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YWCA Metropolitan Chicago Enters Collaboration to Promote Education and Participation in Clinical Trials within Underrepresented Populations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chicago, Illinois

Recognizing that communities of color have faced longstanding disparities in health and health care, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago provides a number of health and wellness programs and services. In an effort to promote and advance health equity, the YWCA has engaged in an initial year-long collaboration with Janssen Research and Development, LLC, a part of the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson.

The collaboration is designed to increase awareness within underrepresented populations of the value of participating in clinical trials. While clinical trial participation is more diverse than ever, people of color, women, children, and the elderly are still underrepresented, which can negatively impact treatment efficacy and health outcomes.

Two initial public educational sessions are scheduled:

April 21, 2022 from 6:00-8:00 PM CST

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago office in Lake County at 1425 Tri State Pkwy Suite 180, Gurnee, IL 60031

Session will be conducted entirely in Spanish and guests will be provided refreshments.

Registration Link: <https://ywcachicago.tfaforms.net/145>

May 18, 2022 from 12:00-1:00 PM CST

Virtual session conducted in English

Registration Link: <https://ywcachicago.tfaforms.net/144>

Loren Simmons, who leads safety and wellness programming for the YWCA as Chief Empowerment Officer is encouraged by the pharmaceutical industry's focus on diversity, equity and inclusion.

"We've heard firsthand from our constituents about their lack of knowledge, skepticism, or unwillingness to participate in clinical trials. YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is excited to work

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with Janssen to evaluate the prevailing obstacles to education and involvement, and drive awareness of the benefits of participation.”

The initiative will focus on educating individuals and families on the importance of overall health and wellness and connecting them with relevant resources. In addition, the collaboration will educate community members on the purpose and typical process of clinical trials through a series of virtual educational sessions. The YWCA will work with Janssen to integrate educational materials with its existing regional health navigator work. The scope of work also includes advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts within Janssen through participation in YWCA’s Racial Justice League. Lastly, the partnership will contribute to building the future pharmaceutical workforce by promoting job opportunities within our networks and by coordinating youth programs.

About YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

Founded in 1876, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is a social enterprise committed to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. As a leading association among a national network of more than 200 YWCAs, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago impacts tens of thousands of women and families annually through comprehensive human services provided across the region. YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is a leader in the areas of sexual violence support services, health and wellness services, early childhood and childcare provider services, family support, youth STEM programming and economic empowerment. A commitment to racial justice, equity and inclusion is foundational to all YWCA programs and services. Located in the third-largest American city, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago serves as a national incubator for innovative programming, outreach and engagement strategies. YWCA Metropolitan Chicago works at both the individual and systems levels to create the truly inclusive marketplace necessary for a diverse and balanced economy. The organization is an active member of many national, state, county and city-level coalitions, advocating for policies that combat racism and positively affect women and families. Learn more at www.ywcachicago.org and follow @ywcachicago on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, TikTok, and YouTube.

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