

outlook



BREAST CANCER ALLIANCE
www.breastcanceralliance.org

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Our Mission

The mission of the Breast Cancer Alliance is to improve survival rates and quality of life for those impacted by breast cancer through better prevention, early detection, treatment and cure. To promote these goals, we invest in innovative research, breast surgery fellowships, regional education, dignified support and screening for the underserved.

Contact us!

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Yonni Wattenmaker, Executive Director

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, YONNI WATTENMAKER

"Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass — it is about learning to dance in the rain."

Vivian Greene wrote these touching words, and while I do not know of her motivation in doing so, I can tell you that they are the inspiration behind this year's benefit. While survival rates are at an all-time high for breast cancer, 1 in 8 women will be told that they have breast cancer in their lifetime. For those women, and their families, the storm of this illness can be a long one. Discovering ways to smile and find joy in moments, large and small, can be essential tools in this fight. Our co-chairs Kelly Buchalter, Xandy Duffy and I believe this quote beautifully articulates the strength, courage and optimism it takes to face this disease, even when it feels impossible.

For the last two decades, Breast Cancer Alliance has worked to improve these survival rates and the quality of life for those diagnosed. We have helped thousands of underserved women get the screening they need by eliminating barriers to healthcare, and we have funded the training of breast surgeons who go on to treat and save thousands of patients, both women and men. We have spent millions of dollars on research on advances to reduce the rates of breast cancer, with a focus on the nuances of screening and treatment that will tackle, and hopefully one day soon, conquer this disease.



On Thursday, October 27 from 11am until 2pm, we will celebrate our accomplishments at our **Annual Benefit Luncheon and Fashion Show**, but we will also be reminded that we still have work to do. We will take stock of all that has been achieved, but vow to continue the life-changing, and life-saving, work that we do until a cure has been discovered. Please join us to be a part of this very special day.

Throughout the year I take pride in sharing the incredible results of the grants we fund. I cannot tell you how often we hear that, were it not for our financial support, this work could not take place. Government support of scientific research is still at startlingly low levels, breast surgery fellowships rely strictly on private philanthropy for funding, and the needs of underserved women are, unfortunately, growing.

On the pages to follow, you will hear highlights from the fellows who just

Continued on page 2



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completed their training. 60% of breast surgeries are performed by general surgeons who perform 3 or fewer breast surgeries annually. We are truly transforming the field of breast surgery! It is also my pleasure to share a story from one of our incredible research grantees. Michael Lee, MD, PhD, University of Massachusetts Medical School, was a 2015 Young Investigator Grant recipient.

I hope you will read his report and feel inspired and confident in your continued support of Breast Cancer Alliance.

I look forward to seeing you in October.

Sincerely,

RATIONAL DESIGN OF DRUG COMBINATIONS TO FIGHT TRIPLE-NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER

by Michael Lee, MD, PhD

Most breast cancers are treated with chemicals, called chemotherapies, which are typically administered as drug cocktails that feature multiple toxic compounds. In many instances, these drug cocktails work well in treating cancer, but not nearly well enough and not for many women with breast cancer. In the cases when these drugs fail, a major issue is that clinicians cannot predict which new drugs or drug combinations would be beneficial. Instead, drug combinations are tested randomly to identify those that might kill the cancer cells. Considering the enormous number of variables involved — tens of thousands of drugs, millions of different drug combinations, and an infinite number of doses, dose ratios, tumor genotypes — this random approach has sometimes proven to be inefficient and ineffective. At the heart of the problem is that it remains unclear how these drug cocktails work to selectively kill cancer cells.

times of stress. A great deal of evidence has accumulated over decades to reveal that cancer cells send this message differently than normal cells. So, Dr. Lee and his research team have sought to dissect exactly how the apoptotic signal is sent and how it is different in cancer cells. This information should help identify logical strategies for activating cell death only in cancer cells, leaving normal cells unharmed.

While exploring this problem, Dr. Lee made a surprising discovery about how the apoptotic message is relayed in the cell. Many in the field thought this message was like an electrical circuit. In this conceptual framework, adding a drug would be like flipping a light switch, causing the signal to be relayed through a series of proteins, similar to the function of the electrical wires, leading to the desired result. However, Dr. Lee found that the message was actually encoded more like a “cellular Morse code,” where the patterns, rhythms, and durations of activity in each protein carry specific meaning.

