

2024 Impact Snapshot



BRCA 
Research & Cure Alliance



MISSION

Advancing the knowledge, prevention, and treatment for individuals and families affected by BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene mutations.

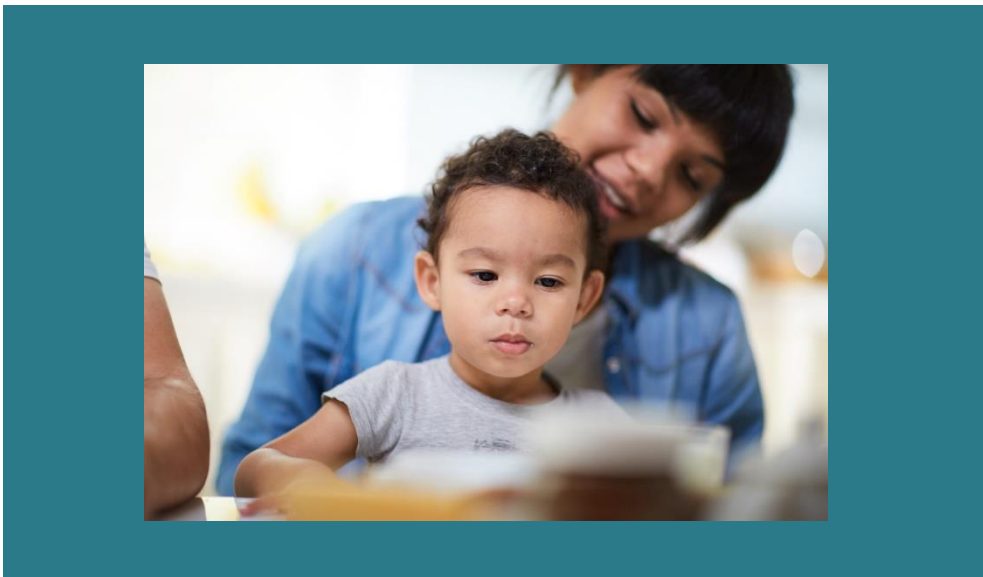
WHO WE ARE

BRCA Research and Cure Alliance (CureBRCA) is the catalyst for results driven innovation to characterize, prevent and cure BRCA cancers. We bring together a diverse set of stakeholders from academia, medical institutions, industry, government agencies and the patient population to provide input on the strategy to address the unattended questions inherent in BRCA related cancers.

WHAT WE DO

We connect individuals and families with world-class medical expertise and research in a global effort to prevent, treat, and cure BRCA related cancers in men.





HOW WE DO IT (Unmet Need Areas/Priorities)



Education

Collaboration

Outreach

			
<u>Research</u>	<u>Education</u>	<u>Collaboration</u>	<u>Outreach</u>
Fund BRCA-related research	Inform/educate the Public	Work together, across institutions	Advocate for BRCA carriers, support policy

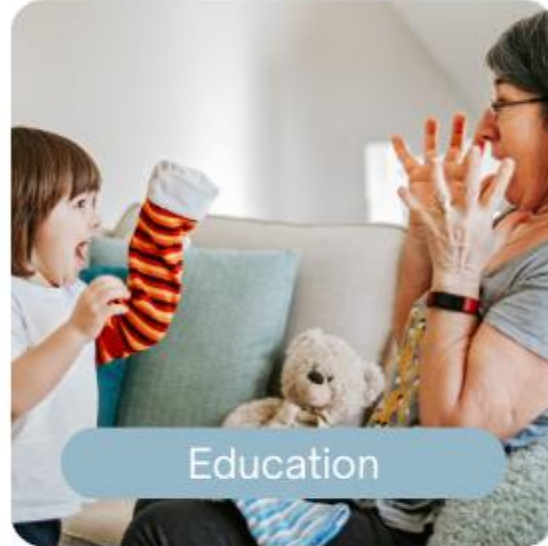
2024 Key Accomplishments



Research

In 2024, CureBRCA proudly funded the second year of the 2023 CureBRCA Awards and established the inaugural Polsky Family Genetic Initiative at Lurie Children's Hospital.

