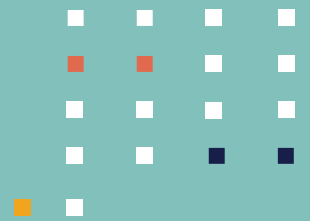




RADIOLOGY HEALTH
EQUITY COALITION



Commit to Act



Radiology Health Equity Coalition: A Clearer Picture of Health for All

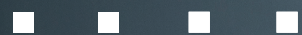




People are dying from preventable diseases — because of delayed diagnoses, not enough access and other imaging barriers. We cannot view such outcomes as acceptable.”

~ Jinel A. Scott, MD, MBA
*At-Large Director,
Radiological Society of North
America (RSNA)*

**RADIOLOGY HEALTH
EQUITY COALITION**



RADIOLOGY HEALTH EQUITY COALITION:

A Clearer Picture of Health for All

Every day in America, thousands of life-changing diagnoses start with a radiological image: a tumor, a polyp, a blocked artery or valve. But research and our own experiences and screening statistics show that too many people aren't getting these images taken in time — or at all.

Timely access to imaging is a matter of life and death — for diagnoses, monitoring and treatment. Radiology plays a pivotal role in correcting this situation and in improving health equity.



“Radiology sits at the very intersection of medical care — nearly every person receiving meaningful care interacts with its broad reach at least once. We can create a cohesive and collaborative approach that brings true action.”

~ **Jinel A. Scott, MD, MBA**
At-Large Director, RSNA



72% of racial and ethnic minority patients can't get access to the diagnostic imaging they need, according to a 2022 research study in the Journal of the American College of Radiology.¹

Black women are 42% more likely to die from breast cancer than white women ... **Black men are 52% more likely** to die from colorectal cancer than white men.²

Asian Americans are twice as likely to die from stomach cancers, eight times more likely to die from hepatitis and have a tuberculosis **rate more than 30 times higher than white Americans.**³

Black Americans with diabetes are three times more likely to have a limb amputated than others.⁴

22% of Americans in rural areas live within 30 minutes of a lung cancer screening center vs. 83% in urban areas.⁵

Of more than **13 million visits** to 44 pediatric emergency departments, Hispanic and non-Hispanic Black patients were less likely to include radiography, CT, ultrasonography and MRI compared with those by non-Hispanic White patients.⁶

Heart disease, cancer and stroke death rates are significantly higher for Americans in rural areas.⁷

The 39% of U.S. women without health insurance had a mammogram in the past two years vs. 75% of those with health insurance.⁸



Breast cancer is 99% curable and cervical cancer 95% curable when caught early. Why are so many women dying from these diseases? It comes down to too many barriers.”

~ **Karen Patti**
Chief Operating Officer,
Promise Fund of Florida

¹ [Patient Race or Ethnicity and the Use of Diagnostic Imaging: A Systematic Review; Colwell, Narayan, Ross](#)

² <https://www.cancer.org/research/cancer-facts-statistics/cancer-facts-figures-for-african-americans.html>

³ <https://www.healthgrades.com/right-care/symptoms-and-conditions/8-conditions-with-higher-risk-for-asian-americans>

⁴ <https://features.propublica.org/diabetes-amputations/black-american-amputation-epidemic/>

⁵ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30289107/>

⁶ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2775729>

⁷ <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/rural-health-disparities#causes>

⁸ <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/breast-cancer-facts-and-figures/breast-cancer-facts-and-figures-2019-2020.pdf>



“

We're not going to solve the issue of access to healthcare without gathering around the table and having open conversations — the Coalition is the best avenue for that.”

~ **Bob Still**

Executive Director, Radiology Business Management Association (RBMA)

“

Providing equitable care could involve anything from better access to mammograms for underserved people to newer technology for rural populations.”

~ **Brent Wagner, MD**

Executive Director, American Board of Radiology (ABR)

WHAT IS HEALTH EQUITY?

The American Public Health Association defines health equity as everyone having the opportunity to attain their highest value of health.

When health equity is lacking, certain groups of people are more at risk for diseases but less likely to get treatment. So they'll be more likely to get severely sick or die from treatable or even preventable diseases.

WHAT IS HEALTH EQUITY IN RADIOLOGY?

Health equity in radiology means that clinicians and radiologists are using imaging to deliver equitable, quality care for all patients regardless of care setting, rurality, race or socioeconomic status.

A COALITION RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

The Radiology Health Equity Coalition addresses systemic challenges to more equitable imaging care, to reduce health inequities for people of color, rural populations and other underserved communities.

Our work — and yours — can produce lasting change.

