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Comparison of Two Gene Expression Profile Tests for Early Breast Cancer

Gene expression profiling is now being used to develop tests that can give patients and doctors more information about the risk of recurrence in women with early breast cancer. Even using the treatment guidelines published by The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), National Cancer Institute (NCI), and the St. Gallen Consensus Conference many early stage breast cancer patients are overtreated, that is they receive little or no benefit from chemotherapy while being exposed to all the possible treatment related side effects.

Two of these gene expression profiling tests for breast cancer are the MammaPrint® and OncotypeDX®. To help clarify what we know about this topic, [click here](#) for more information and a comparison of the two tests.

Thanks to Judy Perotti, co-founder (retired) for her research and special contribution to this article.

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Preoperative Therapy in Invasive Breast Cancer: Reviewing the State of the Science and Exploring New Research Directions

Preoperative therapy is increasingly being administered to women with breast cancer. Controversies exist, however, regarding optimal approaches. On March 26th and 27th the National Cancer Institute sponsored a conference seeking to determine the state of the science regarding clinical use of

preoperative therapy in breast cancer, as well as identify future research agendas.

Mary Lou Smith, co-founder of the Research Advocacy Network, presented the advocate's perspective at the meeting. Presentations from the meeting are now available in pdf format on the meeting web site (<http://ctep.cancer.gov/bcmeeting/index.html>)

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Community Campus Partnerships for Health Educational Conference Call Series on IRBs

Research Advocacy Network presented on "Highlighting the Importance of the Non-Affiliated (Community) IRB Member", the second call of the Educational Conference Call Series on IRBs and Ethics in Research co-sponsored by Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) and Tuskegee University National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care.

The call agenda, PowerPoint presentations, biographies, and an audiofile of the call are now available on the CCPH website at <http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/pastpresentations.html> You will find the materials located under the March 14th call entitled, "Highlighting the Importance of the Non-Affiliated (Community) IRB Member."

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Addressing Health Disparities in Chicago

The Research Advocacy Network joined others interested in ending disparities in breast cancer outcomes at the Chicago Breast Cancer Summit held at Rush University Medical Center March 23rd.

Breast cancer mortality in Chicago is far worse for black women compared to white women and the disparity has been growing rapidly in recent years. A 2003 study showed the mortality rate among black women in Chicago was 68 percent higher than that of white women. Nationwide, the gap was 37 percent. To address this disparity, prominent public health leaders are charged with developing a plan and offering recommendations on how to reduce breast cancer mortality in Chicago.

The Chicago Breast Cancer Summit has been established to convene leaders in the field and to facilitate this process. The purpose of the Chicago Breast Cancer Summit: A Call For Action is to:

- Organize leaders in Chicago committed to improving breast cancer outcomes;
- Educate and reflect on the latest reports from The Sinai Urban Health Institute, Northwestern, Mercy, University of Illinois, Chicago, University of Chicago, Access Community Health Network, Chicago Department of Public Health and others;
- Create Action Groups around Access to Mammography, Quality of Mammography and Access to and Quality of Treatment to define the problem in Chicago and propose solutions.

The Action Groups will serve as the organizational structure for the Chicago Breast Cancer Summit. Each group will prepare a report outlining specific actions and public policy recommendations to address the widening breast cancer disparity in Chicago. The final report will be released during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October 2007. For articles addressing this issue on a local and national basis go to <http://www.sinai.org/urban/summit/articles.asp>.

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Health Care Disparities Report

The Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) recently released the 2006 National Healthcare

Disparities Report. The report tracks disparities in quality of and access to health care in the United States for both the general population and for AHRQ's congressionally designated priority populations.

<http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/nhdr06/nhdr06.htm>

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Cancer Statistics Publication

The 2003 United States Cancer Statistics Incidence and Mortality report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Program of Cancer Registries is now available. The official federal statistics on cancer incidence from registries having high-quality data and cancer mortality statistics for 50 states and the District of Columbia are produced by CDC and the National Cancer Institute in collaboration with the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries.

