LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
YONNI WATTENMAKER

Each year as the benefit approaches, I feel the passage of time more profoundly. It brings me to a place of reflection on the year that brought us to this moment: What we accomplished, how we have grown, what education we have provided, and who now calls herself or himself “survivor.”

This year’s theme for our Annual Benefit Luncheon and Fashion Show coincides beautifully with the work of BCA: For Our Daughters, For Our Future. Not all of us are parents, and those of us who are may not have daughters, but we work each day to forge a brighter, more hopeful future for anyone touched by breast cancer.

It is thrilling to note that with early detection, something to which our Education and Outreach grants are so closely aligned, there is a 90% chance of survival. It is also daunting to know that 30% of those diagnosed with breast cancer are living with metastatic disease. Much of the research you have enabled us to fund is the work of brilliant scientists actively exploring ways of improving those statistics, and the breast surgery fellows we support treat thousands of patients across the US. Much of this issue is devoted to highlighting the success and impact of those fellows. Therefore, we remain committed to, and are expanding the work of, BCA not only For Our Daughters, but For Our Future.

To that end, Dr. Leif Ellisen, 2018 research grant recipient at Massachusetts General Hospital, emailed me following our site visit. He said “Thanks to you and your colleagues for taking the time last week to visit us at MGH. We are very excited about the progress we’re making in identifying and understanding these new genetic abnormalities that underlie a subset of aggressive breast cancers. I was also very pleased to see how effective the Breast Cancer Alliance has been at supporting other leading investigators here at MGH and in the Harvard community. Your work and support are truly making an impact that I am convinced will ultimately benefit breast cancer patients everywhere.”

Please join me on Tuesday, October 30 from 11am until 2pm. This year’s event is not to be missed! Tickets, donations, sponsorships, and soon bidding on our silent auction, can be purchased on the events page on our newly redesigned website, breastcanceralliance.org. We hope you will be a part of it all. I look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,
Yonni Wattenmaker
MEDICAL SYMPOSIA IN WASHINGTON, DC AND NEW YORK

This spring, Breast Cancer Alliance held two world class medical symposia with leading experts and hundreds of attendees.

These highly successful programs were designed to inform women about how they can take action for themselves against a disease that affects one in eight women, as well as to disseminate new breakthroughs and the latest research among the breast cancer medical community.

In April, a panel of experts, all practicing near the Nation’s capitol, convened in Washington, DC to discuss new advances in the field:

**Novel Treatments For Breast Cancer: A Discussion With Our Nation’s Experts**

A week later, panelists from institutions in NY and Boston, in partnership with JCC Greenwich, shared the latest advances in breast cancer:

**Hot Topics in breast cancer**

To view the NY program, go to: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olKSRmftQ5Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olKSRmftQ5Q)

If you are local to the Greenwich area, please join us for a free community educational breakfast, courtesy of JP Morgan and hosted by Richards, at 9:30am on October 1. To RSVP email info@breastcanceralliance.org or call 203.861.0014.

These events are not to be missed! See the back page of this issue for the next symposium in your area, including the addition of Seattle this November 29.
Accurately predicting whether a woman has or will develop breast cancer is a fundamental goal of breast cancer research and care. Risk models, such as Tyrer-Cuzik’, play an immensely important role in deciding who should get screened, how, and how often. While healthcare systems collect rich patient information in the form of high-resolution images, prior risk models rely exclusively on shallow information like the patient’s age, age at menarche, number of prior biopsies and family history. As a result, none of these models are very good at distinguishing between who will and won’t develop breast cancer at the patient level and are limited in their potential. At MIT CSAIL (Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory), we have been developing deep learning algorithms to predict whether a woman has or will develop breast cancer that rely on rich imaging data directly, and we are exploring how to integrate these tools clinically to improve patient care.

In collaboration with Massachusetts General Hospital, we have developed a deep learning model to detect cancer in normal screening mammograms. Unlike prior work on computer aided detection, which relies on identifying micro-calcifications or other human identified patterns, our model directly learns which patterns identify cancer from the data, enabling our model to achieve substantially better performance. Accurately predicting whether a woman has breast cancer given her mammogram is the essence of screening mammography. Our results show promise that deep learning models may be able to perform the essential function of screening mammography: accurately predicting whether a woman has breast cancer. Screening mammography is a central aspect of breast cancer care, and has been shown to significantly reduce mortality. Despite its value, the paradigm is expensive and hard to scale in health care systems without a large pool of highly-trained radiologists. To improve access to care, we are exploring the feasibility of using our tool as a first pass reader, where the tool accurately flags the majority of patients as not having cancer and refers the remaining patients for radiologist evaluation. This would allow the same radiologists to serve many more patients.

We have also developed a deep learning tool to assess 5-year cancer risk from Breast MRI. Our experiments have shown that learning the patterns directly from the images, instead of relying on questionnaire data, allows us to substantially outperform the Tyrer-Cuzick risk model. In our experiments, the relative improvement in c-statistic, which is a measure of how well a model distinguishes between patients that do and do not develop cancer in 5 years, was over 40%. We are excited to explore the potential of this tool to better guide patient screening.

We are thankful to Breast Cancer Alliance for supporting this work.