Additionally, on November 1, 2024, the 2025 CureBRCA Research Program was announced.



Education

CureBRCA led the development of a comprehensive medical white paper that outlines the cancer risks linked to *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* gene mutations in men. On July 25, 2024, this important peer-reviewed article, titled "*BRCA1, BRCA2, and Associated Cancer Risks and Management for Male Patients,*" was published in JAMA Oncology.



Collaboration

In 2024, the Alliance hosted the CureBRCA Collaborative, fostering dialogue, connection, and information sharing among researchers, academics, and healthcare providers from various institutions. This initiative cultivated a vibrant community where scientific leaders could network, enhance their knowledge, and explore new ideas and collaborations.



Outreach

In 2024, CureBRCA amplified the voices of BRCA carriers by advocating for the Orphan Cures Act, the Reducing Hereditary Cancer Act, and the Safe Step initiative. These critical pieces of legislation are essential for advancing cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment. Additionally, the Alliance showed its support by signing an opposition letter to the Patient Eligibility Restoration Act.



2025 Request for Funding Applications
Target: BRCA/Men
Deadline: March 15, 2025

The BRCA Research & Cure Alliance (CureBRCA) will consider funding BRCA-related initiatives that involve prevention, detection, screening, and/or treatment for men at risk for BRCA-related cancers.

To apply online, visit curebrca.org/rfa.



CONTACT

877-END-BRCA
support@curebrca.org
curebrca.org



2025 Awards Program



INFORMATION

877-END-BRCA
support@curebrca.org
curebrca.org

TIMELINE

Application Announcement	11/01/24
Letter of Intent Open	11/01/24-12/31/24
Application Open	01/03/25
Application Close	03/15/25
Award Announcement	07/01/25

To qualify for funding consideration, BRCA-related research must involve prevention, detection, screening, and/or treatment for men at risk for BRCA-related cancers.

Learn more: curebrca.org/rfa



Team Science Research Award

This multi-year award is designed to support research for multi-institutional collaborative efforts and offers up to \$500,000 in total funding.



Innovation Research Award

This seed grant is designed to support research for early-stage funding that is experimental or novel and offers up to \$80,000 in total funding.

BRCA Guidelines for Men – Tri-Fold Brochure

Companion piece to the peer-reviewed medical white paper, which was published on July 25, 2024 by JAMA Oncology

WHAT CAN MEN WITH BRCA DO TO BE PROACTIVE?



PROSTATE SCREENING

- BRCA2 carriers should be screened with a PSA blood test, starting at age 40-45.



PANCREAS SCREENING

- Eligible carriers of BRCA1/2 should consider screening starting at age 50, or 10 years before the earliest known pancreas cancer in the family.
- A contrast-enhanced abdominal MRI and/or endoscopic ultrasound as screening modalities are recommended.



MALE BREAST CANCER

- It is recommended that male carriers of BRCA2 start screening at age 50, or 10 years before the earliest known breast cancer in the family.
- Annual mammograms are recommended.
- Learn about male breast cancer symptoms and signs, be aware of and monitor breast tissue for changes, and report any changes or abnormalities to a doctor.

Additional screenings may be advised based on a person's family history of cancer.

WHAT ACTIONS CAN MEN WITH BRCA TAKE TO PROTECT THEIR HEALTH?

- Consult with your doctor or a genetic counselor who can help assess your individual risk and recommend next steps.
- Share information with family members (your children, siblings, and parents) about your BRCA genetic mutation so they can get tested for BRCA and make informed decisions about cancer screening and prevention. It is typically advised to wait until children are 18y or older to get genetic testing so they can choose when and how they receive this information.
- Consider **tailored cancer screening**, typically starting at age 40y for males.
- Consider enrolling in a **clinical trial**. For example, there are clinical trials to help screen for, and find, cancer earlier. Other clinical trials are designed to test treatments for cancer that researchers hope may be even more effective than the current best treatments. Other clinical trials are just learning about patients' experiences and treatment outcomes. Ask your doctor if you are interested. You can also visit clinicaltrials.gov to see a list of open trials.



