



BENCH TO
COMMUNITY
INITIATIVE

2025 Impact Report



bench2community.org

ABOUT BCI

- **The Bench to Community Initiative (BCI)** is a community-based participatory research (CBPR) project that aims to develop community and policy interventions that reduce exposure of harmful chemicals from personal care products and breast cancer risk for Black people.
- The team includes **multidisciplinary team including researchers, community advocates, and breast cancer survivors** dedicated to achieving health equity and committed to research and legislative efforts geared towards eliminating harmful exposures to chemicals in hair and other personal care products.



www.bench2community.org



[bench2community](https://www.bench2community.org)



MEET THE TEAM

Community Advisory Board Members

Tonya Fairley, CT



D. Bing Turner, MPH



Tiah Tomlin-Harris, MS



Maggie Hawkins, MPH, CHES®



COMMUNITY ADVISORS



Pastor Rhonda Holbert, M.Min.



Carmen D. Harris, MPH



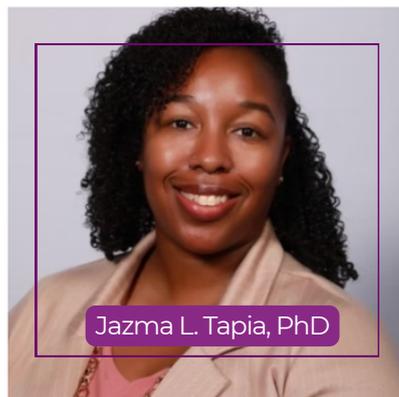
Elise Harris



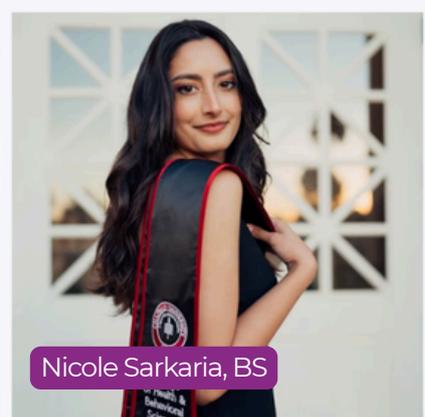
Ebony Andrews, MPH



Investigators and Staff



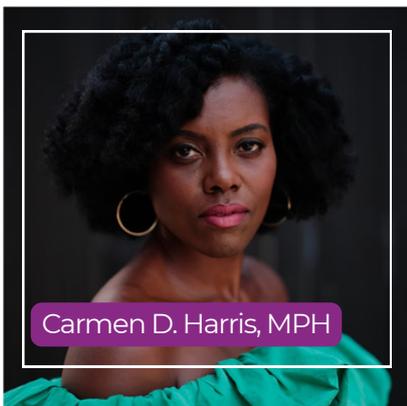
Trainees



NEW CAB MEMBERS (SPOTLIGHT)

Community Advisory Board (CAB) members voice community concerns, help plan education and outreach, and support research study implementation.

Welcome to our new CAB members!!



Carmen D. Harris, MPH

Carmen Harris is the founder of Imagine Me Free, an organization dedicated to liberating Black women's minds, bodies, and spirits through embodied intimacy practices and relationship coaching.



Elise Harris

Elise Harris is a breast cancer survivor and advocate. She continues to elevate the experiences, concerns, and health priorities of Black Women through her work with the Voices of Black Women study. As an ambassador, she strives to create a more representative and culturally responsive approach to community health and research engagement, ensuring that communities understand the importance of research and feel empowered to participate.



Ebony Andrews, MPH

Ebony Andrews is a strategist, advocate, and consultant specializing in health equity and community-centered impact. She advises executive leaders and designs culturally responsive engagement strategies. A two-time Webby Award winner and recipient of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Secretary's Award for Meritorious Service, Ebony is dedicated to creating lasting, community-driven solutions that bridge vision and execution and drive systemic change.