“Accurately predicting whether a woman has breast cancer is the essence of screening mammography. Our results show promise that deep learning models may be able to perform the essential function of screening mammography: accurately predicting whether a woman has breast cancer.”
WE ARE PROUD TO WELCOME TWO NEW MEMBERS OF OUR MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD:
DR. RACHEL BREM AND DR. ELENI TOUSIMIS

Dr. Rachel Brem
The George Washington University Medical Center
Director of Breast Imaging and Intervention
Professor of Radiology
Vice Chairman, Department of Radiology
Program Leader for Breast Cancer, GW Cancer Center
Director, Breast Cancer Program, The George Washington University

Dr. Brem completed her undergraduate studies at Brandeis University followed by medical school at Columbia University where she graduated with honors. Dr. Brem completed both her Diagnostic Radiology Residency and Breast Imaging Fellowship at the John Hopkins Medical Institutions. Since completion of her training Dr. Brem was on the faculty at John Hopkins as the Director of Breast Imaging before moving to her current role at The George Washington Medical Institution and Professor of Radiology. Dr. Brem is the recipient of numerous honors and awards including Jewish Woman International’s Ten Women to Watch, the prestigious fellowship in the American College of Radiology and the Society of Breast Imaging.

Dr. Eleni Tousimis
Chief, Breast Surgery
Director, Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship
Director, Ourisman Breast Cancer Center
Medstar Georgetown University Hospital

Dr. Tousimis joined Medstar Georgetown University Hospital, Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center in 2012. She served as the 99th President of the American Medical Women’s Association in 2014. Dr. Tousimis attended Dartmouth and Mount Holyoke College where she graduated cum laude. She then received her medical degree from Albany Medical College. Following her breast surgery fellowship training at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in 2001, she completed additional specialty training in minimally invasive surgery of the breast at the European Institute of Oncology in Milan, Italy with Dr. Veronesi.

Dr. Tousimis was previously Associate Professor of Surgery at the Weill Cornell Medical College, New York Presbyterian Hospital where she practiced for almost ten years and served as Associate Program Director of Surgical Education.

Dr. Brem is the Director of The George Washington University Mobile Mammography program (Mammovan) which brings mammography to underserved communities to optimize the care of all women. She also began the Brem Foundation to Defeat Breast Cancer in 2004 to support translational research as well as education and clinical care in the underserved community.

Dr. Brem has extensively published in topics related to breast cancer and is also committed to mentoring students and residents. She is on the scientific advisory board of The Prevent Cancer Foundation as well as FORCE (Facing our risk of cancer, for women who are BRCA positive) and is a member of the Board of the Katzen Cancer Research Center.

As a well-respected clinician, researcher, and teacher, Dr. Tousimis has received numerous awards and holds leadership positions in several professional societies and acted as section editor of the Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Journal. She has been recognized as a Castle Connolly’s Top Doctors, Top Surgeons, Best Doctors and Washingtonian Top Doctors. She received an Achievement Award from the City of New York for her surgical skill, compassion and service to the people of New York as well as the Distinguished Female Physician Award for her Outstanding Accomplishments in the field of Breast Surgery in 2015.

Because of her compassion and commitment to patient care, she was recognized and chosen in 2016 as the personal physician of the Dalai Lama when he visits Washington.
ROUNDING OUT OUR MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD ARE THESE ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES:

Dr. K. M. Steve Lo  
Chairman, Hematology and Oncology, Bennet Cancer Center, Stamford Hospital

Dr. Eva Andersson-Dubin  
Founder, Dubin Breast Center, Mt. Sinai

Dr. Susan K. Boolbol  
Clinical Director, Mount Sinai Health System Cancer Network Chief, Division of Breast Surgery Chief, Appel-Venet Comprehensive Breast Service Co-Director, Breast Surgery Fellowship

Dr. Patrick J. Borgen  
Chairman of Dept. of Surgery and Director of Brooklyn Breast Cancer Program, Maimonides Medical Center

Dr. Andrew J. Dannenberg  
Director of the Weill Cornell Cancer Center at Weill Medical College of Cornell University

Dr. Alison Estabrook  
Chief of the Division of Breast Surgery, Mt. Sinai West

Dr. Alexandra Heerdt, MD, MPH, FACS  
Memorial Sloan Kettering

Dr. Elisa Port  
Chief of Breast Surgery, Co-Director, Dubin Breast Center

Dr. David L. Rimm, MD, PhD.  
Professor of Pathology and of Medicine; Director of Pathology Tissue Services; Director of Translational Pathology, Yale University School of Medicine

Dr. Andrea Silber, MD  
Clinician in and Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, Yale School of Medicine

Dr. Barbara Ward  
Medical Director, Breast Center, Greenwich Hospital

Dr. Gregory LaTrenta, MD  
Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon, The New York Presbyterian Hospital

Dr. Donna-Marie Manasseh  
Chief, Division of Breast Surgery Director, Maimonides Breast Cancer Program, Maimonides Medical Center

Dr. Monica Morrow  
Chief, Breast Service Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Center/Imaging Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Dr. Brigid Killelea, MD, MPH, FACS  
Associate Professor of Surgery, Yale-New Haven Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital

Dr. Dr. Andrew J. Dannenberg  
Director of the Weill Cornell Cancer Center at Weill Medical College of Cornell University
2018 BCA Raffle Packages

USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

A DAY AT THE MET $1150 VALUE
Enjoy a private docent-led tour of The Metropolitan Museum and lunch services for eight in the Trustees’ Dining Room. You will select the focus of the tour from a wide array of subjects.

AROUND THE TOWN $1336 VALUE
Cycle your way through Greenwich, beginning with your 5-class pack to SoulCycle. Refresh after your classes with a haircut with Nikki at Warren Tricomi, and one of your 6 blowdry’s from Glam Blow. Your Rag & Bone Mobile Zip Wallet will slip nicely on your wrist, perfect to keep your nails nice and neat after one of your 5 manicures at Coco Nails. Once they’re dry, pick up something pretty with $250 off your purchase at Hobbs of London and show it all off during lunch or dinner for 4 at Le Penguin.

