

Advancing Possibilities

Our commitment to transforming lives inspires us to address inequities in the world around us.

Boston Scientific collaborates with local communities, nonprofit organizations and providers to understand and address disparities within underrepresented populations. Whether we are improving treatment disparities for Black, Hispanic and Latinx people, providing students access to STEM opportunities, or empowering employees to take action in their communities, we are advancing possibilities for societal good.



SCIENCE

HUMANITY

PURPOSE

Improving outcomes

Combating inequities

Advancing possibilities



HEALTH EQUITY CHAMPION: PAIGE BINGHAM



In 2020, Paige Bingham became the national program director of Close the Gap. A longtime health equity champion, Paige offers insights on the team's work to address treatment disparities and increase diversity in clinical trials.

“The Boston Scientific Close the Gap program empowers physicians with data and epidemiological insights to identify local treatment gaps and customizable resources to reach vulnerable populations. This approach helps to inform and activate measurable change to save lives.”

Paige Bingham, national program director, Close the Gap

Confronting Health Inequities

For more than 15 years, Boston Scientific has worked to eliminate health care inequities in underserved communities through our industry-leading program [Close the Gap](#). More recently, and as the pandemic exposed the severity of treatment disparities and systemic barriers to care, we [stepped up our efforts](#) to help providers identify and serve diverse populations.

Through Close the Gap, Boston Scientific launched a public awareness campaign focused on health inequities related to heart and vascular disease outcomes in the U.S.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:



The campaign augments the work we're doing with local health care providers and major health systems. This includes sharing community-specific disparity data and patient education materials to [help address the treatment gaps](#) among patients who identify as women and people of color.



In 2020, Boston Scientific launched a public awareness campaign focused on health inequity awareness.

Addressing the Gaps: COVID-19 Heart Study

The most vulnerable populations are at the greatest risk for conditions such as heart disease, but they are the least studied in large-scale clinical trials. According to census data, Black Americans represent 13.4 percent of the U.S. population, yet peer-reviewed research shows they make up only 5 to 7 percent of clinical trial participants.¹ In 2020, we began work with Yale/Yale-New Haven Hospital Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (Yale-CORE) to increase the diversity of representation in the [Boston Scientific COVID-19 Heart Study](#), developed to better understand how COVID-19 affects people with heart conditions.

IN THE UNITED STATES:



13.4% of the population is Black



Only **5-7%** of clinical trial participants are Black

A 40-YEAR BATTLE AGAINST RACISM



Paul Underwood, MD, and medical director at Boston Scientific, has been working to reduce health disparities for women and people of color since 1990. He made it his mission to fight racism.

“The data show that the most vulnerable populations have the greatest risk of heart disease but are the least studied in large-scale clinical trials. The opportunities to make an impact are fantastic when we use objective data to guide the way. I am so proud to be working for a company taking tangible actions to battle systemic racism.”

Paul Underwood, MD,
medical director, Boston Scientific

¹ Clark LT, Watkins L, Piña IL, et al. Increasing diversity in clinical trials: Overcoming critical barriers. *Curr Probl Cardiol.* 2019 May;44(5):148-72.



\$3.5 million to combat racism and advance social justice



COMBATING RACISM STRATEGY



Community

Expand the conversation on anti-racism and support social justice organizations



Economic Empowerment

Accelerate the development of Black-owned businesses



Education

Educate and create professional opportunities for Black youth



Health Care Disparities

Address health care disparities in the community



Government/Policies

Advocate for change

Playing Our Part: Combating Racism

Racism in the United States and around the world was front and center in 2020 as we witnessed the tragic death of George Floyd, preceded by those of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and so many others. The Boston Scientific Executive Committee issued [an open letter](#) reaffirming the company's commitment to contribute to a more equitable and inclusive society where all people feel safe and valued and have a voice. As part of that pledge, Boston Scientific is donating \$3.5 million over a multiyear period to combat inequity, systemic racism and injustice in our communities. We are also accelerating our internal diversity, equity and inclusion programs, which include initiatives that address discrimination and racism.

Supporting Our Communities

The work we do is about caring for human life, and it draws us into the communities where we live and work. Our employees help us shape the way we care for the world around us. In 2020, employee engagement expanded to 54 countries and philanthropic contributions focused on the coronavirus pandemic, social justice and natural disasters.

Our global community engagement is focused on three key areas:

BSC CONTRIBUTIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

54 countries

Employee community engagement

\$70 million

Contributions for medical research, fellowships, educational and charitable giving

\$1.2 million

Boston Scientific Foundation contributions

+1,700 nonprofits

supported with donations or grant funding



Advancing education

To develop diverse talent who will create health solutions for generations to come, we support science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programming for underserved 5- to 18-year-old students around the world.

