patient contact a facilitator of recruitment.

58.4% of survey respondents discussed the healthcare setting as the method used most often.

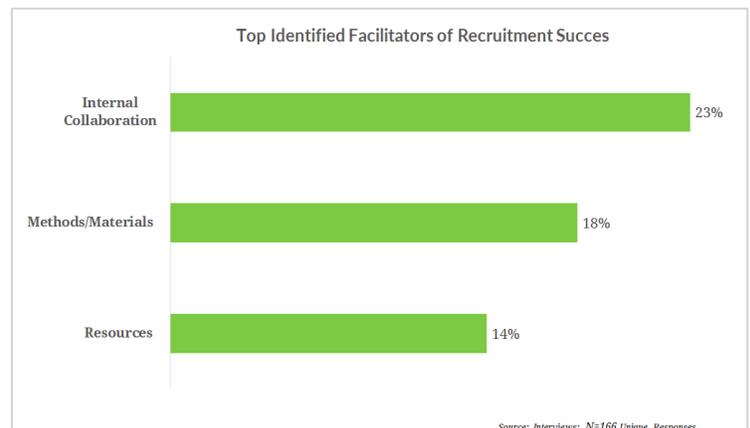
Patient Contact a Key to Recruitment Success	
Survey Question	Top Response
What methods have you used for recruitment planning?	Direct recruitment in OHSU clinic
What methods have you used to recruit participants into a study?	Direct recruitment in OHSU clinic
Of the recruitment methods you have used, which method do you use most often?	Healthcare setting
What was the most valuable method to recruitment success?	OHSU clinics

Source: Survey; N = 144

Additionally, patient outreach through the clinic was mentioned by 32% of respondents. Patient contact was also identified as a key facilitator during interviews and analysis of the accrual data.

### Theme 2 –

Collaborative culture a key to recruitment success.



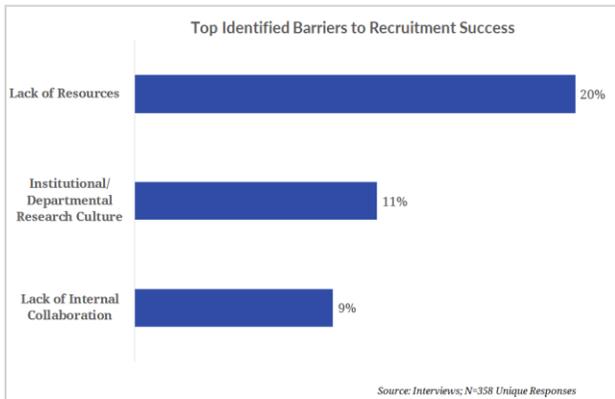
Source: Interviews; N=166 Unique Responses

23% of interviewees mentioned internal collaboration, or a collaborative culture, was key to their success. Interviewees defined collaborative culture as research teams imbedded in clinics, involved investigators, and cross-department collaboration and referrals.

Adding to this, interviewees identified a lack of internal collaboration, or collaborative culture, as the third biggest barrier to their recruitment (11%). Thereby, by not having such things as involved investigators, referrals from other departments, etc. they were limited in their recruitment.

### Theme 3 –

Resources the greatest need and key barrier to recruitment.



20% of interviewees discussed a lack of resources as a barrier to their recruitment. Resources was defined as funding, staff, time, and related items. Survey respondents also identified a lack of resources as an issue, 21% of respondents stated it was a key barrier and 27% a stated need. Additionally, in the accrual data, 13% of the studies that had no enrollment were found to have frequent staff turnover. Thereby, further highlighting the impact staffing levels, and resources, has on recruitment.

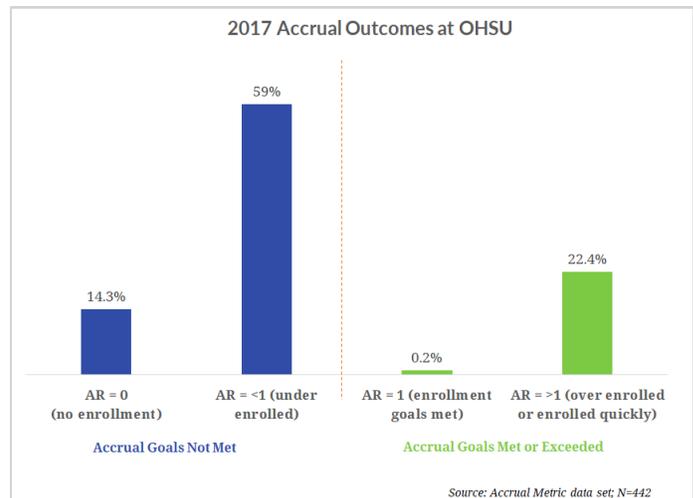
Adding to this, interviewees identified resources as a facilitator of recruitment (14%). Not only having resources, but also having the appropriate or needed amount of them. Thereby, acknowledging that resources can be either a facilitator or barrier based on its existence and/or quantity.

### OTHER KEY THEMES

Through the data, other key themes identified included:

- Methods and Materials: Having the right methods and materials for the specific study population and goals was a key to success.
- Research Culture: Having a non-existent or negative culture towards research, on the institutional or departmental level, was a barrier to success.

### ACCRUAL OUTCOMES



Through the accrual data, for clinical trials enrolling during 2017, it was found that OHSU did not meet accrual goals. The majority of clinical trials (59%) were found to be under enrolled. Additionally, 14.3% of trials had no enrollment. Furthermore, only 0.2% of clinical trials met their enrollment goals.

### FUTURE ANALYSIS AND NEXT STEPS

Our study approach allowed for a uniquely targeted analysis of accrual facilitators and barriers. Additional investigation will focus on the impact of funding sources and departmental factors on research recruitment at OHSU.

In addition to future analysis, we will:

- Share our results with OHSU leadership.
- Seek ongoing recruitment input from OHSU research teams through the 'Research Recruitment & Retention Experiences' [Survey](#).
- Develop and disseminate recruitment best practices.

Through these efforts, we hope to improve research accrual outcomes at OHSU.

For more information, or questions regarding these results, please email [OCTRRecruitment@ohsu.edu](mailto:OCTRRecruitment@ohsu.edu).

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