FOX-Y LADY $1156 VALUE
Start your morning with one of your 2 manicures at Avenue Nail, followed by a lady’s haircut with Anna at Indulge Salon so you’ll be prepped and ready to sparkle when you redeem your $500 gift certificate at Steven Fox Jewelry. Maria Turkel will then join you for private wardrobe styling, and help you find the perfect place to store your new item from Third Love. Grab your Dooney & Bourke leather mini tech envelope to keep yourself looking organized as you head to the Season Buffet at Mohegan Sun with someone special.

GLAMOROUS GAL $1095 VALUE
Your Dooney & Bourke handbag makes for a stylish impression as you dine at Pasta Vera for lunch for 2. The perfect complement? A pink cashmere topper to wear for the day of glamour you’ll enjoy at Maria Livesay Salon!

PRIMP AND PARTY $1270 VALUE
Be the hostess with the mostest when you throw a fabulous affair using your $100 gift certificate to Garden Catering, 2 $50 gift certificates to Party, Paper & Things, and an 8” special occasion cake from Black Forest Pastry Shop you can serve on your lovely lacquer tray from Housewarmings. Give the man in your life a little pampering with a 3 months membership for signature haircuts from Kennedy’s Barber Club. You’ll be pampered as well with your hydratrical, manicure and pedicure at Williams & Co. Salon in Darien, and the fragrances and lotions in your Lancome gift box.

STOWE AWAY $1700 VALUE
Enjoy a fabulous 2 night stay for two in the Luxurious Timberline studio at Stowe Mountain Lodge, including 2 rounds of golf at the Stowe Mountain Club Golf Course, cart included!

DINERS CLUB $1230 VALUE
Start the morning right with a dozen bagels a month all year from Upper Crust Bagel Co. Dining will be delightful wherever you are with a variety of fabulous restaurants to choose from. Enjoy lunch for two with a $60 gift card at Morgan’s Fish House in Rye, hop into Port Chester and use your $75 gift card to Capers Restaurant, or to Armonk, Stamford or Rye for dinner for 2 at Fortina. While in Greenwich, dine with a $150 gift card at Boxcar Cantina, a $50 gift card to Ginger Man, dinner for four at Terra, Mediterraneo or Eastend, or dinner for 2 along the water at L’escale.

FREEZE FRAME $1315 VALUE
Meghan Markel has nothing on you. Treat yourself like a princess! Start with 5 classes at CST50 and then head to Ritz-Carlton Westchester for a 90-minute Custom Facial, a manicure from New Hilltop Nails (plus 2 more for the future,) and relax with one of your 2 sessions at Salt Cave Darien. Now that you are primped and looking your best, put on your Mullet Tie from Lazy London and show it all off during lunch for four (caddy fees, alcohol and gratuities not included.)

FORE! $1500 VALUE
Grab three friends for 18 holes of golf at GlenArbor Golf Club. Your spectacular day includes greens fees and use of golf cart followed by lunch for four (caddy fees, alcohol and gratuities not included.)

IN FINE FORM $1557 VALUE
Are you over 40 but want to feel 21? Tighten and lift it all. Beauty comes from within but a little help on the outside never hurts. Use your $750 gift card from Greenwich Medical Spa and 3 classes at Core Pilates Greenwich to tighten and lift it all. Then head to Athleta and pick up your Performance Top and Performance Bottom, worth up to $250 for a fabulous outfit to round out your gorgeous look!

STEPPING OUT $1242 VALUE
Dreaming of dancing with the stars? You will be the star with this package! Step out of your sparkling ride that’s received a complete Five Star Detailing service from Splash. Turn your two left feet into twinkle toes with an Arthur Murray dance class for you and 11 of your friends. Then fox trot your way to a full beauty makeover at John Christopher Salon for a haircut and blowdry for some extra sparkle. Top it off with a manicure and pedicure from Empy’s Day Spa and save two more blowouts for a rainy day from Plush Blow Dry. Take one of 5 barre classes at Go Figure Barre Studio and swing by Back 40 Mercantile to spend your $50 gift card. You’ll be right on time to Moderne Barn where you have $200 to spend thanks to your clock from Michaelangelo of Greenwich.

WEEK-NIGHT GETAWAY $1237 VALUE
Get away on an overnight for 2 in a Cove View Deluxe Room at the wonderful Weekapaug Inn in Rhode Island. Before you depart, treat yourself to a facial at Beautiful Body & Face Spa and use one of the three gift cards for lip and eyebrow service from The Waxing Spot. Use the $100 gift certificate to shop for tennis equipment at Rye Racquet, then pack your new pink Halcyon bracelet in the stylish Spartina beach bag and wristlet. Pick up some sweets at Sweet Pea’s Bakery with a $50 gift card and some treats at STILE Fashion Home with another $50 gift card. Then you’ll be ready to go!

DINERS CLUB $1230 VALUE
Start the morning right with a dozen bagels a month all year from Upper Crust Bagel Co. Dining will be delightful wherever you are with a variety of fabulous restaurants to choose from. Enjoy lunch for two with a $60 gift card at Morgan’s Fish House in Rye, hop into Port Chester and use your $75 gift card to Capers Restaurant, or to Armonk, Stamford or Rye for dinner for 2 at Fortina. While in Greenwich, dine with a $150 gift card at Boxcar Cantina, a $50 gift card to Ginger Man, dinner for four at Terra, Mediterraneo or Eastend, or dinner for 2 along the water at L’escale.

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MAKING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

17 YEARS OF BCA FELLOWS:

I enjoy that the majority of my patients are otherwise healthy women. I have the privilege of helping them get through their treatment and following them through their survivorship. It is gratifying to see most people do well, and based on early detection and the advances in breast cancer treatment, most of the patients will complete their treatment and return to their lives.

