

# RESEARCHERS

# GUIDE TO INCLUSION

# PLEDGE

WORKING WITH MEDICAL RESEARCHERS  
TO END RACIAL DISPARITIES.



Tigerlily Foundation  
**#InclusionPledge**



## THE FACTS

- Breast cancer death rates are 40% higher among Black women than white women.
- Black women are consistently underrepresented in clinical trials, representing less than 5% of participants.
- Triple-negative breast cancer is more common in Black women.
- Black women are often diagnosed at later stages, when treatments are more costly and options limited.

## PURPOSE

- The #InclusionPledge provides a transparent and tangible framework across stakeholders to identify and track equity actions, holding organizations accountable to making specific, measurable outcomes that will result in dismantling systemic barriers and co-creating solutions that will result in health equity for Black women and end disparities in our lifetime.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BLACK WOMEN & BREAST CANCER

- Too often, Black women face biases and discrimination from healthcare providers, which can have life or death consequences and cause psychological and emotional trauma. Medical racism also leads to mistrust of medical professionals.
- Black women are critically underrepresented in clinical trials, resulting in drugs and treatments being developed without considering efficacy and adverse effects for them.
- Black people and especially Black women are also critically underrepresented among healthcare professionals. As a result, Black patients do not always see themselves represented in their providers, and receive care that lacks cultural and racial sensitivity.
- Black women are disproportionately affected by socio-economic and systemic challenges that limits their access to medical care, healthy lifestyle-promoting activities and environments, and support systems.
- Breast cancer is typically depicted as a disease that affects white women, which affects Black women's decision to get screenings and take prevention measures.

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## WHAT RESEARCHERS CAN DO

1. Understand the abuse that has caused the mistrust in the medical system amongst patients of color.
2. Be prepared to offer resources to tackle socio-economic barriers that hinder Black women's inclusion in the breast cancer space.
3. Work to actively strengthen patients' confidence in the medical system.



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## SUGGESTED COMMITMENTS

1. Ensure diversity in your clinical trials: Black women should be accurately represented in participants, to make sure that the results of the study apply to them as well.
2. Fund and encourage research that seeks to comprehend the unique biology that may make Black women more susceptible to aggressive breast cancer.
3. Fund and encourage research that seeks to improve screening and diagnostic methods and tools so that they also adapted for younger women and Black women, to improve diagnostic accuracy.
4. Increase diversity in your research workforce and foster inclusion so that researchers of colors feel included and valued.
5. Leverage patient advocates: collaborating with patient advocates who can enlighten researchers about their lived experiences as Black women with cancer is a great way to ensure studies are well-designed and ethical, and reduce the burdens placed on patients.
6. To foster trust and transparency, ensure the findings of your research are easily accessible and disseminate results in a way that can be easily understood by all patients.