BRCA
Research & Cure Alliance



BRCA GUIDELINES FOR MEN

This brochure is a companion piece to the peer-reviewed medical white paper, which was published on July 25, 2024, by JAMA Oncology titled:

BRCA1, BRCA2 and Associated Cancer Risks and Management for Males: A Review

To access the full article, visit the websites of JAMA Oncology or the BRCA Research & Cure Alliance.

www.curebrca.org



WHAT IS BRCA?

BRCA1 (BRest CAncer gene 1) and BRCA2 (BRest CAncer gene 2) are genes that are the code to make proteins that help repair damaged DNA.

Everyone has two copies of each of these genes—one copy inherited from each parent.

Men and women are equally likely to inherit BRCA genes from their parents and pass them on to their children.

Damaging variants in BRCA1 and BRCA2 increase the risk of several types of cancers including breast, ovarian, prostate, and pancreatic cancer.

Having a BRCA1/2 mutation does not always lead to cancer, but can give someone important information about cancer risk. This information can enable people and their doctors to be proactive for their health.



WHO SHOULD BE TESTED FOR BRCA?

✓ PERSONAL HISTORY OF CANCER:

- Gleason 8-10 (or, WHO Grade Group 4-5), involving lymph nodes, or that is metastatic (spread outside the prostate)
- pancreas cancer
- male breast cancer

✓ FAMILY HISTORY OF CANCER:

- family member with a BRCA1/2 mutation
- family history of any male breast cancer, pancreatic cancer, or metastatic prostate cancer
- close blood relatives with any of the following: breast cancer diagnosed at age younger than 50 years, a subtype of breast cancer called "triple negative", pancreatic cancer or ovarian cancer
- family history of pancreas cancer in a first degree relative
- family is of Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry
- Other cancers in the family may also be important and can guide testing for BRCA. Gather the best information you can and share it with your medical team.

www.curebrca.org

HOW DO INDIVIDUALS GET TESTED FOR BRCA?

It is best to get tested for BRCA through your doctor.

You can also find a genetic counselor in your area, by visiting the National Society of Genetic Counselor's website. This directory offers access to over 3,300 genetic counselors (US and Canada). You have options for in-person or telehealth counseling: findageneticcounselor.org



Guidelines in this brochure were collected on July 22, 2024 from the following medical societies and panels. Please note guidelines change periodically.

American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), American Urological Association (AUA), International Cancer of the Pancreas Screening Consortium (CAPS), European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO), National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), Society of Urologic Oncology (SUO)

2024 CureBRCA Collaborative



William Catalona, MD
Northwestern Medicine
Urologist



Heather Cheng, MD, PhD
University of Washington
Oncologist



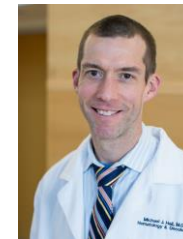
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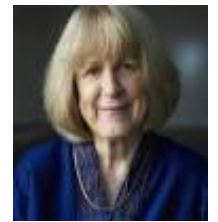
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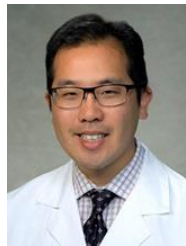
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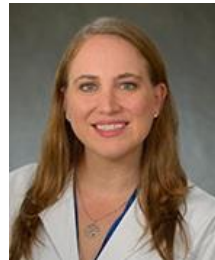
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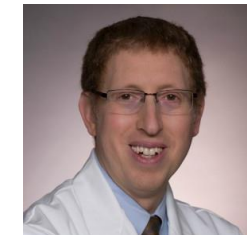
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Mark Stein, MD
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Clive Svendsen, PhD
Cedars-Sinai
Researcher



Brittany Szymaniak, PhD
Northwestern Medicine
Genetic Counselor



GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT



POLSKY FAMILY GENETIC TESTING INITIATIVE

*Expanding access to genetic testing for patients and families at
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago*

The BRCA Research & Cure Alliance (CureBRCA) was founded in 2022, by the philanthropy and generosity of Michael and Tanya Polsky. CureBRCA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit private foundation, aimed to advance the knowledge, prevention, and treatment of individuals and families who are affected by BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene mutations.



