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Hologic Announces Commitment to Tackling Breast Cancer Screening Disparities for Black Women



Initiative includes awareness campaign featuring Mary J. Blige and funding for screening and diagnostic services at approximately 15 U.S. facilities

[Hologic, Inc.](#), an innovative medical technology company primarily focused on improving women's health, today announced a multi-year commitment to decreasing breast cancer screening disparities for Black women.

The program is in partnership with the Black Women's Health Imperative (BWHI), the only nonprofit organization created by Black women to help protect and advance the health and wellness of Black women and girls through awareness and education, and RAD-AID, a nonprofit dedicated to ensuring equal access to radiology health services for medically underserved communities.

Research has shown that Black women are almost 40 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than non-Hispanic white women.¹ Hologic's initiative, which launched today in conjunction with the start of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, is designed to encourage all Black women to get annual mammograms beginning at age 40, and to provide women in underserved communities with access to superior breast cancer screening technology. The situation has become even more urgent due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as the National Cancer Institute recently predicted that 10,000 more people in the United States will die in the next decade from breast or colorectal cancer because of delayed screening and treatment.²

The multi-pronged initiative includes BWHI's P.O.W.E.R. of Sure campaign, which will examine common barriers to early screening and encourage Black women to schedule and attend their annual mammograms. The campaign features Grammy award winning, Oscar and Golden Globe nominated artist Mary J. Blige and a [multimedia digital hub](#) with resources including common facts and myths about mammography, frequently asked questions regarding breast cancer and screening guidelines, a list of locations offering breast cancer screening, and information about what to expect when getting a mammogram during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“As a nonprofit laser-focused on the health and wellness of Black women and girls, we have a deep understanding of the barriers Black women face when it comes to annual breast cancer screening,” said Linda Goler Blount, MPH, President and CEO, Black Women’s Health Imperative. “The P.O.W.E.R. of Sure campaign will address those barriers head-on, with the help of our spokeswoman, Mary J. Blige, whose voice resonates like no other when it comes to speaking directly to Black women in an authentic and inspiring way.”

Additionally, in partnership with RAD-AID, Hologic will fund screening and diagnostic services, and ensure there is a pathway for medically disenfranchised women to receive treatment. “Our approach is evidence-based to target regions of the United States having urgent need for breast cancer screening and diagnostics, particularly where breast cancer disproportionately impacts women of color due to healthcare inequalities,” said Dr. Daniel J. Mollura, MD, Founder and CEO of RAD-AID. “Our interdisciplinary solution will help patients by mobilizing RAD-AID’s 12,000+ volunteer radiologists, technologists, nurses, radiation oncologists/therapists, IT professionals, health navigators, and public health specialists for new service models that overcome racial barriers.”

Hologic’s grant to RAD-AID for this initiative will support innovative care, radiology, public education, and nurse navigation at multiregional sites selected by RAD-AID as clinical partners to provide critical screening, diagnostic breast imaging, and treatment for women who may otherwise go without. Sites and facilities under development for this program are located in regions including the Bronx/Washington Heights areas of New York, the South Side of Chicago, Washington D.C., North Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Arizona, Seattle/Pacific Northwest, and Colorado.

Facilities supported through this collaborative program will be equipped with Hologic’s 3D Mammography® system, which features the Genius® 3D Mammography™ exam. The Genius exam is the only mammogram FDA approved as superior to 2D mammography for all women, including those with dense breasts, which is common among Black women.^{3,4,5,6}

“As a company committed to improving women’s health and well-being, we have always played an active role in increasing awareness and access among all women, including those who are traditionally underserved, because it’s core to our mission and our culture,” said Jennifer Meade, Hologic’s Division President, Breast and Skeletal Health Solutions. “We believe this initiative will make a significant impact, as it unites our passion for women’s health with that of our nonprofit partners, BWHI and RAD-AID, who share our commitment to increasing awareness of the importance of breast cancer screening and improving access to 3D mammography, the standard of care for annual screenings.”

The Genius® 3D Mammography™ exam (also known as the Genius® exam) is only available on a Hologic® 3D Mammography® system. It consists of a 2D and 3D® image set, where the 2D image can be either an acquired 2D image or a 2D image generated from the 3D® image set. There are more than 7,000 Hologic 3D Mammography® systems in use in the United States alone, so women have convenient access to the Genius exam. To learn more, visit <http://www.Genius3DNearMe.com>.

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