In his laboratory, Michael Lee, an Assistant Professor in the Program in Systems Biology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, is creating a unique approach to identify good drug combinations by understanding how cells regulate the decision to live or die. Although often thought that these toxic chemotherapies simply “melt tumor cells,” these drugs actually function by activating a messaging system called apoptosis, which, when activated simply tells a cell to commit suicide. Apoptosis is a normal process used in all cells at different points throughout development and in

Dr. Lee’s early work was focused on applying this new knowledge to understanding what caused the failure of drug combinations that were once considered promising under the old “electrical circuit-based” logic for how these signals function. He found cases in which the simultaneous addition of two drugs changed the patterns of signaling, muddying the message and leading to low levels of cell death. He also found



that this message could be made clearer if the two drugs were simply given in a specific order and with a precise timing (**Figure 1**). Drug combinations that depend on order and timing are now called “dynamic synthetic lethals” and the existence of these suggests that many “failed” drug cocktails can be made more effective, if the drugs are simply administered differently.

Based on these discoveries, the Lee Lab is exploring two main goals. First, they aim to develop dynamic synthetic lethal therapies to be used in breast cancer patients. Secondly, they aim to decode the “cellular Morse code” that controls cell death. With aid from a Breast Cancer Alliance Young Investigator Grant, the Lee Lab has begun pursuing both of these areas. The first challenge in learning the language of cell death was to identify a comprehensive list of which proteins are involved in sending the message. They used new genome-editing technologies, called CRISPR, to quickly survey all genes in the human genome. These experiments now reveal that the cell death message transits through hundreds of proteins, many more than originally anticipated. Most surprising was not the number of proteins, but rather their identity, as many of these proteins did not have a previously identified role in regulating cell death.

Moving forward, their group is measuring the activation dynamics of each of these proteins and creating mathematical models to decode the language of cell death (**Figure 2**). These models will be used to reveal which drug combinations will be effective in killing aggressive triple-negative breast cancer cells. With a team of colleagues at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Dr. Lee will test these computational predictions using mouse “avatars” of patient tumors (**Figure 3**). Ultimately, they hope that these mouse avatars will help inform patient diagnosis and the rational development of truly “personalized” cancer therapies.

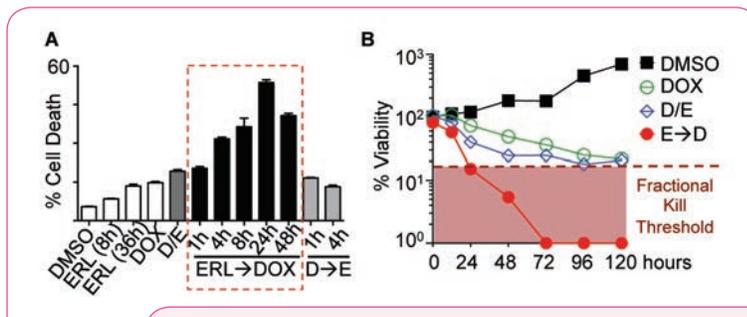


Figure 1

Identification of Dynamic Synthetic Lethal (D-SL) drug interactions. Because cell death signals are relayed dynamically, the order and timing of drug addition can dramatically alter how well two drugs kill cancer cells. (A) An example shown of erlotinib (ERL or E) and doxorubicin (DOX or D), two drugs that are commonly used in cancer therapy. Efficacy of this combination depends on the order of drug presentation. “ERL → DOX” refers to the combinations in which ERL is given before DOX with the drugs staggered by the amounts of time listed. D/E is the same, except the two drugs are given at the same time. (B) Drug synergy in D-SL combinations results in complete tumor cell killing. Most drug combinations kill a large but incomplete fraction of tumor cells (called the “fractional kill” threshold). These D-SL combinations can kill all tumor cells.

Modeling signaling dynamics to learn the language of cell death. Some signals are activated with peculiar dynamics, pulsing on and off rather than being static. These rhythms appear to encode specific information that is used by the cell when deciding whether stressors are so severe that apoptotic cell death should be used. In (A), an example of signaling dynamics observed after application of a cancer drug. In (B), a simple mathematical model that uses a graphical network to reveal the relationships between these dynamics and the decision to live or die.

Figure 2

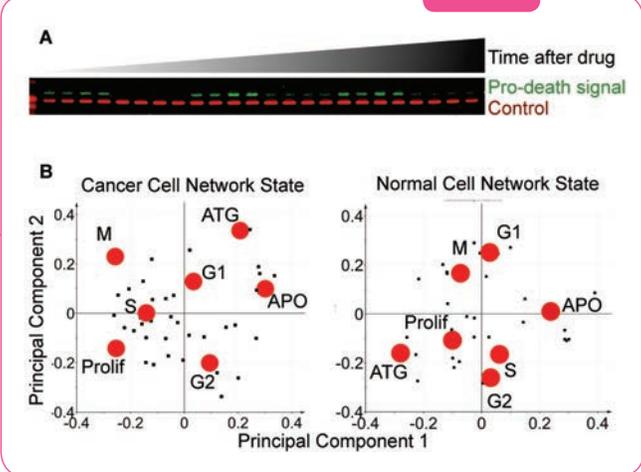


Figure 3

Personalized Cancer Medicine at UMass Medical School. UMass medical school is growing its team of investigators to tackle important problems in cancer therapy, like drug resistance and personalized combination therapy. Dr. Lee’s work aims to create drug combinations that are more effective and more selective in killing cancer cells. This work, which is supported by a 2015 Young Investigator Grant from the Breast Cancer Alliance, also benefits from the strong collaborative culture at UMass. Dr. Lee (left) works closely with other investigators at UMMS, including Dr. Dale Greiner (center), the director of the newly established UMass Cancer Avatar Institute, and Dr. Art Mercurio (right), an expert in TNBC cell biology and patient-derived models of breast cancer.

