

# Jewels in our GENES



Evelyn Smith, Veronica Meadows-Ray, Mary Meadows.

## Family

This study was developed based on questions asked by Veronica Meadows-Ray from Buffalo, New York, related to whether there might be genes for breast cancer unique to African American women.

She, her mother, and aunt are all breast cancer survivors. They were tested and don't carry the (BRCA1) mutations, which are responsible for breast cancer in some families.

### For More Information

For more information or to participate in the study, please call us:

toll free: 888-444-0354

The Jewels in Our Genes Study  
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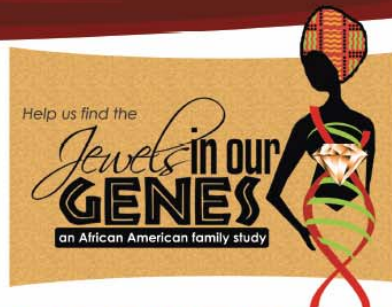
Veronica Meadows-Ray  
Consultant and Breast Cancer Survivor



Deborah Erwin, PhD  
Director, Office of Cancer Health Disparities  
Roswell Park Cancer Institute  
Co-Founder, The National Witness Project, Inc.



Dee Johnson  
Project Coordinator, The National Witness Project, Inc.



Why are young African American women at higher breast cancer risk?

## Help us find out!

Become part of the first study of its kind.

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## Why are we doing the study?

Young African American women suffer higher breast cancer rates, and lower survival rates than Caucasian women.

We are recruiting women with multiple breast cancer survivors to discover unique genes in African American women which may ultimately help lead to better research and treatments unique for African Americans.

## Who is performing the study?

Dr. Heather Ochs-Balcom is a genetic epidemiologist who studies how genetics can help to explain differences in breast cancer for African Americans.

Dr. Ochs-Balcom is working closely with Veronica Meadows-Ray, a breast cancer survivor who has a strong family history of breast cancer.

Dr. Deborah Erwin and Ms. Detric Johnson from the National Witness Project are our partners and are helping with study design and recruitment.

## Who funded the study and how long will it last?

This study is only funded for three years by Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

We need your participation now.

## Who are we recruiting for the study?

African American women, who are pre-menopausal breast cancer survivors and their relatives who are also breast cancer survivors are invited to participate.

We may also invite your relatives who have never been diagnosed with breast cancer to participate.

Our goal is to recruit 150 families, or approximately 400 women in total from across the U.S.

## What information will I need to provide?

*If you are eligible for the study, we will mail the study materials and ask you to:*

- Read and sign the consent form.
- Provide us with a saliva sample (not blood) for DNA analysis.
- Provide answers to a short medical questionnaire.
- Sign a medical records release forms only to confirm the type of breast cancer.
- Mail everything back to us at our study center in Buffalo, NY.
- Help us to recruit your relatives by telling them about the study and encouraging them to participate.



## How long will it take?

We are asking for approximately 45 minutes of your time. You can complete the study forms and saliva sample in the comfort of your home.

Everything will be handled over the phone and through the mail.

## Will I be compensated?

Every woman who completes the study requirements will be given a \$50 gift card.

This is not a clinical trial, and we will not ask you to take any medications or drugs.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *Why should I participate?*

We need enough African American women to do the same kind of study that helped lead to the discovery of BRCA1 gene in Caucasian women.

You will be helping future generations, and your participation will increase the overall body of knowledge about breast cancer in African American women.

Research can help find out more about what causes breast cancer, how to prevent it, and how to treat it.

In the future, this research may help to develop new tests and drugs to help African American women.

### *How will my personal information be kept confidential?*

The University at Buffalo has procedures in place to make sure that your information is kept private and confidential.

Your name, address, phone number and other identifying information will be taken off anything associated with your DNA sample before any of the data are analyzed.

### *Will you contact me again in the future?*

If you agree, we plan to send out yearly mailings to update your contact information, give you updates on and outcomes of the study, and to recruit any women newly diagnosed with breast cancer in your family.