OVERVIEW OF (YEAR)

RESEARCH



RESEARCH PROJECTS



PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS



PUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT



COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS



**SALON CONVERSATION SESSION
FACILITATED**



COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

“Hidden Costs of Beauty: The link between everyday personal care products and cancer”



Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) Symposium | June 2025

Be Well™ Acres Homes
Building a healthier community together

Be Well Acres Homes Steering Committee Meeting | October 2025

“Everyday products, hidden health risks: How everyday products may be harming us and increasing cancer risk”

OVERVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RESEARCH

Intervention Projects

Knowledge engine: A computational approach to combatting dermatological health disparities in underserved communities

- ✓ **Funder:** National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- ✓ **MPIs:** St. Bernard & Teteh-Brooks

Social and environmental determinants of breast cancer survivorship: The Black breast cancer survivors' intervention

- ✓ **Funder:** National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- ✓ Teteh-Brooks

Development of an environmental health literacy mobile application to reduce toxic environmental exposures in Black communities

- ✓ **Funder:** National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- ✓ **PI:** Hua
- ✓ **Consultants:** Teteh-Brooks and Turner



Observational Project

Chemical Exposure and Cancer risk (CHECK)

- ✓ **Funder:** National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- ✓ **PI:** TeteH-Brooks

Manuscripts published

Franklin, ET., Boronow, KE., Ohayon, JL., Momplaisir, A., Steele, J., Smith, C.K., Taylor, L., Brock, B., Grayson, K., Edgecombe, K., Harris, BS., Pender, KN., Kola, IB., Llanos, AAM., TeteH-Brooks, DK., Marcelin, L., Brody, JG., Dodson, RE. (2025). The Power of Strategic Social Media Influencer Communication to Improve Black Women's Knowledge and Awareness of Environmental Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals: Surveys of Instagram Users, Journal of Medical Internet Research.



<https://doi: 10.2196/66128>



<https://www.jmir.org/2025/1/e66128>





Teteh-Brooks, DK., Ericson, M., Bethea, TN., Dawkins-Moultin, L., Sarkaria, N., Bailey, J., Llanos, A.A., Montgomery, S. (2025). Validating the Black identity, Hair product use, and Breast Cancer Scale (BHBS) Among Black Breast Cancer Survivors, International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health

 <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph22020174>

 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40003400/>

Published abstract

Teteh-Brooks, DK., Andrews, E., Tapia, J., Holbert, R., Tomlin-Harris, T., Franklin, E., Ericson, M. (2025). Empowering Black women through advocacy and education on endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and breast cancer risk.

International Society of Exposure Science and International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, Atlanta, GA.



OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Salon Conversations

Salon Conversations is a community forum focused on personal care product chemicals and breast cancer risk. It's part of the Bench to Community Initiative (BCI), where community members and scientists work together to understand how chemicals in these products may increase breast cancer risk.

October 6, 2025- Choices That Change Everything – Breast Cancer, Advocacy & Second Opinions

This deeply moving and educational dialogue brings together survivors, public health leaders, and advocates who are redefining how we approach prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

Through candid storytelling, expert insight, and community-centered perspectives, the panelists shed light on the barriers that often delay care, the importance of trusting your body and your instincts, and how persistence and advocacy can lead to life-saving outcomes.

Session recording: (Click to view)



Speaker's name, affiliation, and bio:



KoKo McDowell

Tali Health

Chief Customer Officer



KoKo McDowell is a 20-year survivor of triple-negative inflammatory breast cancer and a nationally recognized patient advocate. She currently serves as Chief Customer Officer at Tali Health, where she helps lead efforts to develop medical intelligence that keeps care moving through AI-powered tools. Known for her warmth, wisdom, and candor, KoKo brings deep experience in patient-centered care, healthcare innovation, and what she calls “possible impossibles.”



Corrine Ellsworth-Beaumont, PhD

Know Your Lemons® Foundation

Founder



Corrine is the founder of the Know Your Lemons® Foundation and creator of the viral 12 signs of breast cancer visual. With a PhD in design and deep expertise in healthcare communication, her work empowers millions worldwide to recognize breast cancer symptoms early. Corrine advises the World Health Organization and is a leading global voice on equitable breast health education.