ANNUAL BENEFIT LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW

For the last two decades, Breast Cancer Alliance has worked to improve survival rates and quality of life for those affected by this disease. We have grown as an organization and vastly expanded our reach beyond the cocoon of Greenwich to much of the Northeast.

Just this past May, we were honored for our humanitarian work by Massachusetts General Hospital at The 100. This prestigious event honored global leaders, activists, scientists and philanthropists in the fight against cancer.

We are proud to fund the training of breast surgeons who go on to treat thousands of women and men battling breast cancer. We donate millions of dollars to novel research to keep advancing the field, knowing it is not breast cancer, but breast cancers, and that nuances to screening and treatment are desperately needed to eventually conquer this disease. We also work hard eliminating barriers to healthcare for underserved women throughout Connecticut and Westchester County, NY, by providing them with the screening they need, covering the cost of their co-pays for routine and diagnostic screening, and working to educate them on the need to be diligent about their health. While we cannot yet prevent breast cancer, we know early detection is saving lives.

We are humbled by what has been achieved, but vow to continue the life-changing, and life-saving, work that we do until cures are discovered.

JOIN US ON OCTOBER 27 FOR OUR ANNUAL BENEFIT LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW AND HELP TO MAKE THIS OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR YET!



This year's silent auction team set out to acquire fabulous items but also unique experiences — for you, your families, your friends. There are special opportunities to bond, to grow and to create and capture special memories, all while supporting BCA. Here are just three great options to get your bidding ideas started...



GET IN ON THE ULTIMATE TESLA EXPERIENCE! Gather seven of your friends to test drive these premium electric vehicles and enjoy an exclusive reception hosted by Tesla Motors. Your experience continues with the opportunity to drive the award-winning Model S for 24 hours after the event!



NEED A LITTLE R&R? Spend one week in a gorgeous apartment at the Brazilian Court Hotel in Palm Beach, a luxurious boutique hotel and favorite celebrity vacation spot. Indulge in meals at Daniel Boulud's Cafe Boulud with spa treatments at Frederic Fekkai's Salon and Spa. The beautifully decorated apartment has one bedroom, one-and-a-half baths, and a private sunlit terrace.



ARE YOU A SPORTS FAN? Greet and impress your family and friends when you are busy and their call goes to voicemail with a personalized message by Mike Greenberg from ESPN's Mike & Mike Show

UP FOR A LAUGH? We've got a night out in NYC with 2 tickets to see Jerry Seinfeld at NYC's Beacon Theater!



Yankees, Giants and Knicks tickets, fine dining, spa treatments, wine tastings... the list goes on... Get ready to get bidding come September 30 online at www.501auctions.com/bcabenefit (where you can purchase your tickets as well!) We can't wait to see you on the 27th!

It was a warm Tuesday in December. With the unusual temperature of 64 degrees, I stopped at the lake shore for a few moments to enjoy the sun and sand. Life had been crazy stressful and I stopped to pray. I asked God to get ahold of my heart. During the year, my marriage had fallen apart beyond repair. We were separating when he was laid off from his second job in a year. This forced us to remain in the same house. Our health insurance was ending December 31st. Both of us were unemployed. And to top that off, I had been diagnosed with a liver

The next day, I received a happy little package in the mail from Hope Scarves. There was a scarf and a letter from Roberta, a breast cancer survivor. Her letter encouraged me. I was to wear the scarf with her hope and determination. When I was done with it, I was to send it back with my story, and a picture of me wearing the scarf, and they would forward my story with the scarf to the next woman. It is like the sisterhood of the traveling scarves. I wanted the perfect picture – I wore earrings to match and initially wanted to go to the botanical

was using this for a greater purpose was evident. God was there each time I called out to Him. He sustained me.

If you are new to the cancer world, welcome to the club, sister. Membership into the cancer warrior group is not a voluntary membership, yet there is a sisterhood among those who have endured. Those who have gone before are reaching out to those who are coming up the ranks and telling them there is hope – it is a wonderful concept. If your journey is just starting, I would tell you

ONE WOMAN'S STORY: ESTHER CONRAD

disease two weeks prior. With my health insurance expiring, I was getting in all my physicals. I almost didn't schedule my annual mammogram because I was just there having a suspicious mass checked out. It was not cancer. I was only slightly nervous when the doctor called me back. They had already told me it was not cancer. This time though I heard, "We see something disconcerting. It is something we would biopsy." They completed the biopsy that day. The doctor put his hand on my leg and indicated that it would most likely be cancer but "we caught it early." Two days later, my heart pounded as I heard the words "Invasive Ductal Carcinoma."

