

# Better health access for our world

Dedicated healthcare professionals work tirelessly to help people – and their communities – live healthier lives. But not all communities have equal access to the care they need. [Half the world's population still lacks access](#) to essential healthcare services.

Marginalized communities are disproportionately impacted by noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes. Those three NCDs alone cause [74% of all deaths globally](#), and more than three-quarters of those cases occur in low- and middle-income countries. This heavily burdens the local health systems that care for people living with NCDs.

## **We can do better.**

Achieving better outcomes depends on healthcare technologies and partnerships that put people first. This requires engineering and scaling healthcare solutions with an equity mindset, an understanding of local community needs, and on-the-ground field research and data. These solutions must be powered by innovative technologies that make prevention, care, and treatment as accessible and simple to use as possible. And the impact of those solutions depends on accelerating their delivery through collaborative partnerships that reach even the remotest communities.

Medtronic is a global leader in healthcare technology. The scope, reach, and impact of our solutions uniquely empower us to drive sustainable breakthroughs in health access. We're working to bring the best minds together around common goals for a healthier, more equitable world for all – one person and one community at a time, no matter who or where they are.



# Cancer doesn't discriminate. Neither should screenings for it.



## The problem

Colorectal cancer is the [third most common cancer](#) and the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States. The risk is highest among Black Americans, who are about [20% more likely to get colorectal cancer](#) than other racial/ethnic groups, and about [40% more likely to die](#) from the disease.<sup>1</sup>

Black Americans often encounter complex systemic barriers to cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and survival. These barriers can be difficult to address. But the medical evidence is clear: The recovery rate from colorectal cancer is [around 90%](#) when the disease is caught early. Screening is critical, but not always accessible.

## The solution

Medtronic GI Genius™ intelligent endoscopy module is the first-to-market, computer-aided polyp detection system powered by artificial intelligence (AI). It empowers physicians to find hard-to-detect colorectal polyps through enhanced visualization. GI Genius™ has a 99.7% sensitivity rate and less than 1% false positives.

But technology isn't life-changing unless it reaches the people who need it the most. That's why Medtronic established the [Health Equity Assistance Program](#) for

colon cancer screening to provide GI Genius™ modules to communities with low screening rates or where access to the technology is not currently available.

## The outcome

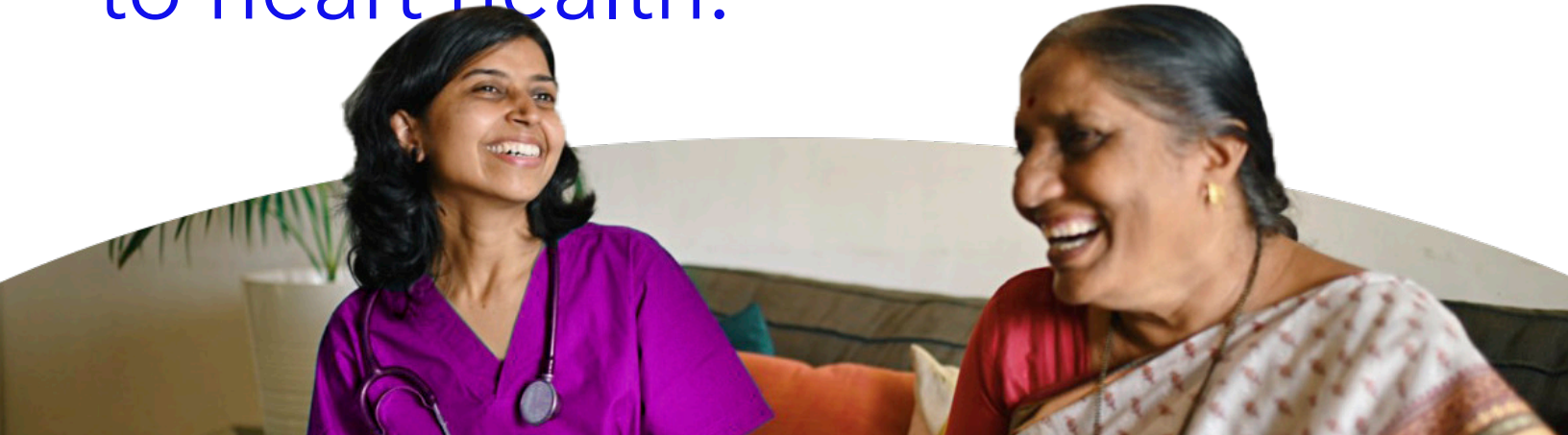
The program, in partnership with the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and with support from Amazon Web Services, launched in March 2022 – Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month – and to date 130 GI Genius™ modules have been donated to facilities across the country.



## The impact

The program has the potential to reach more than 350,000 patients over three years.

