

**For more information, contact: Anne Marie Murphy**  
Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force  
Phone: (312) 942-0309  
Cell: (217) 494-1155  
Email: [Annemarie\\_murphy@rush.edu](mailto:Annemarie_murphy@rush.edu)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force receives Hearst Health Prize Honorable Mention

**Chicago, IL** – The Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force is proud to announce that they received Honorable Mention recognition for the 2017 Hearst Health Prize for Excellence in Population Health – making them one of the top 10 applicants for the annual award nationwide.

The Hearst Health Prize, a partnership between Hearst Health and Thomas Jefferson University, is a national competition to identify and promote promising innovations focused on protecting and improving health, and proliferating best practices in the United States. The prize recognizes programs that are impactful and improving the health of communities. Applicants represent a crowded field of established and resourced organizations. The top three organizations this year were the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, Stanford University's California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative and Intermountain Healthcare.

"At a time where our work to ensure that all women have quality access to high quality care – regardless of their race or ethnicity, neighborhood, income bracket or insurance plan – has never been more important, we're honored to be recognized by the Hearst Health Prize for our efforts to create change here in Chicago," said Anne Marie Murphy, PhD, executive director of the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force. "It is a testament to the hard work of our staff and volunteers, as well as the strong support of our community and partners that a small organization like ours was recognized."

Since the inception of the Task Force in 2008, Chicago has led the nation in lowering the death rate from breast cancer for African American women. Disparity in survival between African American and White women in Chicago is down 35 percent over the last five years. The Task Force has pioneered a collaborative model of healthcare quality assessment initially across Metropolitan Chicago's breast healthcare system and later across the state of Illinois, followed by evidence based interventions that include outreach, education, patient navigation and healthcare quality improvement tailored to the deficits identified by the Task Force's initial research. Replication of this model has begun in Memphis, Tennessee, where breast cancer disparities have been among the highest in the nation.

Additional information including a list of all awardees can be found at: <http://www.jefferson.edu/university/population-health/about/news/2017/01/3-finalists-named-for-2017-hearst-health-prize.html>

**About the Task Force**

The Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to save women's lives by eliminating health disparities in Illinois, through the lens of breast cancer. The Task Force addresses women's health holistically with the goal of eliminating inequities in prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship for all women. The Task Force acts as a catalyst to address this health injustice, leaving no stone unturned and working collaboratively to ensure that every woman has an equal chance at life when it comes to breast cancer. For more information, visit [www.chicagobreastcancer.org](http://www.chicagobreastcancer.org).

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