On February 4th, 2013 I underwent a mandatory mastectomy with DIEP reconstruction. Although initially I was told the lymph nodes were clean, the later pathology showed micro metastasis. That was hard to hear. I thought I was in the clear. I had dreaded losing my long beautiful hair. In fact, I dreaded it most of my life. I watched my grandmother lose her hair and die of breast cancer when I was 10. I made the appointment to get my oncotype results back and listened to Kari Jobe's "Be Still My Soul" for hours to calm my soul. It worked. When I heard the chemo word, I didn't even cry.

Two weeks later, the loose strands of hair had been making a mess. I stood before the mirror without plugging in the razor for about 30 minutes. Then, I picked up the sides of my hair and shaved the back and sides. It was actually kind of cute!

gardens so the background would be beautiful. Time went on and that perfect picture wasn't happening.

On my good week between chemo sessions, I went to my hometown in Clinton, Connecticut to visit my parents and see the people who had been supporting me long distance. While there, I drove along the coastline. Often during my chemo week, I would sit on my deck and wish I could hear the sound of the ocean. I found a spot and went down to the Westbrook shoreline. When I got back to my car, I saw my scarf there and decided I should have my picture taken by the shore even though it wasn't "perfect." There were two girls there. I asked them if they would take my picture and explained to them why. I handed the camera to Holly who said "Today was my last chemo." I was completely blown away. She was wearing a wig and I had no idea that I was asking a fellow breast cancer survivor to take my picture wearing my Hope Scarf. I decided that even if I didn't like the picture, it was the perfect picture because of who took the photo. That photo ended up on the internet as I was chosen to be the face of hope for January 2014.

There are so many wonderful stories and – believe it or not – blessings on my journey through breast cancer. The support of friends I haven't seen in 25 years warmed my heart beyond what I can express. I have new friends and their support. The compliments from strangers started blowing my mind. The peace I had from knowing that God



to **1) keep your sense of humor.** When my 10 year old daughter saw me researching reconstruction surgery, she told me that when Justin dressed like an old lady for Halloween, he used oranges. So, I enrolled in the fruit of the month club. I prefer the grapefruits to the oranges and I prefer them fresh squeezed. **2) Expect bumps in the road.** You can't control this ride. **3) Look for the blessings.** There will be many.

If you are a seasoned warrior, grab a rope and start pulling. It sounds trite but one person can make a difference. I'm just one girl in upstate New York. I nominated Hope Scarves for "the one hundred," an awareness and fundraising initiative. In May, I attended the 100 gala event where both Hope Scarves and the Breast Cancer Alliance were honored for their work. This is where I met Yonni Wattenmaker. Take action and you will be amazed at the ripple effect. There is still work to be done. There are still women dying from metastatic breast cancer. Be a research advocate. Raise funds. Share your story. Do something.

FABULOUS FOOD AND FLORAL

Value: \$4,500

Treat yourself and up to 30 friends to a fabulous 2-hour cocktail party catered by Watson's Catering. This wonderful package includes chef, bartender and two servers and will be held at McArdle's Florist and Garden Center in Greenwich, CT. Not available on a Friday or Saturday night.

RAZZLE DAZZLE 'EM

Value: \$1,125

Select something dazzling from Steven Fox Jewelry using your \$1,000 gift certificate. Enjoy showing it off over lunch for two at The National by Geoffrey Zakarian on Greenwich Avenue.

SOPHISTICATED SOIREE

Value: \$1,114

Let The Caterer's, LLC cater an hors d'oeuvres party for 20 in the comfort of your own home. Complete the meal with a delicious 8" specialty cake from Black Forest Pastry Shop. Cozy Nails will get you ready for the evening, and refresh your look following, with a gift certificate for 2 manicures.

PARTY TIME

Value: \$1,034

Let's get this party started! Enjoy a \$150 gift certificate from Garden Catering, a \$25 gift certificate to Greenwich Cheese Co., a \$50 gift certificate to Fleisher's Craft Butchery and add a sweet treat from Sweet Lisa's using your \$120 gift certificate. Splurge will help design your look with a Julia Knight oval bowl and cocktail napkins, and Housewarmings will add additional flair with their Matilija Poppy 15" lacquered tray. Purchase additional party items with your \$50 gift certificate to Party, Paper & Things, and brighten your home with a gorgeous floral arrangement from Winston Flowers. Prepare yourself for the event with a blowdry with Aimee, makeup with Kara, and Kerastase instant treatment from Salon O, and 2 manicures from COCO Nail Spa.