**Alice Chung** (2007) is Assistant Professor of Surgery and Associate Program Director of the Breast Fellowship at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. “My training prepared me for this position by giving me the surgical skills to operate on a broad range of breast disease. I was very inspired by the faculty at MSKCC and hope that I am carrying on their legacy by training and inspiring young fellows and residents that train at my program. I feel very fulfilled in my career and do feel indebted to the Breast Cancer Alliance for their support in my training.”

**Karen Jean Hendershott** (2008) is a breast surgeon at Swedish Cancer Institute in Seattle, where she teaches surgical residents and supervises family practice residents on their breast rotations. She previously spent 5 years at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, NJ where she was also the Assistant Program Director for the surgical residents. “My fellowship gave me an excellent foundation for my practice as both a surgeon and an educator. I developed a solid foundation in the most up-to-date surgical techniques and acquired the skills to operate in a multidisciplinary cancer institute and am able to continue to grow and learn as a breast surgeon making sure my patients receive the most state of the art medical and surgical treatments. I would like to recognize the invaluable role the Breast Cancer Alliance plays in the fellowship training of new breast surgeons. The funding you have provided for each fellow continues to be paid forward a decade after it was received. In a side note, this past year took an unexpected twist as I encountered my own diagnosis of Stage 3 breast cancer. After being on leave for several months, I have returned to the job I love so much. This is such a clear reminder that breast cancer touches all of us in so many ways. We need to fight to continue to improve treatment, research, and training in the fight for a cure.”

**Allyson Jacobson** (2007) is the Medical Director of the Breast Program at Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights, IL and is on staff as a breast surgical oncologist. She started in a small private practice working with one other surgeon and joined the large multispecialty hospital in 2014 as their only dedicated breast surgeon, becoming the Medical Director at that time. “My fellowship was by far the best and most useful year of my training. By having both Beth Israel and St. Luke’s/ Roosevelt Hospitals participate in the fellowship, I was exposed to a variety of different surgeons, learned different techniques, and treated a wide range of patient populations. Since I could focus only on breast surgical issues, I had a significant amount of exposure to all ranges of breast concerns. We were also encouraged to do research and write papers, which was helpful moving forward.

**Brigid Killelea** (2008) is Chief of Breast Surgery for the Yale New Haven Health System, the Interim Director of the Smilow Breast Program, and an Associate Professor of Surgical Oncology at the Yale School of Medicine. She is also the Fellowship Director of the Yale Interdisciplinary Breast Fellowship, and a member of BCA’s Medical Advisory Board. She has a robust clinical practice and is “particularly interested in innovative surgical techniques including nipple sparing mastectomy, oncoplastics and breast conservation after neoadjuvant chemotherapy. My research focuses on surgical outcomes and breast cancer disparities among women of diverse socio-economic backgrounds.” The BCA-funded fellowship in breast surgery “enabled me to spend an extra year learning about multidisciplinary breast cancer care and prepared me for my leadership role within Yale’s breast cancer practice. In addition, being a BCA fellow highlighted the importance of mentorship and professionalism that I try to pass on every year to my own fellows.”

**Jean-Claude Schwartz** (2008) is an oncoplastic breast surgeon at Gwinnett Surgical Associates in Lawrenceville, GA. He said “The BCA supported my studies at Yale, one of the premier centers for oncological care in the world. I am grateful for that opportunity and incredible experience I was afforded at a world class institution. I was provided the opportunity to train with experts in the field of breast surgical oncology, I was also given an excellent introduction.
17 YEARS OF BCA FELLOWS:  
MAKING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

Lisa Wiechmann  
(2008) After completing a residency in Boston, and 2 years of translational research at Baylor, Lisa was awarded the BCA-funded fellowship position at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She learned how to provide the highest level of care to breast cancer patients and to contribute to the field through observation and innovation. She was recruited to Montefiore Medical Center, serving as Director of Special Surveillance/High Risk for almost 6 years and then joined Barbara Ward, BCA Medical Advisory Board Member, at Greenwich Hospital, where they started the first Intraoperative Radiation Therapy Program in Connecticut. Last year she was recruited to Columbia University/New York Presbyterian. “The most rewarding aspect of being a surgical oncologist for me is without a doubt patient care and the relationship it leads to. I have the daily pleasure of doing what I love, and the privilege of loving what I do as shown by the numerous patient and peer driven awards, including Castle Connolly’s Top Doctor for the past 2 years. I am grateful to the Breast Cancer Alliance for allowing me to train with exceptional surgeons at Memorial Sloan Kettering and for giving me the tools to fulfill my calling.”

Sumy Chang  
(2009) serves as Director of Medical Genetics and Breast Surgery at Community Medical Center in Toms River, NJ, which is part of the RWJ (Robert Wood Johnson)Barnabas Health System. “Immediately after my fellowship I was practicing in a multi-speciality group practice with another breast surgeon. The fellowship helped me to start my breast surgery practice with confidence in my knowledge, the oncoplastic skills to achieve the best aesthetic outcome in addition to oncologic outcome, and to keep up with the rapidly evolving treatment to improve breast cancer care in the area. My patients routinely comment on my calm and confident demeanor which reduces their anxiety. I attribute that to my fellowship training. The breast surgery fellowship provides each generation of surgeons who would like to specialize in breast cancer care with the knowledge of evolving breast care, but also a perspective on the importance of human touch that is not emphasized in general surgical training. I am grateful for the fellowship which has provided me with the breast surgical skills and knowledge, which helped my career, but also lifelong friends who have been there for me during times of my own health crisis.”

