



Outlaw Human Gene Patents Because Human Genes Belong to Human Beings **NOT** Corporations.

The US Supreme Court is currently considering the question
"Are human genes patentable?"

In 2009 Breast Cancer Action joined researchers, genetic counselors, and cancer patients in a lawsuit to overturn Myriad Genetics' patent of the human BRCA1 & BRCA2 genes, known as the "breast cancer genes." We believe that such gene patents are fundamentally absurd, and that the Supreme Court must outlaw all human gene patents.

What You Should Know about Myriad's Gene Patent:

- Every person has the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes.
- Certain mutations of these genes raise the risk of breast, ovarian and other cancers in some families.
- 1 in 1,000 women have an increased risk of cancer because of a BRCA mutation, up to 10% of all breast cancers.
- Myriad Genetics holds a patent on the human BRCA1&2 genes.
- The patent means Myriad is the gatekeeper for all research and testing involving the human BRCA genes.
- Myriad's monopoly means that its test for BRCA mutations linked to cancer is the only commercially available test in the US.
- Myriad's test is expensive: they charge more than \$3,000 when others say they could offer new tests for a few hundred dollars.
- Myriad's test gives incomplete information on some mutations.
- There are no second opinions.
- Myriad blocks breast cancer research, including development of new tests and therapies involving the BRCA genes.

Why Human Gene Patents are bad for Our Health:

Human gene patents give corporations monopoly control over research, testing, diagnostics, and treatments related to "their" genes. The patents on the human BRCA genes restrict researchers working to advance progress in breast and ovarian cancers.

Myriad Genetics earns half a billion dollars a year from their monopoly on the breast cancer genes, while women pay the price with their lives.

If the Supreme Court rules in our favor:

- More women will get potentially life-saving information by having access to their genetic information.
- The price will drop as more companies develop new tests.
- Women will be able to get a second opinion as they consider their medical choices such as removal of healthy organs.
- Research scientists, doctors, universities and corporations will be free to do research involving the BRCA genes.

A ruling to outlaw human gene patents will open doors to testing and second opinions, allow greater research in breast and ovarian cancer, and potentially unleash progress in human gene research for all hereditary diseases both in the U.S. and around the world.

We expect that the US Supreme Court will issue its ruling during the summer months of 2013.

Join Breast Cancer Action to Outlaw Human Gene Patents!

- Sign up on our website to receive more information and updates about this case- www.bcaction.org
- Donate to support this work to end Myriad's patent on human genes – www.bcaction.org/donate