"STOWE" AWAY

Value: \$1,368

Stowe away for a 2 night midweek stay for 2 in the luxurious Timberline studio at Stowe Mountain Lodge. Bring your cozy pink cashmere topper from Out of the Box, and prep for the overnight at Hill Top Nails with your \$20 gift certificate.

PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ

Value: \$1,149

Prepare for a glamorous overnight with a package of three sessions for new clients at Core Pilates in Rye, and a manicure at Hill Top Nails with your \$20 gift certificate. Get charged up with your pink leather Mighty Purse from Woodrow Jewelers, and head to the Ritz Carlton-Westchester for your 1 night stay in a deluxe guestroom followed by breakfast for 2. After a lazy morning, enjoy lunch for 2 at Morgan's Fish House in Rye before heading home.

WINNING OVERNIGHT

Value: \$1,117

Enjoy a 1 night midweek stay for 2 adults at Winvian Farm, which includes a full breakfast for you and your guest. Pack for the night in your new Madewell Transport Tote.

DANCE, SHINE AND DINE

Value: \$1,238

Let Jaafar Tazi help you shine with a fabulous package complete with a manicure, pedicure, full highlights with Javier and a haircut with Jaafar himself. While you're at the salon, let Classic Shine make your car shine, too, with a complete detail. You'll both then be ready to cruise on down to Arthur Murray Grande Ballroom, for 2 private lessons and 2 group lessons. Work up an appetite to enjoy dinner for two at Mediterraneo.

FINELY GROOMED

Value: \$1,161

What gentleman wouldn't love to receive the "Purveyors of Fine Grooming" gift basket courtesy of Kennedy's Barber Club of Greenwich? What woman doesn't love to pampered? Start with a deep cleaning facial and mask at Beautiful Body and Facial Spa, and then indulge in a manicure, pedicure, full highlight glaze with Merissa and haircut with Violet at Jaafar Tazi. What home wouldn't like to be groomed also, courtesy of a \$100 gift certificate to Sam Bridge Nursery? Finish the day with some fine food from The Ginger Man with your \$75 gift certificate.

2016 BCA Raffle Packages



ORGANIZED HOME

Value: \$1,209

Your Bulova clock with chime from Michaelangelo of Greenwich will keep you punctual for your appointments with The Waxing Spot, 2 manicures at COCO Nail Spa and your appointment at R. Van Loan Custom Framing. Pinnacle Tax Advisors will ensure that your 2016 individual tax return is also prepared on time. Wendy Triscari's organizational consultation and 1 hour personal organizing session will ensure you know how to stick to the plan!

LOVE IN OLD GREENWICH

Value: \$1,046

Prep your body at Core Pilates in Old Greenwich for a tennis match with your 3-session package (new clients only.) Sport your new Andy Murray tennis bag and 2 cans of tennis balls from All-Sports Apparel with your newly strung tennis racquet from Gut Reaction. After the victory, relax with a one hour therapeutic sports massage from David Walker. Shop for a new outfit with a \$100 gift certificate to Fred in Old Greenwich before using one of two gift certificates for a manicure at COCO Nail Spa. You've also scored \$50 gift certificates to Applausi Osteria and Lugano Wine Bar & Salumeria for lunch and dinner.

RENEW AND RELAX

Value: \$1,330

Feel rejuvenated after using a \$500 gift card to Greenwich Medical Skincare and Laser Spa. Continue the renewal with a 3 session package from Core Pilates in Greenwich and a one hour personal training session and evaluation with Dom Gennusa. Spend your \$40 gift certificate at the Waxing Spot, and then sit back for your manicure and pedicure at Rose Nail. Nicole from Maria Livesay Salon will provide you with three blowdries. Relax further during lunch for two at Pasta Vera and cap off the day with a good book purchased with a \$50 Barnes & Noble gift card.

FAMILY FUN

Value: \$1,249

Treat your family to one dozen bagels for six months from Upper Crust Bagel Co. While you're out, stop into Ada's Kitchen & Coffee with your \$20 gift card. Get fit in Go Figure Barre Studio, then proceed to the Waxing Spot to redeem a \$40 gift card. A manicure, pedicure and one hour hydra facial at Williams & Co. will be most enjoyable before joining the family for a meal at Boxcar Cantina, using a \$150 gift card. There's still more to come! Everyone gets a treat as you shop with a \$50 gift card at Little Eric Shoes, a \$40 gift card at The Granola Bar, a \$50 gift card from Greenwich Prime Meats, a \$50 gift card from Party, Paper and Things and a \$20 gift card from Gofer Ice Cream. The fun continues with a Sky Board Toy from Smart Kids Toys. This family package also includes dinner for four at Fortina in Armonk and dinner for two at Bar Taco.