CONTACT

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Press Release – July 25, 2024



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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Major Medical Journal Confirms Genetic Testing Can Lead to Improved Care for Men, Outlining Lifetime Cancer Risks and Management with Inherited BRCA1 and BRCA2 Cancer Risk Genes

The peer-reviewed article appeared in JAMA Oncology, which was published by the American Medical Association, and was co-authored by 19 BRCA experts from 13 leading academic medical institutions and international cancer centers.

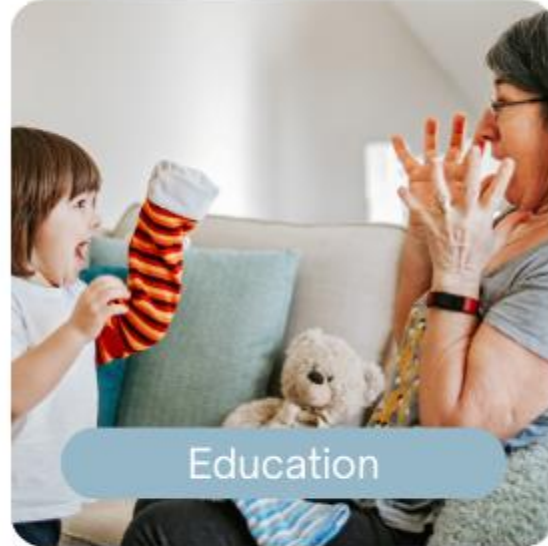
CHICAGO (July 25, 2024) —

On July 25, 2024, JAMA Oncology, a medical journal published by the American Medical Association, released a groundbreaking article titled “*BRCA1, BRCA2 and Associated Cancer Risks and Management for Males*.” The peer-reviewed paper compiles and considers existing evidence and approved guidelines for men into one place and includes currently available cancer risk statistics for men with BRCA1 and BRCA2 damaging variants (mutations) at various ages. The article emphasizes that individuals who carry inherited BRCA1 and BRCA2 variants associated with cancer risk, may have important options to be proactive about their risk by being aware of updated guidelines on cancer screening. For those who already have cancer, this new information about their genetic mutation can signal clinicians to prescribe different drugs and therapies that are designed to be especially effective against BRCA-related cancers.

The lead author of the article is Heather H. Cheng, MD, PhD, a widely recognized and respected oncologist from the University of Washington and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, along with an esteemed group of international experts in the field. The concept for the paper arose from discussions about unmet needs for BRCA patients at the BRCA Research & Cure Alliance’s strategic “CureBRCA Collaborative,” a meeting that includes BRCA experts comprised of well-known oncologists, urologists, geneticists, and genetic counselors from across the globe.



Research



Education



Collaboration



Outreach

The 2025 Research Program will launch on January 3, 2025:

- Team Science Award - Designed to support research for multi-institutional collaborative efforts and offers up to \$500,000.
- Innovation Research Award - Designed to support research for early-stage funding that is experimental or novel and offers up to \$80,000 in total funding.

2025 Website enhancements:

- Launch of new CureBRCA Knowledge Center
- Launch of Genetic Testing Education Tool (Target)
- New resources available for patients and providers for men with BRCA.

The 2025 CureBRCA Collaborative will occur on May 29, 2025, in connection with the 2025 International ASCO Meeting in Chicago.

CureBRCA will proactively publicize the availability of new patient and provider tools.

Support to help amplify the voice of BRCA carriers at the national level will be ongoing.