We bring the organizations who create and use diagnostic imaging together to:

- Connect patients in underserved communities to the resources they need.
- Pursue research to identify U.S. locations that lack access to imaging care.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A CLEARER PICTURE OF DISEASE AND HEALTH

The Radiology Business Management Association (RBMA), focused on the business of radiology, has unique insight into radiology management software, scheduling, coding, billing and more. With the Coalition, the RBMA is looking for barriers to scheduling imaging exams and getting to appointments. They're also committed to providing inclusive pre-exam paperwork and access to vital screening and imaging in rural and underserved areas. The goal? Making it easier — and faster — for everyone to get a timely scan, X-ray or other diagnostic image.

The Promise Fund of Florida helps underinsured and uninsured women access timely, quality breast and cervical cancer treatment and resources.

The Promise Fund brings to the Coalition experience partnering with local health organizations and care providers, including **Federally Qualified Health Centers, community-based organizations** and free clinics, to connect women with subsidized breast and cervical screenings, diagnostic and cancer care. Participants are paired with culturally competent patient navigators, who guide patients through the many steps of the care process.



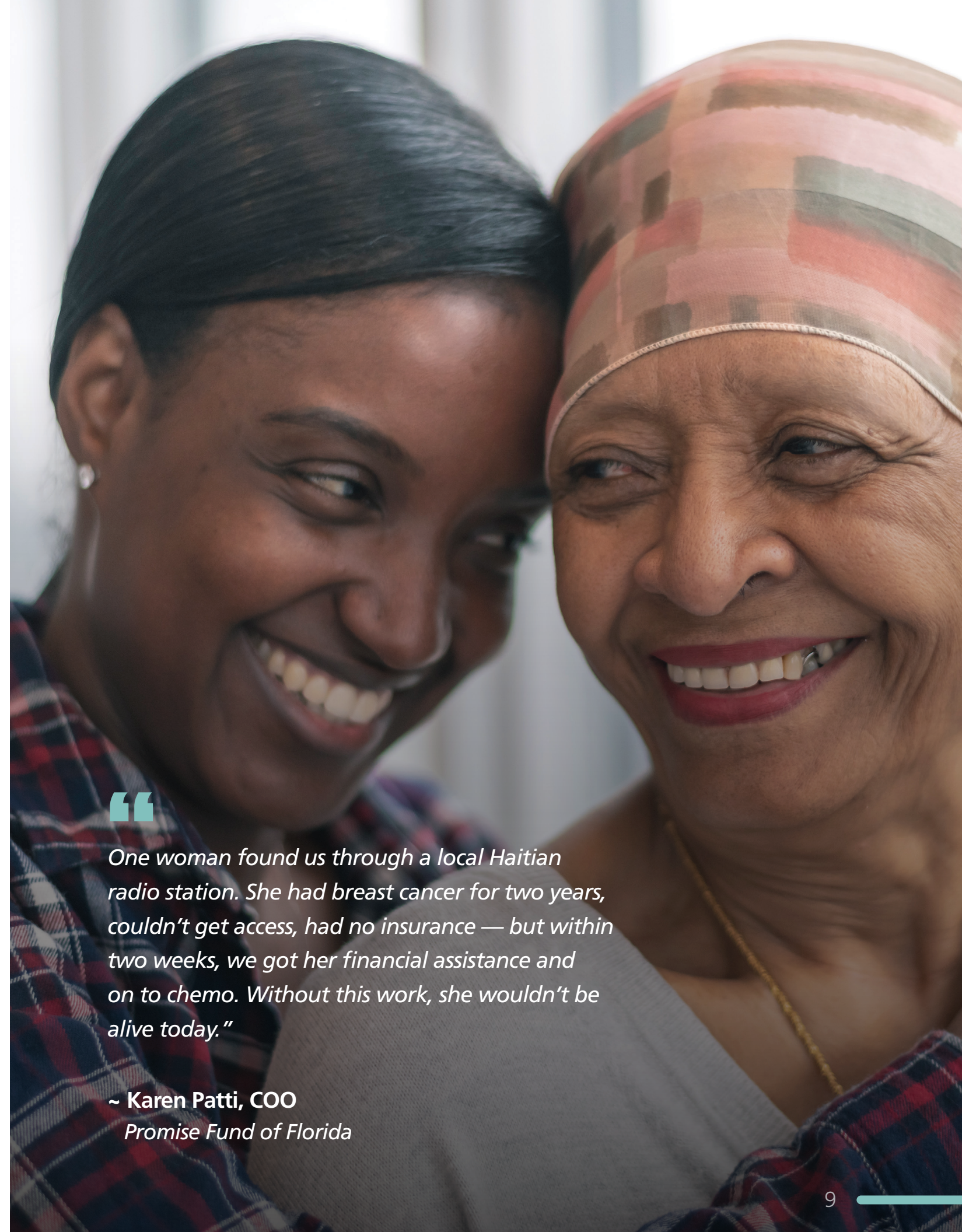
Proactive rather than reactive is always better. Broader pathways to a healthier population are the ethical thing to do and the basis of all medicine — first do no harm."