Jennifer Marti  
(2009) is an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine, Site Director for Breast and Endocrine surgery at NYP-Lower Manhattan Hospital, and a member of the Breast Cancer Disease Management Team within the WCM Cancer Center and of the Breast Surgical Oncology Programs within the NYP-WCM Network. “Training at MSKCC, with world renowned experts in breast surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, radiology and pathology, gave me the fortunate opportunity to learn not only the core concepts of oncology from leaders in the field, but also to understand the complexity of breast cancer, and its heterogeneity. This understanding has allowed me to tailor my treatment of each individual patient, to avoid unnecessary and potentially harmful therapies. I feel very fortunate that patients place their trust in me as their surgeon. It is great responsibility that I never take for granted. I am truly grateful to the BCA for supporting my breast surgical oncology fellowship. I would not be the doctor I am today without the BCA’s support.”

Mitchel Barry  
(2010) is a consultant breast surgeon in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and Mater Private Hospital, Dublin, Ireland. Their breast unit diagnoses and treats approximately 800 new breast cancers per year, and is the largest single site breast cancer center in Ireland. “My fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering provided exposure to a high volume of breast cancer patients and also a significant number of complex cases of breast cancer. As part of the fellowship, I was also allowed to work alongside world leaders in breast surgery oncology, medical and radiation oncology, genetics and breast reconstructive surgery. In addition, I benefitted from the strong academic environment with emphasis on knowing key breast cancer trial data to ensure my future breast cancer patients would in turn benefit from evidence-based management of their breast cancer. I am now in independent practice for 6 years as a breast surgeon and I have...
17 YEARS OF BCA FELLOWS: MAKING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

no doubt that my fellowship enhanced my technical, clinical skills as a surgeon and that thousands of Irish women with breast cancer have also reaped the benefit of my fellowship. I am enormously grateful to the BCA for funding my fellowship and training at MSKCC as this has allowed me to bring the expertise of MSKCC breast cancer care to breast cancer patients in Ireland.

Lisa Hopkins (2010) is a breast surgeon at Saint Peter’s Breast Center in New Brunswick, NJ. She works with “a fantastic team of physicians and staff” in a multidisciplinary setting, accredited by the NAPBC and the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer, and able to provide all of the services necessary to take care of their patients. Lisa also plays an active role in resident teaching and training. “My fellowship at Beth Israel/St. Luke’s/Roosevelt prepared me for most anything I could have expected to encounter in the field of breast disease. I feel honored and humbled every day by my patients. In the face of a life-changing diagnosis, the women I see are strong and persistent, they are fighters and warriors. And everyday, I feel hope. I chose this career because I wanted to be a part of something larger than myself and help to fight cancer. I have stayed in this career for the people that I have met, the patients, their caregivers and families, who have shown me what true strength and determination really is. I am utterly grateful to BCA for funding this program. I left my fellowship feeling prepared, confident and truly ready to start my career as a breast surgeon.”

Michele Sowden (2010) is an Associate Professor of Surgery at University of Vermont in an academic, all breast practice. “My fellowship prepared me significantly for my current role. The ability to have one-month rotations on nonsurgical services (pathology, radiology, genetics, medical oncology and radiation oncology) gives me a great depth of knowledge about breast cancer. My career in breast surgery continues to be very gratifying. I love the longevity of my relationships with patients and the ability to see them through their rough times. Breast surgery is a rapidly evolving field and continues to be very intellectually stimulating. It was absolutely the right choice for me.”

Beth Freedman (2011) is a board-certified surgeon specializing in the treatment of both benign and malignant breast disorders. She is extremely grateful that Breast Cancer Alliance funded her fellowship. It has allowed her to pursue her dream of becoming a well-renowned community breast surgeon. After several years in practice at Mt. Sinai St. Luke’s Roosevelt Hospital Center, she joined Caremount Medical, in Mount Kisco, NY. Dr. Freedman is committed to offering her patients a warm, individualized experience in her practice. She includes the patient and family members in decision making, and when forming treatment plans. She caters each plan to the individual patient and their specific needs.

Catherine Pesce (2011) is the Director of the Breast Surgical Program at NorthShore University HealthSystem in Evanston, IL and a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. Catherine said “she could not have asked for better training. I was completely capable of taking care of all types of breast cancer patients, both in clinic and in the operating room. I had received the perfect exposure to all aspects involved in the multidisciplinary management of breast cancer patients from medical oncology, to radiology, genetics, and survivorship. I truly believe there is no better profession and I feel so blessed to have a job I love and am so passionate about. I love that in Breast Surgery, most patients I treat do well and can be cured, and for that reason it is extremely rewarding. I am amazed how often I hear from patients, “thank you for saving my life,” when I truly feel like I did so little! It is an honor to do what I do. I am actually in the midst of applying to start a breast fellowship at my own institution and obviously the funding is a critical issue. What I would do to have the Breast Cancer Alliance in Chicago! I cannot thank you enough for funding my training. I am forever indebted.”

Sarah Cate (2012) is the director of a high risk program at Mount Sinai. “I treat breast cancer, but also see patients who have various genetic mutations, and perform prophylactic surgeries. I became a breast surgeon because I love surgery and women’s health. It has also allowed me...”

Continued on page 10
to do research. I am an active member of Alliance, a national clinical trial group, and on their Prevention Committee. I love being able to take care of women at a very vulnerable time of their lives. The fellowship gave me a tremendous opportunity to work with many surgeons, radiation oncologists, medical oncologists, pathologists, and radiologists, and to learn about all of these disciplines. I am a better doctor for knowing about all of these parts of a patient’s care and very grateful for the funding and for the opportunity to become the doctor I am today.”

