



**For Immediate Release**

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**New BRCA Blue campaign educates about the link between BRCA gene mutations and cancer.**

Prostate Conditions Education Council (PCEC) supports this campaign and encourages men to discuss their health histories with family and their physicians. Campaign can be accessed today at [BRCAblue.com](http://BRCAblue.com)

**DENVER, Colo** – July 10, 2019 – Prostate Conditions Education Council in partnership with other leading prostate cancer advocacy organizations, announces the launch of the BRCA Blue Campaign. The campaign, which can be accessed at [BRCAblue.com](http://BRCAblue.com), is designed to raise awareness among men and their loved ones about the link between BRCA mutations and prostate cancer. The campaign is supported by Clovis Oncology with input and guidance from multiple patient advocacy and education organizations, including PCEC.

Women and men can inherit BRCA gene mutations from either parent. The mutations can also be acquired and develop over the course of an individual's lifetime. Men with an inherited mutation in their BRCA gene have up to an 8 times increased risk of developing prostate cancer, are more likely to get the disease at a younger age and to have a more aggressive form of the cancer. A number of publications have reported germline or somatic mutations in BRCA1 or BRCA2 are found in 12 percent of men with metastatic castrate resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC).

"Often when people think of BRCA gene mutations they only think of breast cancer. Little knowledge exists about the important link to prostate cancer. Men need to know this information because it changes how they are treated and could allow access to new therapies in the future," stated Wendy Poage, President of the Prostate Conditions Education Council.

From a hereditary cancer perspective, it is important for families to discuss their health history, including genetic mutations, to help family members make informed decisions to potentially improve their prognosis. According to the American Cancer Society nearly 175,000 men in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and over 31,000 men will die from disease in 2019. Furthermore, the five-year survival rate for mCRPC is just 30%.

"African American men are at a significant increased risk for getting and dying from prostate cancer. We are excited to participate in this campaign to raise awareness among African American men about BRCA mutations," stated Thomas Farrington, President and Founder of Prostate Health Education Network.

BRCA Blue and its primary components are especially impactful because it is the result of a collaborative effort between a variety of partners. “Our organizations are committed to saving and improving the lives of prostate cancer patients,” stated Chuck Strand, CEO of Us TOO International and partner on this project, “We are working to ensure that men are aware that BRCA gene mutations can affect them as well as their families.”

Among more than 4,200 Americans screened to participate in a commissioned National BRCA Awareness Survey, 71% said they are unaware that there is a relationship between BRCA genes and any type of cancer. Those aged 56 and older are notably less aware than their younger counterparts, ages 18-55.

Prostate Conditions Education Council is proud to be a part of the BRCA Blue patient education campaign.

#### **About Prostate Conditions Education Council**

A national organization committed to men’s health, the PCEC is the nation’s leading resource for information on prostate health. The PCEC is dedicated to saving lives through awareness and the education of men, the women in their lives and the medical community about prostate cancer prevalence, the importance of early detection and available treatment options, as well as other men’s health issues. The Council, comprised of a consortium of leading physicians, health educators, scientists and prostate cancer advocates, aims to conduct nationwide screenings for men and perform research that will aid in the detection and treatment of prostate conditions. More information is available at [prostateconditions.org](http://prostateconditions.org).

#### **About Prostate Health Education Network**

The Prostate Health Education Network (PHEN) is the nation’s leading prostate cancer patient education and advocacy organization addressing the needs of African American families. PHEN is a Boston-based 501c(3) non-profit organization, founded in 2003. Black men are diagnosed at a rate 60% higher with a death rate 130% higher than men of all other racial and ethnic groups. PHEN provides education and awareness programs with its community partners and online resources towards eliminating this disparity. Learn more at [www.prostatehealthed.org](http://www.prostatehealthed.org).

#### **About Us TOO International, Inc.**

Since 1990 Us TOO International has provided comprehensive educational materials and resources along with support services that include more than 200 volunteer-led support groups across the U.S. and abroad. Us TOO continues to raise awareness and provide educational resources and support services to those affected by prostate cancer to help them learn to fight this disease. The power of Us TOO is in helping men and those who love them by transforming resignation into determination and fear into hope. Learn more at [www.ustoo.org](http://www.ustoo.org).

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