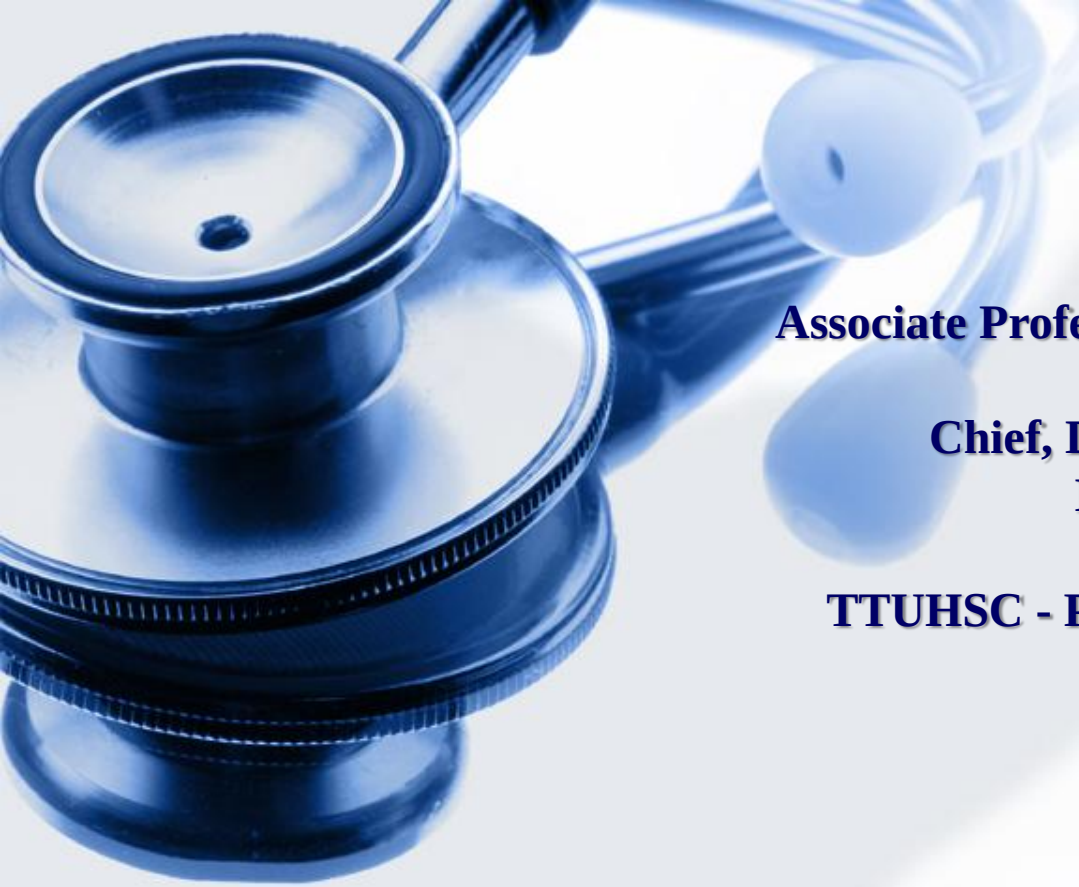


**Zeina Nahleh, MD, F.A.C.P.**
**Associate Professor of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences**
**Chief, Division of Hematology-Oncology**
**Department of Internal Medicine**

**TTUHSC - Paul L. Foster School of Medicine**
**4800 Alberta Ave**
**El Paso, TX 79905**
**(915) 545-6618 (office)**
**(915) 545-6634 (fax)**

**zeina.nahleh@ttuhsc.edu**

# Clinical Trials: Are you interested in taking part in a clinical trial?

# What is a clinical trial?

- Clinical trials are research studies that involve patient volunteers to help find different ways to treat diseases such as cancer.
- Each study is designed to answer specific scientific questions and help find potentially better ways to prevent, diagnose, or treat cancer.

# What happens during a clinical Trial?

- When someone chooses to take part in a clinical trial, the care he/she receives is much like the care they would otherwise receive
- There is often additional monitoring for the purpose of learning about potential side effects and benefits of the clinical trial.
- Some trials simply test a study regimen, and all participants receive this same regimen.

# What happens during a clinical Trial? (Continuation)

- Other trials may compare a study regimen to the standard treatment.
- In this type of study, participants are randomly assigned to receive one or the other. Neither the participant nor their doctor can choose which one they will receive for important scientific reasons.

# What happens during a clinical Trial? (Continuation)

- Some people worry that they will not know which drug they are receiving or that they will receive a placebo, sometimes called a “sugar pill”.
- Placebos are never used in place of a treatment that is known to work.
- Participants will always be told before agreeing to take part if a placebo is going to be considered.

# Why are clinical trials important?

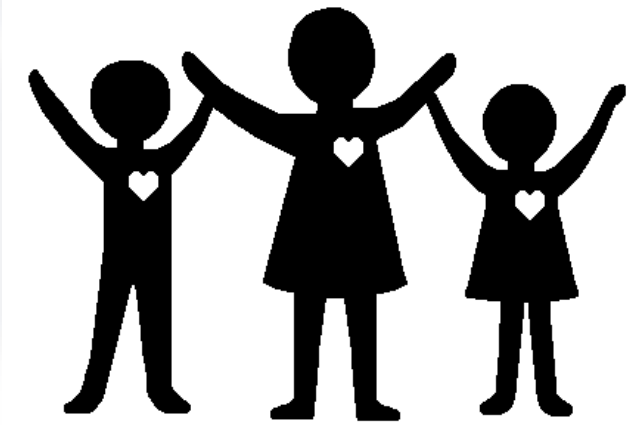
- Clinical trials are a vital part of the process in finding new cancer treatments. These research studies are conducted to determine if a study drug is safe and effective. Today's research will guide the improvements for tomorrow's cancer care.

# What is “informed consent”?

- Informed consent means that patients must be told the key facts about a clinical trial before deciding whether to take part.
- If the patient agrees to take part, the informed consent process involves signing a form that details the entire clinical trial, possible side effects, and potential risks and benefits.
- Participants may withdraw their decision to participate at any time for any reason.

# Should I participate in a clinical trial?

- The decision to take part in a clinical trial is a personal one.
- You may wish to talk to your family and loved ones, as well as members of your health care team, before deciding.
- As with all current standard treatments, there can be possible risks as well as benefits form taking part in clinical trials.



# Should I participate in a clinical trial? (Continuation)

- Study drugs may be found to be more or less effective than current standard treatments and have side effects not yet known.
- You will be informed of these risks as much as possible.
- Your health care team will give you the information you need to make the decision that is right for you.

# Where can I get more information regarding clinical trials?

- For More Information, visit the National Cancer Institute's education page about cancer clinical trials at: http://www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/