# Tackling race-based barriers to heart health.



## The problem

Black Americans are [30% more likely to die from heart disease](#) than non-Hispanic whites. Among older populations, the risk is even higher. [More than 20% of Americans over the age of 65 have aortic stenosis \(AS\)](#), a narrowing of the aortic valve opening that restricts blood flow in the heart. Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) therapy is a minimally invasive procedure to replace the aortic valve. It's a life-saving option for many with AS.

Yet although racial and ethnic minorities make up 23% of the 65 or older population in the United States, data presented in 2019 showed that just 8.7% of patients who receive TAVR are racial or ethnic minorities.<sup>2</sup>

## The solution

In early 2020, Medtronic launched a project to address disparities in the treatment of AS. We partnered with several health systems to explore the root causes of these disparities and are working to address treatment barriers in Black American, Latino-Hispanic, and Native American patients. This coalition will use data collection and education to help build a more equitable system.

One key initiative is our partnership with [HeartSense](#), a nonprofit whose mission is to address health

inequities by closing the care gap in access to heart health and education in Louisiana and beyond. Together, we are conducting a research project to determine the true prevalence of AS in South Louisiana.

To get a clear picture of this data, the HeartSense project is aiming to screen 2,000 patients. Through a variety of community outreach events, the project is examining the effects of race and socio-economic status on the prevalence and treatment of patients with heart disease.

## The outcome

The data will help HeartSense tailor and share educational resources, create health solutions that truly fit the needs of the community, and ultimately build healthcare access where it has long been blocked.

## The impact

The study will help identify healthcare disparities and develop a path to reduce them by providing access to a qualified "heart team." It can also serve as a model for similar Medtronic research projects in the future.

# A radical transformation of diabetes and hypertension care.



## The problem

According to the International Diabetes Foundation, the number of people living with diabetes is [projected to reach nearly 800 million by 2045](#). And the incidence of the disease is [rising disproportionately](#) in predominantly low- and middle-income countries. More than [1 billion adults worldwide have hypertension](#); two-thirds of them live in low- and middle-income countries. Overburdened health systems that serve marginalized communities are already struggling to meet patient needs.

## The solution

In 2020, Medtronic LABS launched the [Akoma Pa](#) project in Ghana. This multi-stakeholder partnership is driving a radical transformation in regional health, with a focus on those living with diabetes and hypertension. Medtronic LABS partnered with the Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG) – the second-largest health system in the country – with funding from German development agency GIZ.

Akoma Pa – “healthy heart” in the Ghanaian language of Twi – combines the Medtronic LABS care model and digital health platform, [SPICE](#), with CHAG’s infrastructure. Both patients and physicians are empowered with connected care solutions, home checks, and powerful educational messaging.

## The outcome

Akoma Pa has reached 60,000 patients and is already one of the largest NCD programs in West Africa – a model for how LABS can scale globally.

## The impact

Expansion to the public sector is expected in 2023.



## Medtronic LABS

Medtronic LABS is an independent nonprofit organization funded by Medtronic. By bridging hyper-local services with cutting-edge technology, it provides sustainable and localized healthcare solutions that produce measurable patient outcomes. LABS has trained 3,000+ community health workers across the globe; screened 1.4 million patients in low- and middle-income countries and areas for conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, and hearing loss; enrolled 160K patients in LABS’ care programs; and had more than 100K patients demonstrate measurable improvements in their health. LABS has established 300+ healthcare sites serving chronic disease patients with local primary care programs in Africa, Asia, and the United States. By building powerful partnerships, Medtronic LABS is creating a global health system for the future.

Let's put equity  
within reach.



Eight billion people on Earth. That's eight billion lives, hearts, and minds filled with dreams. Healthcare technology can connect, enhance, and extend those lives. With revolutionary healthcare technology powered by strong partnerships, together we can reach more people in more places and build a bridge to equity.

That's what Medtronic strives for every day: better health access for our world.

[Learn more about Medtronic LABS](#)

[Learn more about our social impact](#)

## Medtronic

710 Medtronic Parkway  
Minneapolis, MN 55432-5604  
USA  
Tel: 763-514-4000  
Fax: 763-514-4879

Toll-free: 1-800-328-2518  
(24-hour technical support for  
physicians and medical professionals)

UC202310545EN ©2023 Medtronic.  
L021-L023-L024-12142022  
Printed in USA. 01/2023  
[Medtronic.com](https://www.Medtronic.com)

1. Hassan C, Wallace MB, Sharma P, et al. New artificial intelligence system: first validation study versus experienced endoscopists for colorectal polyp detection. *Gut*. 2020; 69:799-800.
2. Alkhoul M, Holmes DR, Carroll JD, et al. Racial disparities in the utilization and outcomes of TAVR: TVT registry report. *JACC Cardiovasc Interv*. 2019;12:936-948