

WOMEN'S HEART ALLIANCE

Heart Disease is the No. 1 Killer of Women.

Women's hearts aren't like men's. Their symptoms aren't either. Yet, current research treats them all the same. The Women's Heart Alliance is fighting for equality in cardiovascular research, treatment and prevention. It's the only way we'll stop cardiovascular disease in women.

About the Women's Heart Alliance

The Women's Heart Alliance is dedicated to preventing women from needlessly facing and dying from heart disease and stroke. Working with two of America's leading medical institutions—the Barbra Streisand Women's Heart Center at Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute and the Ronald O. Perelman Heart Institute at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center—the Women's Heart Alliance is working to change research practices and improve the quality of care women receive for their heart health. With so many women's lives at stake, we have to make this a priority.

womensheartalliance.org
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Did You Know?

400,000

Heart disease kills more women each year than all cancers combined.

50%

Women are 50% more likely to be given a wrong diagnosis after a heart attack, and are at greater risk of dying in the first year after.

2/3

Women's hearts are two-thirds the size of men's.

1/2

In nearly half of all heart attacks among women, typical male symptoms are not present.

\$1 trillion

By 2035, more than 45% of Americans are projected to have cardiovascular disease, with annual costs expected to reach \$1 trillion.

A Path Toward Progress

Bold and Breakthrough Research

Meaningful change can only happen when we're willing to push past the norms. Through bold and breakthrough cardiovascular research, modeled after major advancements in cancer, we will tackle the gender inequity in research head-on.

"Most of what we know about heart disease has come from research done on men, designed for men. And this has greatly benefited men, but women have not fared as well."

— **Dr. Holly Andersen**, WHA Medical Advisor, and Director of Education and Outreach at the Ronald O. Perelman Heart Institute and attending cardiologist at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Universal Knowledge of Women's Heart Attack Symptoms

Women's hearts are smaller and their risk factors are different. Yet, less than half of primary care physicians and cardiologists feel well-prepared to assess cardiovascular disease in women. Physicians need to be educated on women's cardiovascular disease. Women need to know their symptoms are different. When it comes to heart disease and stroke, women and men are not the same.

"Many women go to the hospital with chest pain but they often aren't tested for a heart attack because doctors felt they were low-risk. And they are considered low-risk because their heart disease symptoms are different than the symptoms men experience."

— **Dr. C. Noel Bairey Merz**, WHA Scientific Advisor, Director of the Barbra Streisand Women's Heart Center in the Smidt Heart Institute at Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute

WOMEN'S HEART ALLIANCE

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