

Researcher Spotlight

Improving Outcomes and Reducing Clinician Biases

Dr.
Austin
Wesevich

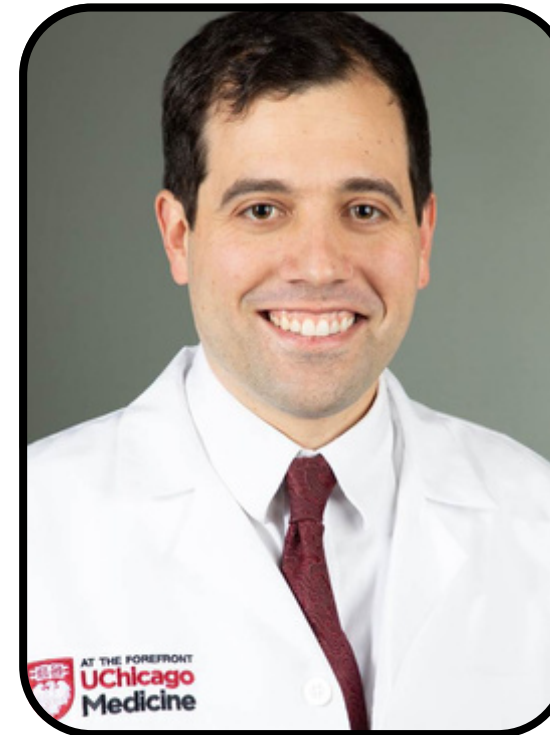
Dr. Austin Wesevich at University of Chicago is leading a team conducting a two-arm, Phase IIA trial evaluating low-dose tocilizumab, a drug approved for rheumatoid arthritis and other autoimmune conditions, for acute chest syndrome in adult and adolescent patients with sickle cell disease. If successful, this drug could change the way we treat this life-threatening complication and lead to a Phase III trial.

Dr. Wesevich is an Early Stage Investigator building a track record of success in both research and clinical practice. In addition to publishing on blood cancers and clinician biases and presenting at American Society of Hematology and American Society of Clinical Oncology national meetings, he has received grants from the Robert A. Winn Excellence in Clinical Trials Award Program, Conquer Cancer, the NIH NCATS and the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine.

Dr. Wesevich has a passion for improving patient outcomes through better patient-physician communication and mitigation of clinician bias. As he said in a TedX Youth talk, “by understanding culture, we can be better healers.”

Profile

Dr. Wesevich received his MD and MPH from Washington University in St. Louis before completing residency at Duke University. He then completed hematology/oncology fellowship and a MS at University of Chicago, where he is currently an Instructor.



CWR Funding

In this trial, Dr. Wesevich and his team are studying the efficacy of low-dose tocilizumab to improve overall clinical outcomes of acute chest syndrome in patients with sickle cell disease. Dr. Wesevich and this trial represent four Cures Within Reach communities:

- Rare Disease
- Pediatric
- Health Equity
- Chicago



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