Jasmine Souers

The Missing Pink Breast Cancer Alliance

President & CEO



Jasmine Souers is a young breast cancer survivor, advocate, and the founder of The Missing Pink Breast Cancer Alliance. Known for championing the needs of young women of color navigating breast cancer, she also serves on advisory boards¹³ for the CDC, American Cancer Society, and GRASP—driving inclusive, survivor-centered solutions across healthcare systems.

CAB Community Engagement



Tiah Tomlin-Harris

Community Advisory Board Member | Co-Founder and CEO of My Style Matters



2025 HERitage Health Experience

Co-Founder and CEO of My Style Matters and BCI Community Advisory Board Member, Tiah Tomlin-Harris, partnered with H.Y.P.E to Empower, Inc., and Blessings Working Together to host an event dedicated to supporting Black women and their families in overcoming health disparities. The 2025 HERitage Health Experience engaged 150 attendees and over 30 vendors, providing access to:

Free clinical breast exams, genetic testing, and rapid HIV screenings

Mental wellness and health education talks

Trusted community resources and services that support ongoing wellness

Networking opportunities to connect with trusted local organizations

Click on the following link to view the Impact Report for the 2025 HERitage Health

Experience:



Tomlin-Harris, Co-Founder and CEO of My Style Matters and BCI Community Advisory Board Member, facilitating the SafHER Black Beauty Workshop at the 2025 HERitage Health Experience.

Black Beauty Justice Coalition

Tiah Tomlin-Harris joined the Black Beauty Justice Coalition, a partnership between Consumer Reports and Black community organizations to address systemic inequities within the beauty industry and reduce harmful chemicals that disproportionately impact Black communities.



Social media (Jan 1, 2025-December 31, 2025)

FACEBOOK

10.7k Views

378 Followers

Top 5 Cities Reached

1 Atlanta, GA

3 Chicago, IL

2 New York, NY

4 Houston, TX

5 Los Angeles, CA

INSTAGRAM

9.4k Reach

928 Followers

16.6k Views

Top 5 Cities Reached

1 New York, NY

4 Philadelphia, PA

2 Los Angeles, CA

5 Atlanta, GA

3 Chicago, IL



YOUTUBE

5.4k Total Impressions

Impressions: How many times the video thumbnails were shown to viewers

1 Total Video Uploaded



Top 3 Videos

Click each link to view the videos.

SALON CONVERSATIONS: CHOICES THAT CHANGE EVERYTHING – BREAST CANCER, ADVOCACY & SECOND OPINIONS

THE BLACK BEAUTY BREAKDOWN DAY 1 - ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING CHEMICALS AND BREAST CANCER DISPARITIES

THE BLACK BEAUTY BREAKDOWN DAY 1- RESEARCH

Website Data (January 1, 2025-December 31, 2025)

Website traffic by location

Top 5 Countries Reached

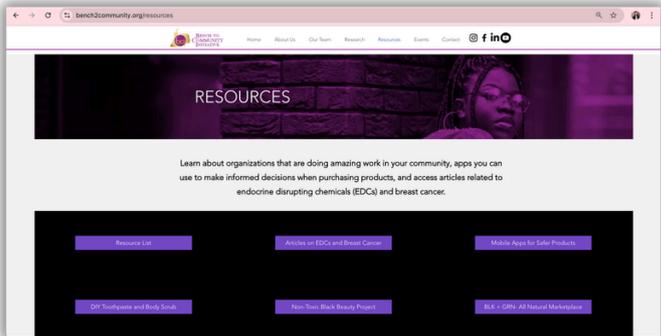
- 1 United States
- 2 Philippines
- 3 Netherlands
- 4 United Kingdom
- 5 Canada

562 Number of unique visitors

**Most viewed page :
Resources**

Top 5 US States Reached

- 1 Texas
- 2 California
- 3 Maryland
- 4 Georgia
- 5 New York





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THANK YOU

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information:

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