Anna Katz (2012) works for Advocate Healthcare in Chicago in an employed model. She is at multiple sites, one more community, the other more academic. She is tumor board chair at Community and on the system-wide board for breast program development. Her fellowship prepared her for this role in many ways, from clinical development to the nitty gritty details of what it means to practice medicine today. She had an incredible experience in fellowship. She said it was her biggest learning year and “not only learned to understand disease better but the compassion and empathy shown by [her] mentors will have forever changed [her] practice.” Anna is “humbled by the opportunity to really help change someone’s life. General surgery wasn’t for me because I was looking for longer term relationships with patients than acute surgery offers. I would say a hug from one of my cancer survivors is what makes it most rewarding.”

Ibironke Adelaja (2013) practices at UCSF Fresno in a branch campus of the University of California at San Francisco, where she is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery and Medical Director for Breast Surgery at Community Regional Medical Center. “The breast fellowship at Rutgers provided an amazing opportunity to learn how to provide compassionate, well rounded multidisciplinary care. I decided to pursue a career in Breast Surgical Oncology because I wanted to provide comprehensive multidisciplinary breast cancer care to all, but especially to the underserved men and women of Central Valley California. It is humbling and satisfying to watch the warrior spirit emerge as a woman endures and finishes her treatment from breast cancer. I am eternally grateful to the Breast Cancer Alliance. It has been so inspiring to also support general surgery residents as they pursue fellowship training in breast surgical oncology. I cannot say thank you enough.”

Pamela Li (2013) is a breast surgeon at University Hospitals in Cleveland, OH. She shared that her “fellowship was a great experience in understanding the importance of multidisciplinary care in breast cancer. I worked with so many people in different specialties who were all committed to taking great care of these patients. It made me truly understand the importance of the team approach and the surgical mentorship I received was invaluable. I am constantly challenging myself to be a better surgeon. Being a breast specialist allows me to see a wide variety of patients. Whether they have benign breast disease, are at high risk for breast cancer or have a new diagnosis of breast cancer, every patient is different, and I learn from everyone. I wouldn’t be where I am today without my training and mentorship, all made possible by the Breast Cancer Alliance.”

Tara Balija (2014) is Assistant Professor of Surgery at the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall and an attending breast surgeon at Hackensack University Medical Center. She chose “breast surgical oncology to have the opportunity to guide and help women through one of the most anxiety provoking and trying times of their lives. A breast surgeon has a unique opportunity to help potentially make a patient cancer free. I find the relationships I develop with my patients one of the most rewarding aspects of this field. I am extremely thankful to the BCA for funding my fellowship experience. Without it, my experience at Rutgers CINJ may not have been possible.”

Leah Bassin (2014) is a breast surgeon with the Hartford Hospital Medical group, operating at both Hartford Hospital and the Hospital of Central Connecticut, beneficiaries of BCA’s education and outreach grants. “Without my BCA Fellowship, I would not be in the position I am currently in. The training that I received during fellowship has given me the skills to become the breast surgeon I am today. Not only in the “how” to perform the surgeries but also how to work up my patients and provide the care that they each deserve. I love that I get to form a genuine relationship with
so many people that I would not be able to otherwise. I am thankful that the grant allowed me to partake in my fellowship and allowed me to have my occupation I may not have had otherwise.”

Starr Koslow Mautner (2014) is a breast surgical oncologist at The Miami Cancer Institute (MCI). “During my fellowship year, I learned about the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer, operated on several hundred patients with breast cancer, and participated in research projects focusing on high risk breast lesions and rare sub-types of breast cancer. I was recruited to MCI due to my expertise and training. I grew up in South Florida and was eager to re-join this community and have the opportunity to give back and help patients diagnosed with breast cancer. It has been very rewarding to be able to treat patients in the South Florida community as well as international patients from South America and the Caribbean. I would like to thank the Breast Cancer Alliance for their generosity in helping me complete my training to become a breast surgical oncologist and their dedication to advancing the field of breast cancer research and treatment.”

Rebecca Fishman (2015) is a clinical assistant professor of surgery at the Allegheny Health Network in Pittsburgh, PA, a large, multi-hospital group affiliated with both Drexel and Temple Universities. “Breast surgery combines my loves of science and surgery with my passion for women’s health. Without question, the best part of my career are the relationships that I develop with my patients. I often meet a woman on one of the worst days of her life. I know that I can help her navigate her cancer treatment and make an overwhelming situation more manageable, with the skills and emotional investment to give her compassionate and also clinically excellent care. Today, breast cancer surgery is one of the few fields in which physicians have a unique privilege not just to treat a cancer but to cure it. I am appreciative every day that I work in a field that is so exciting and rewarding. BCA’s funding was instrumental in supporting a surgical fellowship that connected me with breast cancer experts at a major cancer center where there was both exceptional clinical training as well as access to cutting edge clinical research. I am also grateful that BCA continues to fund breast cancer fellowships to train the next generation of leaders in this field.”

Rachelle Leong (2015) is a breast surgeon at Barnabas Health Medical Group (BHMG), a multispecialty practice affiliated with RWJBarnabas Health. She provides comprehensive breast care as well as medical and surgical expertise to her patients. Her decision to specialize in breast care is rooted in her compassion for cancer patients, as well as her personal history of supporting family members diagnosed with the disease. Rachelle said of her fellowship: “It allowed me to immerse myself into a breast practice for a year prior to running my own. The most rewarding part of my career is the doctor patient relationship.”

Maria Kowzun (2016) was born with a cystic hygroma that required surgical excision when she was only one month old, resulting in a left facial palsy throughout most of her life. “With the help of a plastic surgeon, I underwent facial reconstruction as a teenager and experienced firsthand the powerful impact that surgeons can have on their patients’ lives. I knew early on that I wanted to provide hope to hurting people during a vulnerable time in their lives. Thus I pursued a medical career that eventually brought me to breast surgical oncology. The Breast Surgical Oncology fellowship at Rutgers CINJ laid the foundation that I needed to become a successful breast surgeon. My training at an NCI-designated cancer center encouraged close collaboration with multidisciplinary specialists and reinforced the importance of comprehensive care to my patients.”