1



Advancing health

To decrease health disparities in chronic diseases among underserved communities, we aim to provide access to quality care, support disease prevention and help prepare children for a healthy journey into adulthood.

2



Advancing community

To improve life in their local communities, we empower our employees to donate their talent and resources through our strategic matching gifts and volunteer programs.

3



EMPLOYEE ACTION AFTER BEIRUT BLAST



In August 2020, an explosion in Beirut killed more than 200 people, injured more than 7,500 and left an estimated 300,000 people homeless. Boston Scientific Peripheral Interventions Training Manager Rawad About Dihn, who has a nursing background, quickly rallied colleagues and friends to turn the entrance of a local building into an emergency wound clinic. The team provided critical aid to an average of 100 people daily and helped reduce the tremendous strain on hospitals overwhelmed with critically wounded people and COVID-19 patients.

PERSPECTIVE FROM BEIRUT

TAREK EL RAHBANI

Tarek El Rahbani led local efforts to support Boston Scientific employees and operations in Beirut following the explosion.

“As a Lebanese Boston Scientific employee, I am grateful for the support we received from colleagues around the world and proud of the quick actions taken by Rawad and volunteers. Our commitment to our caring core value is evidenced by how our employees responded with compassion and integrity.”

Tarek El Rahbani, managing director, Middle East, North Africa, Turkey and Central Asia



Relief Efforts

When an event occurs that devastates one of our communities, Boston Scientific works to ensure employee safety, assess impact and determine how the company can support relief efforts. For example, in 2020, the company coordinated and encouraged employee donations to help people affected by the wildfires in Australia and California, Hurricane Laura, the explosion in Beirut, the coronavirus epidemic as well as victims of social injustice and racial inequity. Employees who chose to donate to these efforts received a matching financial contribution from Boston Scientific.



35% annual increase of employees participating in global matching gifts program

COVID-19 RELIEF BY THE NUMBERS

\$1 million+ Charitable donations



\$4 million+ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



\$13 million+ Face shields, other innovations



\$18 million+ Global relief efforts

Face Shield FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES

PITCHING IN WITH PPE GLOBALLY



In **Marlborough, Massachusetts**, employees made and donated masks and other items to local nursing homes, hospitals and homeless shelters.



In **Galway, Ireland**, employees lifted spirits by donating critical supplies, including gloves, masks, coveralls and boxes of chocolate Easter eggs, to local nursing homes.



In **Singapore**, employees packed and donated more than 350 kits filled with essential items such as hand sanitizer, face shields and healthy snacks to local nursing home residents and health care workers.



In an urgent 2020 undertaking called **Project Shield**, Boston Scientific employees assembled and donated one million face shields in just over one month. Urology Research and Development (R&D) Project Manager Alissa Brandon came up with the idea and collaborated with colleagues to launch [the initiative](#). The effort rapidly expanded to include:

- 12 Boston Scientific sites.
- More than 400 employees around the world contributing their time and expertise.
- They also collaborated with the grassroots organization [GetUsPPE](#), to deliver the PPE to health care facilities in more than 40 U.S. states and territories.



“This shows what can be accomplished when a team with a lot of heart and know-how comes together to collaborate. So many people stepped up to

contribute and help scale this project to where it is today. I am grateful for our caring team who demonstrated heroic hustle.”

Alissa Brandon, R&D manager, Urology

Global Signature Health Grant Program

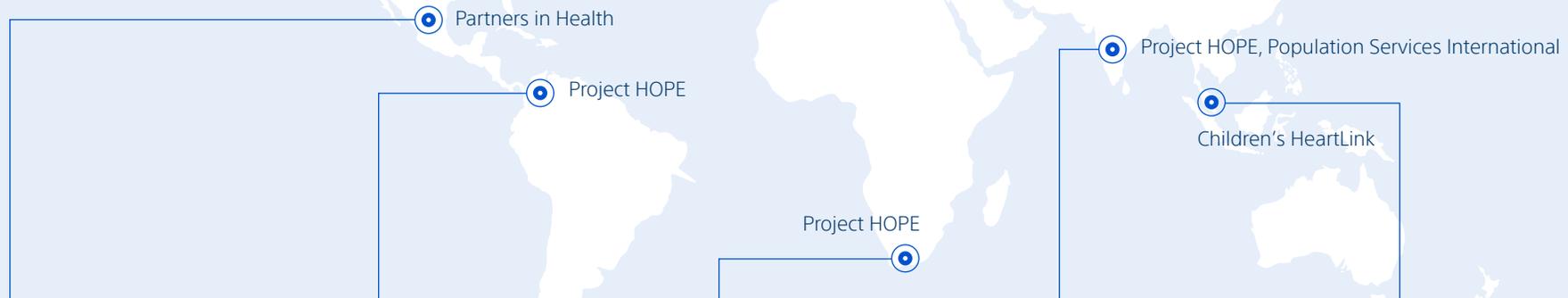
The World Health Organization is estimating a shortage of 19 million health care workers in low- and lower-middle income countries by 2030. Recognizing this crisis early on, Boston Scientific launched a Global Signature Health Grant Program in 2016. Since then, we have partnered with nonprofit organizations that are working globally to increase the number of trained health care workers and improve the quality and availability of chronic disease screenings.



