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Supreme Court Rules Human Genes BRCA1 & BRCA2 May Not be Patented

Washington, DC -- Statement by Susannah Baruch, Interim President & CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project, on the Supreme Court's unanimous [decision](#) that human genes may not be patented.

“Today we celebrate the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Association for Molecular Pathology v. Myriad Genetics, Inc.* as a victory for women’s health and a step forward for the accessibility of breast and ovarian cancer risk assessment and treatment.

The case involved Myriad Genetics’ patents on the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, which can serve as indicators of a woman’s chance of developing breast and ovarian cancer. Their patented status enabled Myriad Genetics to monopolize the testing and research of these genes, making the tests costly and inaccessible for many women.

The Court’s decision will improve the quality of cancer care that women, particularly low-income and minority women, receive. We expect to see greater access to testing for patients as well as increased research.

This decision is a welcome victory for women’s health.”

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In October 2012, The Reproductive Health Technologies Project (RHTP) joined an [amicus brief](#) in support of the plaintiffs’ challenge to Myriad Genetics’ gene patents. RHTP is a national non-profit advocacy organization working on behalf of women to achieve access to the safest and most effective methods for protecting their health. Bringing together experts, using solid science and clinical data, and seeking consensus among diverse communities, RHTP ensures that new technologies are developed and introduced with appropriate safeguards, a well-informed consumer constituency, and broad based public support.

Susannah Baruch JD, Interim President & CEO, Reproductive Health Technologies Project is available for interview upon request.