Joseph Weber (2015) is a breast surgical oncologist, serving as Medical Director of the Breast Center of Excellence at Aurora Medical Center Grafton. as Clinical Adjunct Assistant Professor at University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, and Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery at Medical College of Wisconsin. He shared that “specializing in breast surgical oncology, I gained the knowledge of focused treatment of breast cancer and breast-related diseases for both men and women. I studied the entire spectrum of breast surgical oncology and breast disease. As a breast surgical oncologist, I help facilitate the multidisciplinary care team to provide comprehensive care to my patients. I am proud to be part of a patient’s journey from breast cancer diagnosis to survivorship, and I find it most rewarding to help prepare patients to face the challenging diagnosis of breast cancer and breast-related disorders. It truly was an honor to be selected by the Breast Cancer Alliance. The funding you have provided has prepared me for a successful career in breast surgery which affords the highest level of care to my patients.”

Continued on page 12
17 YEARS OF BCA FELLOWS: MAKING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

Megan Miller (2016) is an assistant professor in the Department of Surgery at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and a breast surgical oncologist at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center. She also plays an active role in medical student and resident education and in breast cancer research. Her fellowship prepared her for independent practice with broad exposure to breast cancer care and the surgical treatment of breast disease. “Being diagnosed with breast cancer is frequently unexpected and can be difficult to deal with. I chose this career because I want to make a difference in my patients’ lives at the time in which they have the greatest need. The most rewarding part of what I do is being able to tell a patient and her family, “You are cancer free.” I will be forever grateful to the BCA for sponsoring my breast surgical oncology fellowship. Not only did [it] prepare me for practice, it also allowed me to develop a network of colleagues and friends throughout the country that share a passion for caring for women with breast disease.”

Julian Berrocal (2017) is practicing breast surgery in Palm Beach County, FL with hospitals in three locations, including Lake Worth, West Palm Beach, and Loxahatchee, FL. He is also an Affiliate Assistant Professor of Surgery for the University of Miami and teaches the General Surgery residents in my hospital. He shared that “By completing a Breast Fellowship, I had the opportunity to truly understand the multidisciplinary care that is required to manage breast cancer. Also, I learned multiple surgical techniques that incorporate the oncologic and cosmetic aspects of surgical treatment so that I can provide my patients the best surgical care. The multidisciplinary approach taught at programs like Yale University and the success stories that have resulted from having an outstanding breast team sparked my interest in this field. It has been rewarding to see my patients in follow up visits after completing their breast cancer treatments and seeing them doing well and happy with the results of their treatments.”

Anya Romanoff (2017) is just starting her post-fellowship career as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery as a breast surgical oncologist, with a secondary appointment in the Department of Health System Design and Global Health, at The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. “I think this fellowship has taught me how to be a breast surgical oncologist — how to manage breast cancer, how to best perform specialized procedures, how to properly advise patients and answer their questions, and also to perform research in this field at the highest level. Breast surgical oncology provides a unique opportunity to establish a meaningful relationship with breast cancer patients. The breast surgeon is often the first specialist a breast cancer patient sees, which allows for a deep personal connection and high degree of trust. For me, it is a privilege to care for patients in their most vulnerable moments and to help to guide them through their physical and emotional journey during treatment. I would like to sincerely thank the Breast Cancer Alliance for making my fellowship possible. I have learned so much this year and am very much looking forward to my future as a breast surgeon.”

Jennifer Sasaki (2017) has just begun her career at Texas Oncology in Houston as a breast surgeon. Texas Oncology is a large, multispecialty, physician-run group with locations throughout the state, but her primary practice will be at The Women’s Hospital of Texas, as a medical director of the breast program. “My fellowship training this past year has exposed me to a wide variety of patients, diseases, and clinical settings. I have cared for patients before, during, and after surgery and participated in their clinical decision making. Additionally, the fellowship has allowed me to experience every aspect of the multidisciplinary team that makes up breast cancer care. I feel confident knowing that I can go into practice with the skills and knowledge that I need to be a compassionate and competent breast surgeon. I would like to thank the BCA for their continued funding of the breast surgery fellowship at Rutgers CINJ. Their generous donation supports the training of future breast surgeons and breast cancer research.”
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO OUR
ANNUAL LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW

FOR OUR DAUGHTERS
FOR OUR
FUTURE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2018

Keynote | Raffle | Silent Auction | Live Auction | Fashion Show

FASHION SHOW BY
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A-K-R-I-S
RICHARDS OF GREENWICH
DJ APRIL LARKEN

BENEFIT CO-CHAIRS
LOIS KELLY AND MOLLY ZOLA

Hyatt Regency Greenwich, 1800 East Putnam Avenue, Old Greenwich

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PATTY “STEELE” KUSHNER
WCBS FM

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KIDS FOR A CAUSE

The nor’easters this winter couldn’t keep Greenwich families from coming out for BCA’s Carnival Day! Held at Round Hill Club, hundreds gathered for magic, arts & crafts, the assembly of care bags, music, and an adorable fashion show with sassy models ages 3-10 in clothing courtesy of Hoagland’s. It was a cold day outside, but fun and warm inside!

JUNIOR FASHION SHOW

Once again our teen BCA committee lit up the runway at Richards in their latest fashions to raise money for, and awareness about, BCA. Unlike other charitable groups, this Junior Committee brings together teens from Bronxville, Brunswick School, Fox Lane, Greens Farms Academy, Greenwich Academy, Greenwich Country Day School, Greenwich High School, Rye Country Day School, Sacred Heart Greenwich and Stanwich. As always, it was a fun day, and inspiring to be led by our next generation of philanthropists! Special thanks to event sponsor Carnegie Pollak Courses and Private Tutoring.