STEPPING OUT

Value: \$1,166

Stop into J Papers to let them help you design 100 pieces of custom stationery, and use some of it to invite guests to Arthur Murray Grande Ballroom, where you will participate in 2 private dance lessons and 2 group lessons. Get your nails done in advance to heighten the glamour with your \$20 gift certificate to Hill Top Nails, and enjoy a delicious dinner with your date after class at Back 40 Kitchen. You'll be feeling so great, why not extend the fun and step out a few times to NYC! There you can partake in for lunch for 2 at Fresco by Scotto, another lunch for 2 at The Loeb Boathouse Central Park, and a third lunch for 2 at Gallagher's Steakhouse!

\$20 per ticket.

Winner need not be present.

All Prizes are non-exchangeable, non-refundable for credit, and must be used within one year of event unless otherwise stated.

Restrictions may apply.

Please support the generous donors who made this raffle possible.

BREAST CANCER ALLIANCE

GO FOR PINK!



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

Shop to support BCA in the Town of Greenwich

9:00 am

BCA flag raising with First Selectman Peter Tesesi at town hall

9:30 am

Breakfast and conversation at Richards with Dr. Barbara Ward, Medical Director of the Breast Center at Greenwich Hospital

Shop all day with participating merchants throughout the town

5:00 pm

Cocktail party and book talk and signing at Terra Ristorante, also celebrating their 25 years in business, with breast cancer survivor and author, GERALYN LUCAS.

6:00 pm

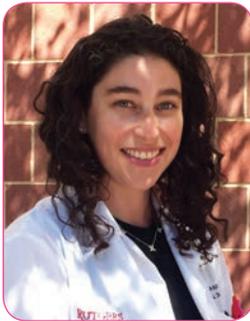
Men's shopping evening at Richards

Shop online & info: bcagoforpink.org



WHY WE ARE UNIQUE

BREAST SURGERY FELLOWSHIPS 2015-2016



Dr. Rebecca Fishman
Rutgers Cancer
Institute of New Jersey

As a general surgery resident choosing my subspecialty, I was attracted to breast surgery for many reasons. I was and remain excited by the fast-paced nature of the field and the way in which rapid progress directly impacts patient care. I have also always enjoyed the long-term relationships that breast surgeons maintain with their patients. Finally, and most significantly, it is a unique privilege to treat a cancer with the intent to cure.

The breast surgical oncology fellowship at Rutgers CINJ provides an excellent training experience. The fellowship includes 8 months of surgical rotations as well as one month each of exposure to the other fields in breast oncology—breast pathology, breast imaging, medical oncology and radiation oncology. Within

questions and taught medical students and residents.

The surgical training at CINJ is an apprenticeship model, in which I spent months at a time working closely with each of the breast surgeons. I was exposed to each of their unique approaches to patient care in the office, practice management and operative technique. In the office, I learned the management of breast disease and how to counsel patients on their diagnoses. I also became proficient in breast ultrasound and biopsy techniques. In the operating room, I mastered each surgeon's technical approach. During my month spent at the Robert Wood Johnson hospital in Hamilton, I was able to see how a community-based breast surgery practice functioned. In total, I participated in over 250 surgical cases and innumerable office visits and counseling sessions.

The breast cancer team at CINJ has set high standards in terms of their multidisciplinary team approach, excellence in clinical research and emphasis on patient care that I will strive to meet as I begin my career as an independent breast surgeon this fall. My fellowship, funded by the generosity of Breast Cancer Alliance, has prepared me well and I am confident that I have achieved the skill set and knowledge needed to become an outstanding breast surgeon.



“My fellowship, funded by the generosity of Breast Cancer Alliance, has prepared me well and I am confident that I have achieved the skill set and knowledge needed to become an outstanding breast surgeon.”

these rotations, I was also exposed to reconstructive plastic surgery, genetic counseling, community outreach, psycho-social services and lymphedema management. Outside of the operating room and clinic, I attended national conferences, participated in tumor boards, investigated clinical research



Rachelle Leong, MD
Mount Sinai West
Mount Sinai Beth Israel

I started fellowship with the perspective of breast surgery from the eyes of a general surgeon or surgical oncologist. It was the overwhelming majority of my training during residency. I had never had the opportunity to work at a comprehensive breast center nor had I enjoyed the opportunity to participate in a multidisciplinary dedicated breast conference.

Once at fellowship at Mount Sinai Beth Israel/Mount Sinai West, I learned how to work with the multiple specialties all

dedicated to breast disease. Fellowship taught me a lot about various biopsies such as indications and techniques, as well as more surgical technique with mastectomies and lumpectomies, the elements of the other specialties, as well as allowed me to make long lasting relationships with other physicians dedicated to the treatment of breast disease.

