Learning More About MS in People of Color

Researchers are discovering new information about MS in African Americans and other minorities that suggests the disease is more common in people of color, and it affects them differently than Caucasians.

A 2013 study suggests that African Americans have a 47% higher risk of MS.

There is evidence that DMTs are less effective in African Americans.

Research shows MS symptoms are more severe and disease progression is faster in African Americans.

Some African Americans find their diagnosis is delayed because their doctors feel MS is a "Caucasian disease."

People of all genders, ages, races and ethnicities require medical treatment. When research involves a group of people who are too much alike, the findings may not apply to or benefit everyone.

The MS Minority Research Engagement Partnership Network (MREPN) is an ACP-founded group that is dedicated to increasing diversity in MS research.

An MREPN survey showed minority groups have specific concerns about participating in research:

- Not fully informed
- Mistrust
- Privacy protection
- Exploitation
- Legal status
- Health insurance
- Poor quality care
- Job loss

Survey results were used to develop 3 toolkits to inform the key stakeholders in the MS research process about best practices:

- Community Partner Toolkit
- Healthcare Professionals Toolkit
- Research Professionals Toolkit

These resources will be used to help boost enrollment of minorities in studies so their findings apply to and benefit everyone living with MS.

Accelerated Cure Project – Click here for more information.