GOLF OUTING

The weather may not have been on our side, but the golfers surely were! GlenArbor was once again the perfect setting for our most successful outing ever, raising over $100,000 for breast cancer research! Many thanks to all those who came out, despite the rain, for a soggy but terrific day.

Save June 4, 2019 for next year’s event!

5K RUN/WALK FOR HOPE

With gratitude for our many supporters, most notable Platinum Sponsor Omnicom Group, our 5K Run/Walk for Hope on Sunday, May 6 was another fun one! From babies in strollers to avid runners, it was another inspiring event, sharing in the possibility and hope of a better future for breast cancer.

Thousands of dollars were raised through this community fitness event to be dedicated to eliminating barriers of access to care for underserved women.

If you are a runner, or just an avid fan, and want to get involved with next year’s planning, please contact BCA at info@breastcanceralliance.org
I was the “right hand” of the President of a fast-growing real estate development company and was on a clear trajectory to massive success when I got the news that I had breast cancer. I was told that they were garden-variety tumors, easily treatable and therefore the best diagnosis that I could ask for given the circumstances, but nothing could have prepared me for what followed.

My paternal grandmother and mother both had breast cancer and both had predeceased my ailing father. This would have been too much for him to handle, so I embarked on this journey with my boyfriend and three best girlfriends, all who were sworn to secrecy.

I had the mastectomy, implantation of the tissue expander, followed by 4 months of ACT and Taxol chemotherapy, constant doctor appointments and an awareness of my own mortality, but I kept reminding myself that it was almost over. The next step was reconstruction. When I woke up from surgery, I was raring to go, but I developed an infection and struggled for another 18 months of medications, infusions and more surgery. During this time, my father passed, and I suffered changes in career and other losses. Stripped of the identity I knew for so long, I tried to figure out how to put this Humpty Dumpty-esque creature that I had become back together again.

My parents loved the Big Bands and used to go to Bemelman’s Bar at the Carlyle to dance to the Glenn Miller Orchestra whenever he was in town. My father tried to teach me to dance to that fabulous music, but being a natural/trained leader, I had a terrible time following. As an homage to him, I would learn. In desperation, I arrived at the ballroom dance studio physically weak, psychologically battered, broken and searching for hope and any possible clues about whom I was and what to do next.

The funny thing about dance is that it’s ultimately all about you and only you — it’s an amazing luxury, it’s a moving therapy session set to music. I began to feel again, there was a spark of light in my soul. I felt alive for the first time in years — it was so simple, yet so significant. The next year or so was spent on the dance floor, going to competitions, traveling the world and finally seeing a joyful reflection. I did a deep soul-searching and learned who I was and why I was here — to help people.

Still holding my “story” in secret, I decided that if dance could save me, then it could save other people as well. I bought the studio, partnered with the local hospital and various charities to create free classes for cancer patients and their families, underserved children, women of domestic abuse and anyone and everyone who wanted/needed to feel joy and hope. I had found myself, my soul and my purpose and began healing and rebuilding.

The next few years were filled with joy, music, travel, laughter and thank you notes from people whose heart and soul were forever changed for the better from being a part of my studio, but I developed chemo-induced cardio myopathy. I just hit my stride and had so much more to do and wondered why this was happening again.

A life long spiritual child of faith, I spent my recovery questioning, looking for answers, trying to figure out the silver lining. I let the walls down and began to share my story and something amazing happened: I was inspiring people, I was a living example of perseverance, tenacity, hope, that there is life after cancer...

I was inspiring people, I was a living example of perseverance, tenacity, hope, that there is life after cancer...

1. Keep whatever your sense of faith in every step you take;
2. Always make sure you are being true to yourself, never settle;
3. Be your own ride or die gal/guy — no one does you better than you;
4. Love it forward; be aware of those around you and be ready to share, you never know when a few kind words and a little encouragement could change the course of someone’s life.

Christine Georgopulo

ONE WOMAN’S STORY: HOW CANCER SAVED MY LIFE AND IGNITED MY SOUL

“I was inspiring people, I was a living example of perseverance, tenacity, hope, that there is life after cancer...”
SAVE THESE DATES

SHOP-DINE-DONATE

**GO FOR PINK!**

Begins October 1, 2018 and lasts throughout the month.

GoForPink is a series of events BCA dedicates to Breast Cancer Awareness Month with the mission of bringing the Greenwich community together to raise awareness and critical funds to support the goal of eradicating breast cancer.

BCA partners with merchants who donate items to the BCA Benefit Luncheon Auction/Raffle or make a contribution from designated sales during the month of October.

A GoForPink BCA Educational Program will be offered to the community hosted at Richards following the BCA flag raising ceremony at Greenwich Town Hall on October 1.

Visit BCAgoforpink.org for information and Merchant Registration.

MEDICAL SYMPOSIA

Take action against breast cancer

**Seattle Symposium:**

November 29, 2018

**DC Symposium:**

April 18, 2019

**NY Symposium:**

May 8, 2019

19TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT BOUTIQUE

Please join us on Tuesday, November 13th from 12pm until 8pm and Wednesday, November 14th from 9am until 3pm for our annual Holiday Gift Boutique at Greenwich Country Club.

We will have nearly 40 exciting vendors exhibiting their wares and 15% of all sales benefit BCA.

Lunch will be served on Tuesday from 12:30pm to 2:30pm. Prepaid reservations may only be made online at breastcanceralliance.org/events

Cocktails will be available on Tuesday from 5pm to 8pm.

For more information: info@breastcanceralliance.org

Breast Cancer Alliance

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Yonni Wattenmaker, Executive Director    breastcanceralliance.org