I could not have had this experience without the support from the Breast Cancer Alliance. This support has not only changed my life but has allowed me the opportunity to find a future position with the Barnabas Health System, where I will hopefully impact thousands of lives.

“This support has not only changed my life but has allowed me the opportunity to find a future position with the Barnabas Health System, where I will hopefully impact thousands of lives.”



Joseph Weber, MD
Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

I am honored to have been the Breast Cancer Alliance funded fellow at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. This year has been extremely educational for me, as I have studied the entire spectrum of breast surgical oncology and breast disease. My education has included comprehensive exposure to breast surgery and the medical management of breast cancer, as well as exposure to breast pathology, radiology and radiation oncology.

I have performed over 500 breast surgical cases during my fellowship. The range of cases has been varied, from early stage

I have engaged in several research projects, which included presentation at the American Society of Breast Surgeons and was also peer-elected to the Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO) Fellows Subcommittee and currently am serving on the SSO International Committee.

In these new leadership roles, I hope to improve fellow involvement in the SSO and I propose sponsorship for fellows and young attendings to visit an international medical community and major hospitals in international medical groups.

“I am very pleased with my accomplishments this year and know the training I have received during fellowship will set the stage for a successful career in breast surgery.”



screen-detected cancers and benign abnormalities, to large locally advanced breast cancers. I am confident in my surgical technique and ability to manage diseases of the breast.

I am very pleased with my accomplishments this year and know the training I have received during fellowship will set the stage for a successful career in breast surgery. I am planning to take my first attending surgeon position at Aurora Health Care in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as my wife and I are from the area. Thank you again for your support and generosity; it truly was an honor to be selected this past year by the Breast Cancer Alliance.

ASK AN EXPERT: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INVASIVE DUCTAL BREAST CANCER AND INVASIVE LOBULAR BREAST CANCER?

by Robert Levy, *Dana-Farber Cancer Institute,*
Turning Point Magazine 2016

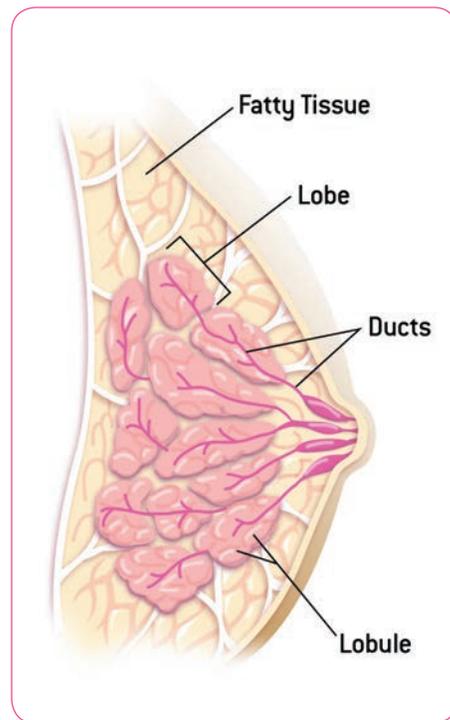
All breast cancers initially form inside the milk duct, near the area where the duct meets the milk gland, or lobule — a structure called the terminal duct lobular unit. As long as the abnormal cells remain inside the duct they are known as carcinoma in situ. When they break out of the duct and get into the fatty tissue of the breast, they become invasive breast cancers.

Invasive lobular breast cancers (ILCs) and invasive ductal cancers (IDCs) have very different growth patterns. Invasive lobular cancers tend to grow in single-ductal cancers, by contrast, tend to form masses that resemble the glandular structures of the breast.

ILC usually doesn't form a lump. If the cancer is found by lightly pressing the breast, it is more likely to produce a feeling of fullness or thickening in one area that is different from surrounding

parts. On a mammogram, ILC often appears as an area of distortion. of the abnormal tissue with a needle and examining it under a microscope. The majority of ILCs are estrogen receptor-positive (ER-positive), meaning they need the hormone estrogen to grow.

Surgical treatment for invasive breast cancer follows the same approach whether the patient has an invasive lobular or invasive ductal cancer, says Tari King, MD, chief of breast surgery at the Susan F. Smith Center for Women's Cancers at Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center. Depending on the size of the tumor, surgical options may include a lumpectomy (removing just the tumor and a margin of surrounding tissue) or a mastectomy (removing the whole breast). It is also important to determine whether cancer cells have spread from the breast to the lymph nodes under the arm.



Following surgery, treatment may involve radiation therapy to eliminate any remaining microscopic cancer cells at the site of the tumor, and/or chemotherapy to kill cancer cells that may have escaped into the bloodstream or lymph system. For patients with ER-positive tumors, endocrine therapy to reduce the amount of estrogen in the body is also an effective form of treatment, Dr. King says.

THREE GIRLS SOCIETY



Each of us considers the legacy we will leave to our families, loved ones and institutions we value.

