

## Adkins Awarded NIH R21 Grant

Dr. Brian D. Adkins has been awarded a subaward for an NIH R21 grant, as part of a project led by Dr. Oluwatoyosi A. Onwuemene, Associate Professor of Medicine at Duke University. The project, titled **"A Clinical Trial Readiness Study of Patient Reported Outcome Measures in Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (TTP),"** is funded by NIH-NCATS through Duke University and spans the period from August 15, 2024, to July 31, 2026, with a total subaward funding amount of \$16,000.

TTP is a rare but life-threatening blood disorder characterized by microvascular thrombosis, thrombocytopenia, and hemolytic anemia, leading to severe complications if left untreated. Despite advances in TTP treatment, the understanding and integration of patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) into clinical trials and management strategies remain limited, creating an unmet need to optimize patient-centered care and clinical research in this area. Specifically, the study aims to characterize neurologic outcomes in this condition, which is frequently associated with stroke.

This study aims to address these gaps by evaluating the feasibility and validity of PROMs in the context of TTP to support future clinical trials and improve patient outcomes. Through this collaborative effort, alongside researchers at both Duke University and Vanderbilt University Medical Center, the project seeks to define and validate PROM tools tailored to TTP patients, enabling a better understanding of their quality of life, treatment response, and clinical trajectories.

Dr. Adkins is an Assistant Professor of Pathology at UT Southwestern Medical Center and the Medical Director of Transfusion and Tissue Services at Children's Health Dallas.

