



Rayne Rouce, MD
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Dr. Rouce is a pediatric oncologist and physician scientist whose research and clinical interests focus on refractory hematologic malignancies, specifically how to harness the immune system to recognize and attack cancers. She has spent the past 9 years in the translational research laboratories of the Center for Cell and Gene Therapy (CAGT) at Texas Children's and Baylor College of Medicine, leading a translational and clinical research program creating novel early phase cell and gene therapy products and translating them to first-in-human immunotherapy trials. She has significant experience in every aspect of translation and clinical trial development, from study conception (specifically chimeric antigen receptor and virus-specific modified T cells for leukemia and lymphoma) to preclinical laboratory-based validation and ultimately clinical practice. She leads the Task Force for Promoting Diversity in Clinical Trials within DLCCC and has gained notoriety in her work to enhance diversity in clinical trials leading her to present on this important topic to Cancer Centers, patient advocacy groups, and scientific organizations around the country. She also leads DEI initiatives for ASH, ASGCT and ASTCT, thus integrating her passion for science and advocacy, and is active in national working groups inclusive of multiple stakeholders with a shared goal of enhancing access specifically to cancer cell therapy trials. To this end, she is leading an upcoming ASGCT Policy Summit on Access Barriers to Cell Therapy, authoring two White Papers on Access Barriers, and participating in presentations on CAR T Access to Congress. She also serves as the Director of Community Outreach and Engagement within Baylor College of Medicine's Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. In this role, she leads numerous institutional, national and community initiatives within biomedical science. These programs provide a clear pathway for underrepresented minorities to excel in STEM careers, inclusive of K-12, undergraduate, post-graduate, and junior faculty around the nation.