

## Roundtable News

### Centering Equity, Care, and Connection in 2026

As we move through the early months of 2026, the ACS National Breast Cancer Roundtable continues to translate shared priorities into action, strengthening equity-centered approaches across early detection, access to treatment, clinical trials, and support and wellness.

Recent Priority Team and Advisory Group discussions have focused on implementation, evaluation, and real-world impact—ensuring that the ACS NBCRT tools and frameworks are not only evidence-based but responsive to lived experience and community context. This work reflects our collective commitment to care that is informed by data, guided by values, and grounded in dignity.



### Featured Spotlight – Black History Month

In recognition of Black History Month, ACS NBCRT is honored to highlight the keynote address at the 2026 Young Breast Cancer Symposium delivered by **Rev. Rev. Tawana A. Davis, PhD**, Steering Committee member and nationally recognized faith leader, equity strategist, and patient advocate.



In her keynote, *When Equity Becomes the Cure*, Rev. Davis challenged the breast cancer community to recognize equity as a clinical, organizational, and moral imperative—not an optional add-on. She underscored that early detection, survivorship, and quality of life only improve when access, belief, and accountability are present.

Key messages included:

- Early detection is not neutral without follow-through and trust
- Bias functions as a risk factor and must be treated accordingly
- Survivorship is not one story—especially for Black women, young adults, and those living with metastatic disease

- Equity, when applied intentionally, changes outcomes

Her message strongly aligns with the ACS NBCRT's cross-cutting priorities and serves as a reminder that centering equity strengthens every aspect of breast cancer care.

## Slides and Details from the Young Breast Symposium

### February Reflection – Valentine's Day

#### Love, Care, and What It Means to Truly Support Patients and Caregivers

This Valentine's Day, we're reminded that care is more than treatment. It's listening, believing, and showing up consistently. For people impacted by breast cancer, love often looks like timely diagnosis, coordinated care, emotional support, and systems that respond with compassion rather than barriers.

The ACS NBCRT's work across early action, clinical trials, support and wellness and access to treatment: care rooted in dignity and equity is one of the most powerful expressions of love we can offer—to patients, families, and communities.



## Get Involved

### Priority Teams Are Moving—Join Us

ACS NBCRT Priority Teams and Advisory Groups continue to meet regularly and advance key deliverables:

- Early Action: Risk assessment, screening, and implementation planning
- Clinical Trials: Strengthening leadership, collaboration, and access pathways
- Access to Treatment: Advancing a national survey on patient-level barriers
- Support & Wellness: Scoping and aligning evidence-based support & wellness tools for both patients and caregivers

Whether you're interested in contributing expertise, sharing lived experience, or partnering on dissemination, there is a place for you in this work.

[Join a Priority Team](#)

## Insights & Resources

## ACS Data Snapshot: Breast Cancer & Health Disparities

According to the 2026 [American Cancer Society's Cancer Facts & Figures](#), an estimated 321,910 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women in the U.S. this year (plus 2,670 in men), along with 60,730 cases of DCIS. Approximately 42,670 deaths from breast cancer are expected in 2026. While mortality has declined 44% since 1989 due to advances in early detection and treatment, **breast cancer death rates remain 37% higher in Black women than in White women**, underscoring persistent inequities in stage at diagnosis and outcomes.

The [ACS Health Disparities Report](#) highlights persistent gaps across the cancer continuum, including delayed diagnosis, later-stage disease, and barriers to timely, high-quality treatment driven by structural inequities. Together, these findings reinforce that **early detection saves lives only when paired with access, follow-up, and equitable care**.

### ACS CAN Breast Cancer Advocacy Highlights (Federal & State)

- **Protecting federal support for early detection and treatment:** The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) continues to advocate for strong funding for breast cancer screening and follow-up care, including the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) for uninsured and underinsured individuals.
- **Ensuring access to treatment after diagnosis:** ACS CAN emphasizes that early detection only saves lives when people can access timely, affordable breast cancer treatment **following diagnosis**.
- **Defending Medicaid pathways to care:** At the state level, ACS CAN has opposed efforts to weaken Medicaid-based breast and cervical cancer treatment programs, which are critical for reducing delays in care for low-income patients.
- **Addressing insurance gaps:** ACS CAN has raised concerns about coverage gaps—such as limited or short-term plans—that can delay breast cancer diagnosis or treatment initiation.
- **Advancing equity-centered policy:** Across federal and state advocacy, ACS CAN prioritizes policies that reduce disparities by addressing structural barriers related to coverage, affordability, and follow-up care.

👉 Learn more about [ACS CAN's breast and cervical cancer advocacy](#)

## Looking Ahead

What's Next for the ACS NBCRT

- Continued Priority Team and Advisory Group meetings this spring
- Ongoing work to refine evaluation, dissemination, and partnership strategies
- Additional opportunities for engagement, learning, and collaboration in the months ahead

Stay tuned for updates as we build toward the next phase of the ACS NBCRT impact.



## Stay Connected

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to the ACS National Breast Cancer Roundtable. Your efforts are driving real progress for people affected by breast cancer.

Questions? Ideas? Want to connect further? Email us anytime at [nbcrt@cancer.org](mailto:nbcrt@cancer.org). We're grateful for your partnership and look forward to what's ahead!

Melissa Thomas, PhD  
[melissa.thomas@cancer.org](mailto:melissa.thomas@cancer.org)



ACS National Breast Cancer Roundtable | 3380 Chastain Meadows Pkwy NW Suite 200 | Kennesaw, GA 30144 US

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