The World Health Organization is estimating a **shortage of 19 million** health care workers in low- and lower-middle income countries by 2030

“We are incredibly thankful for Boston Scientific’s commitment to improving the world’s health and for a partnership that is helping people around the world access the care they need.”

Rabih Torbay, president and CEO, Project HOPE



GLOBAL SIGNATURE HEALTH GRANT COLLABORATIONS SINCE 2016

MEXICO: Boston Scientific supported Partners in Health between 2017 and 2019 and trained newly graduated Mexican physicians in the diagnosis and treatment of chronic disease.

COLOMBIA: New in 2020, we support Project HOPE in its work with the Ministry of Health and local universities to deliver chronic disease training for providers caring for millions of Venezuelan refugees.

SOUTH AFRICA: Our grant to Project HOPE funded work that trained health care workers and created screening protocols for diabetes and hypertension from 2016 to 2018.

INDIA: Beginning in 2016, we collaboratively developed training tools with Project HOPE that support the diagnosis and treatment of chronic disease. New in 2020, our grant to Population Services International funds the creation of digital tools that better identify and follow patients living with chronic disease.

MALAYSIA: Since 2018, we have supported Children’s HeartLink to help create a regional center of excellence for the diagnosis and treatment of congenital heart disease in children.

Project HOPE Aid in Colombia

When Colombia declared COVID-19 a health emergency, Project HOPE redirected its efforts, and a portion of grant funding, to work with the Ministry of Health, Departmental Health Institute and local hospitals to train health care workers and non-medical staff, conduct COVID-19 screenings and distribute PPE.

- **5,616 people** screened for COVID-19.
- **94 health care workers** trained.
- **238 non-medical staff and local volunteers** trained in hygiene promotion, infection protection and control, and contact tracing.
- **7,543 health consultations** provided.
- **415+ full sets of PPE** distributed.
- **1,500 gloves** provided.
- **500+ protective lenses** distributed.



STEM Education

On-site events and in-person mentoring were put on hold for much of the year, but Boston Scientific found innovative ways to continue to bring STEM education to underrepresented youth. Around the world, STEM volunteers used new technology to expose students to careers in industries like ours.

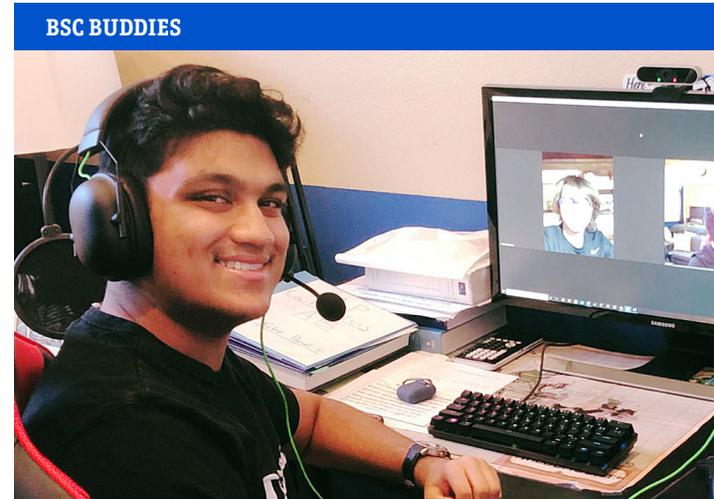
■ **China:** In honor of Children's Day, our STEM team created "Know Your Body" videos, including How does air pollution harm your lungs? and Why lip color turns darker when your heart does not feel well.

■ **Puerto Rico:** Employee volunteers gave elementary school students a virtual tour of our Dorado plant that featured an interactive pH experiment. High school students also had the opportunity to interact with an online panel of STEM experts and watch a video simulating a product being implanted.

■ **Ireland:** To recognize Engineering Day, the team held a contest in which 8- to 12-year-old students had the chance to win a "STEM Day in a Box" that featured content and experiments in chemistry, engineering, physics and battery technology. More than 750 youngsters representing 46 schools in 25 towns participated in the contest.



34,000 kits packed that provided STEM activities, health and wellness essentials, and other necessities to populations in need around the world



BSC BUDDIES

Our Community Engagement team launched BSC Buddies, a program that connects employees' school-aged children online across different geographies, cultures and languages. The 2020 pilot paired 400 children from more than 20 countries.