<http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/npcr/uscs/>

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NCCTG Patient Advocacy Symposium

June 11 - 13, 2007

The North Central Cancer Treatment Group (NCCTG) Patient Advocacy Committee is presenting its fifth annual Patient Advocacy Symposium June 11-13, 2007, at the Radisson Hotel in Rochester, MN. The purposes of the symposium are to update advocates on current advances and issues in cancer research and to give advocates an opportunity to network with and learn from each other. Cynthia Chauhan, Research Advocacy Network Board Member co-chairs the Symposium. To download the meeting brochure go to: <http://ncctg.mayo.edu/PatientAdvocateBrochure.pdf>.

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Research Advocacy Network Announces Availability of New Publications

Genomics in Cancer: An Advocate's Guide

The Research Advocacy Network has introduced a new education module for advocates interested in learning more about genetics and genomics and the role of this emerging field in cancer research. The module covers the science behind genomics, including scientific concepts and examples of how genomic technology is currently being incorporated into clinical research. To help bring this information to life, the module also includes basic definitions, diagrams, and graphics - all in an effort to de-mystify the science and technology. *Genomics in Cancer: An Advocate's Guide* was funded by an unrestricted educational grant from Genomic Health, Inc. Order your copy by completing the [Genomics Module Order Form](#).

Tissue Donation for Research Education Booklets

Research Advocacy Network has developed booklets for prospective donors and institutional review boards to understand the importance and implications of donating tissue for research purposes. Thanks to a grant from Eli Lilly and Company, we have been able to reprint these booklets and they are now available in English and Spanish for your use. Please click here to access the [Tissue Booklets Order Form](#).

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**Research Advocacy Network Activities
and
Events of Interest to Research Advocates
2007**

- March 14-18, 2007 National Comprehensive Cancer Network Annual Conference,
Ft. Lauderdale, FL www.nccn.org
- March 26-27, 2007 NCI meeting "Preoperative Therapy in Invasive Breast Cancer: Reviewing the
State of the Science and Exploring New Research
Directions" <http://ctep.cancer.gov/bcmeeting>
- April 13, 2007 Advocate Institute webinars on Genomics begins for Focus on Research and
IU Research Advocate Mentor Program participants
- April 14-18, 2007 American Association of Cancer Research Annual Meeting,
Los Angeles, CA www.aacr.org
- April 17-19, 2007 North Central Cancer Treatment Group Meeting
- April 24-27, 2007 Oncology Nursing Society, Las Vegas, NV
- April / May Indiana University Breast Cancer Center of Excellence Research Advocate
Mentor Program Independent Study and Genomics webinar series
- May 7-8, 2007 EDICT (Eliminating Disparities in Clinical Trials) Opportunity Team Leader
Meeting, Houston, TX
- May 9-11 2007 Advocate Institute webinars on Understating Clinical Trial Design begins for
Focus on Research and IU Research Advocate Mentor Program participants
- May 12, 2007 Hoosier Oncology Group Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN
- May 15-17, 2007 Indiana University Breast Cancer Center of Excellence Research Advocate
Mentor Program Intensive, Indianapolis, IN
- June 1- 5, 2007 American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL www.asco.org
- June 8- 10, 2007 Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Spring Meeting, Washington, DC
- June 11-13, 2007 NCCTG Patient Advocate Symposium, Rochester, MN (see article and
link above)
- June 22-24, 2007 Radiation Therapy Oncology Group Spring Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
- June 24-26, 2007 NCCN Breast Cancer Treatment Guidelines Committee, Virginia

**Some calendar items listed are by invitation only and listed only for your awareness. If you need information about events listed here without a link to the sponsoring organization, please email info@researchadvocacy.org. Thanks!

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We need your help! Your Donation Makes a Difference! If you believe in the hope of research and the power of advocacy, you can help the Research Advocacy Network (RAN) by sending a donation. RAN is an exempt 501 c 3 organization and dependent on your support to keep going.

PLEASE NOTE our new mailing address is: 6505 W. Park Blvd, Suite 305, PMB 220, Plano, TX 75093.
Thanks!

Research Advocacy Network Welcomes New Members!!! Thanks to all of you who have recently joined the Network. For those that have not yet please go to <http://www.researchadvocacy.org/> and click on "Join" There are no dues for Network membership and this will assure that you receive all

notices and have access to Network programs.

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Editor: Elda Railey

Network News is currently published 10 times per year and includes articles on advocacy, research results and activities. Please share Network News with your friends with the link above. Research Advocacy Network is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation and is designated as an exempt 501 c 3 organization by the IRS. Your donations are greatly appreciated and tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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