Breast Cancer Alliance has formed the Three Girls Society as a way of recognizing and honoring those who are including BCA in their estate plans.

Our logo symbolizes the way friends, family and community come together and support one another. Named in the spirit of our logo, the Three Girls Society highlights the generosity of individuals who have pledged to support our future by naming Breast Cancer Alliance in their will or trust, or designating Breast Cancer Alliance as beneficiary of an investment account or insurance policy. Anyone can become a member of the Three Girls Society, regardless of the amount committed. This society will help BCA continue its mission to support underserved women, provide fellowships for future breast surgeons, and fund innovative research in the field of breast cancer until we reach our ultimate goal: finding a cure.

If you would like more information on becoming a founding member of the Three Girls Society by making a lasting gift to support the work of Breast Cancer Alliance, or if you have already designated Breast Cancer Alliance as a beneficiary, please contact our office at info@breastcanceralliance.org.



5K RUN/WALK FOR HOPE

Drizzling rain and overcast skies did not dampen the enthusiasm or spirit of hundreds who turned out for Breast Cancer Alliance's annual WALK for HOPE and a 5K RUN, organized by Jump on the Wagen and Second Wind Race Timing. On Sunday May 1st, the team from the Women's Sports Medicine Center at ONS and Zumba star Eddie Calle warmed up the crowd to tunes from Shine Events, after runners and walkers alike enjoyed breakfast, courtesy of Z Hospitality group and PepsiCo. Greenwich Avenue was lined with supporters as toddlers, grandparents, and dogs in their brightest pink walked and ran to honor and remember family, friends and colleagues who continue their battle or have lost their lives to this disease.

The event's co-chairs, Jane Batkin, Lisa Fleming, Mary Jeffery, Courtney Olsen and Susan Weis, alongside Yonni Wattenmaker, BCA Executive Director, expressed their gratitude to all of



their generous sponsors and the individuals who supported the day. "Despite the gloomy weather, it was a bright and hopeful day," said Yonni Wattenmaker, BCA's Executive Director. "We get hundreds of people out every year and raise money for a good cause. So many of the people who come out are direct beneficiaries, or providers, of that work. It's great to see everyone out here doing their part to fight breast cancer."

Thank you to our generous sponsors:
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JUNIOR FASHION SHOW



More than 20 high school students strutted their gorgeous stuff down the runway in head-to-toe fashions from Richards to benefit the Junior BCA Committee. Participating schools included Brunswick School, Convent of the Sacred Heart, Fox Lane High School, Green Farms Academy, Greenwich Academy, Greenwich High School, Harrison High School, King Low Heywood Thomas, Rye Country Day and Stanwich School.

Funds raised from this successful day will support health services for underserved women throughout Connecticut and Westchester County, NY.

Special thanks go to:

Richards and their tireless team for hosting the event and outfitting all of the young models, Cottages and Gardens for being the media sponsor, and Becker Salon for the model's hair and make up.

Our robust Junior Committee and their co-chairs: Lynn Carnegie, Mary Jeffery, Dee Mayberry and Paige Montinaro for making it all happen.

If you know a teenager who would like to get involved in the Junior Committee, please contact the BCA office at 203.861.0014 or info@breastcanceralliance.org

GOLF OUTING



It was a sunny day out on the golf course on July 12 as Breast Cancer Alliance enjoyed its 4th annual golf outing. With a full field at play, golfers enjoyed contests like a long drive competition with a pro from Charity Golf International, a chance to take home a Porsche Macan with a hole-in-one courtesy of New Country Porsche, and a pitching contest onto a floating green, won in a tie by both Scott Shannon and O'Donnell Lee. Fundraisers like this outing at GlenArbor Golf Club in Westchester, NY are critical to fulfilling our mission.

"Exercise is essential to both prevention and treatment so we enjoy finding ways to merge health and fundraising in new opportunities." said BCA Executive Director, Yonni Wattenmaker. "The fundraising goal for this event is to support a breast surgical fellowship in the tri-state area at an institution accredited by the Society of Surgical Oncology." Save the date for July 11, 2017 when we will host another outing back at GlenArbor!

Thank you to our event co-chairs: Amanda and David Baer, Justin and Ashleigh Nelson, Suzanne and Tim Sennatt, Mary Quick and Jim Daras and our entire golf committee.



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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

BREAST CANCER ALLIANCE

GO FOR PINK!



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IN THE TOWN OF GREENWICH**

EDUCATIONAL AND INSPIRING TALKS DURING THE DAY
DR. BARBARA WARD, GREENWICH HOSPITAL
GERALYN LUCAS, AUTHOR AND BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR

BCA FLAG RAISING LED BY FIRST SELECTMAN PETER TESEI AT TOWN HALL

SHOP ONLINE & INFO:
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