

Bristol Myers Squibb Launches Disability Diversity in Clinical Trials (DDiCT) Initiative to Improve Healthcare Outcomes for People with Disabilities

(PRINCETON, N.J., July 20, 2022) - [Bristol Myers Squibb](#) NYSE (BMY) today announced, in collaboration with [Disability Solutions](#), a U.S.- based non-profit organization that supports companies globally to achieve true disability inclusion, the launch of the Disability Diversity in Clinical Trials (DDiCT) initiative. This new initiative aligns with [Bristol Myers Squibb's broader inclusion and diversity health equity commitments](#) to address health disparities, clinical trial diversity, supplier diversity, employee giving, and workforce representation between 2020 and 2025.

The DDiCT initiative initially aims to make recommendations on how to effectively improve access, engagement, speed of enrollment, and participation of people with disabilities in clinical trials, to ensure all patient groups are reflective of the real-world population and aligned with the epidemiology of the disease studies. This project was initiated by the BMS [People & Business Resource Group DAWN](#) (Disability Advancement Workplace Network) and will be co-led by DAWN and the Global Drug Development Team.

"Through this work, BMS can set the standard and stage for access to life-changing and life-saving medicines for people with disabilities," said [Samit Hirawat](#), chief medical officer and executive vice president of Global Drug Development. "The long-term goal of our DDiCT program is to develop and pilot trials that are accessible to the widest variety of patients."

Current common clinical trial practices exclude up to one-fourth of the U.S. population-based on [disability](#) status. According to a study published in the [Journal of the American Medical Association](#), in 338 phase III and IV studies, 12.4% of people with intellectual or developmental disabilities and 1.8% of those with physical disabilities failed to be included due to explicit exclusion criteria. The study also identified that additional barriers for disability diversity within clinical trials are caused by inaccessible trial sites, medical equipment, and ableist biases which deter this community from receiving potentially life-saving treatments.

“People with disabilities are omitted from conversations about diversity and inclusion, despite being the largest underrepresented group in the world and the only underrepresented group anyone can join at any given moment therefore it’s essential that we broaden the scope of medical trials and research,” said Tinamarie Duff, DAWN Global People & Business Resource Group Lead. “The launch of the DDiCT, especially during Disability Pride Month, supports Bristol Myers Squibb’s overall commitment to address every dimension of diversity, which means making the most effective medicine to include people with disabilities at all stages of access/trials.”

About Bristol Myers Squibb

Bristol Myers Squibb is a global biopharmaceutical company whose mission is to discover, develop and deliver innovative medicines that help patients prevail over serious diseases. For more information about Bristol Myers Squibb, visit us at [BMS.com](https://www.bms.com) or follow us [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

About Disability Solutions

Disability Solutions is a division of Ability Beyond and works directly with forward thinking and inclusive companies who have identified the value of being inclusive of people with disabilities in all facets of their organization. Disability Solutions works with more than 60 companies globally to drive true disability and inclusion. Their motto is “Changing Minds and Changing Lives”. Disability Solutions understands when corporate leaders understand and engage with the value and humanity the disability community brings forward, they will be able to drive life changing - and in this case - life saving change which will echo across the world. You can learn more about Disability Solutions at www.disabilitytalent.org

About Disability Solutions Parent Company: Ability Beyond, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to provide health and human services to adults with disabilities throughout Connecticut and Westchester County, NY. Founded more than 60 years ago, Ability Beyond has its headquarters in Bethel, CT, and Chappaqua, NY. Ability Beyond employs 1,200 people and has an annual budget of \$71,000,000. Jane Davis, President/CEO, and her Executive Team manage the agency, with oversight from the Ability Beyond Board of Directors. Major revenue sources include Medicaid, Medicare, government contracts, fees for

service, and philanthropic support. You can learn more about Ability Beyond at www.abilitybeyond.org

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