~ **Bob Still**
Executive Director, RBMA



One woman found us through a local Haitian radio station. She had breast cancer for two years, couldn't get access, had no insurance — but within two weeks, we got her financial assistance and on to chemo. Without this work, she wouldn't be alive today."

~ **Karen Patti, COO**
Promise Fund of Florida





As a certifying body, the ABR sees their partnership with the Coalition as a crucial extension of the social contract — to provide the best care possible to the broadest range of the population.”

~ Brent Wagner, MD
Executive Director, ABR



The American Board of Radiology (ABR)

ensures that radiology professionals meet specific educational, training and professional requirements. In line with the Coalition’s mission, they require certified candidates to address healthcare for underserved populations. Satisfying this requirement could involve anything from free mammograms to advanced imaging for limb salvage.

Their certification exams assess a candidate’s knowledge of establishing and maintaining equitable access to care.

The Hawaii Radiology Society (HRS)

unites radiologists across the state while furthering the mission of its parent organization, the American College of Radiology® (ACR®). Facing dire provider shortages of 40–50% on the islands, including rural Oahu, the HRS values the Coalition’s goal of helping extremely underserved areas. They see a great deal of potential momentum from their combined efforts, recognizing that other states are dealing with similar issues.

In Hawaii, the HRA is pursuing a new screening tool for people with higher risks of breast cancer while influencing the state legislature to require insurers to cover more patients in rural areas, among other initiatives.

The Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) promotes improved patient care through “education, research and technologic innovation.”

Working with the Coalition’s research group, RSNA At-Large Director Jinel Scott, MD, found clear evidence that implementing newer technology happens slower in communities of color, leading to higher mortality rates among Black and Brown populations than in predominantly white ones. The findings are out in a recent paper, Relationship between Race and Access to Newer Mammographic Technology in Women with Medicare Insurance, published in [Radiology in October 2022](#).

The next step is advocating for change — getting new technologies deployed to those who need it instead of simply to who can afford it.

For the Coalition and the RSNA, it’s about becoming more creative about solutions and finding a structured approach to addressing structural inequities — “moving from descriptive to predictive to prescriptive,” in Dr. Scott’s words.



We don’t have enough doctors, and people are just trying to survive, so we hope to create new models. An ideal scenario is others in the Coalition working to help us address these issues on a national scale.”

~ Laeton Pang, MD
President, Hawaii Radiological Society (HRS)

HELP US TAKE CLEAR ACTION FOR IMAGING ACCESS



MAKE OUR MISSION YOUR MISSION

The Coalition offers many roles where you can do your part:

- Executive Committee
- Mobilization Team
- Coalition Partners
- Community Collaborators



COVID-19 made it very clear that we have a tiered system in the United States for community care, and that tiered system produces tiered results. This puts a spotlight on barriers that were known — but they need repeated confirming so we can change them.”

~ Jinel Scott, MD
At-Large Director, RSNA

HELP US SAVE LIVES

While the Coalition was just formed in 2021, members are already sharing ideas and spreading the word. Recent collaborations and resources include:

- Content in the ACR Bulletin, including the [August 2022 Health Equity Edition](#).
- ACR blog: [Breaking Imaging Barriers: The Voice of Radiology](#).
- Content in RSNA News and RSNA suite of journals.
- In collaboration with the Harvey L. Neiman Health Policy Institute®, embarked on a research study on mammography screening technology disparities. The findings from this study were published in the October issue of [RSNA’s Radiology journal](#).





As physicians, we're tasked with protecting patient access — it's part of our job. We should all be focused on addressing healthcare inequities in this country, right now."

~ **Laeton Pang, MD**
President, Hawaii
Radiological Society (HRS)

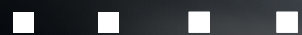
► Join the effort

THE COALITION, CONVENED IN 2021, INCLUDES:

- American Association of Physicists in Medicine*
- American Board of Radiology*
- American Medical Association Section Council on Radiology*
- Association of University Radiologists*
- National Medical Association Section on Radiology and Radiation Oncology*
- Radiological Society of North America*
- Society of Chairs of Academic Radiology Departments*
- Society of Interventional Radiology*
- Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging*
- American College of Radiology*
- Hawaii Radiology Society
- Promise Fund of Florida
- Radiology Business Management Association

**Denotes founding members*

**RADIOLOGY HEALTH
EQUITY COALITION**



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radhealthequity.org