

**California Breast Cancer Research Council Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2003
Santa Barbara, CA**

Members Present: Ellen Mahoney, Sandy Walsh, Anna Wu, Elaine Ashby, Vicki Boriack, Robert Kaplan, Debra Oto-Kent, Dorothy Bainton, Craig Henderson, Georjean Stoodt, Irene Linayao-Putman, Diana Chingos

Members Absent: Michael Figueroa, Janet Howard-Espinoza

Staff Present: Laurence Fitzgerald, Larry Gruder, Marion Kavanaugh-Lynch, Katherine McKenzie, Walter Price, Roslyn Roberts

Guests: Beverly Burns, Deborah Collyar, James Waisman, David Spiegel.

I. Call to Order and Introduction:

Chair Anna Wu called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. Priority-Setting Presentation

Four guests, a research psychiatrist, a clinician, a complementary medicine clinician, and a patient advocate, presented on current issues and clinical dilemmas in the treatment of breast cancer and quality of life of breast cancer survivors. Discussion followed and recommendations were made to the Council on where breast cancer research funding would be most effective.

Priority-Setting (Continued)

Janna Cordeiro presented data relevant to the Annual Priority-Setting Assessment [see Priority-setting binder for a copy of the slides]. She reviewed the CBCRP portfolio focusing on Cycles 6-8, looking at award types, priority issues, and sub-categories of each of the priority issues. She then described the applications that came in for Cycle 9 and compared them to grants funded in Cycle 8. We received a total of 216 applications-- 87 in the primary areas and 129 in complementary award types/priority issues. This does not include the 13 CRC concept papers received.

III. Approval of November 22, 2002 Minutes: (Attachment 1)

Motion: A motion was made by Chair Anna Wu to approve the minutes with minor typographical errors. The motion was seconded by Sandy Walsh and passed unanimously.

IV. Director's Report:

Cycle IX Timelines

Mhel provided an overview of the Cycle IX Timeline and reported that the Review Committee schedules were confirmed. Council members signed up for Programmatic Review Committees. She encouraged council members to attend a CBCRP Scientific Review committee to observe the process.

2002-2003 Budget

Two sources of revenue were outlined for the California Breast Cancer Research Program. The Governor's proposed budget for 2003/2004 allocates \$14,759,000 to the Breast Cancer Research Account. It is estimated that \$20,200,000 will be collected from the 2 cent tax in 2003/2004. Approximately \$5,100,000 is allocated as back-fill from the Proposition 10 account and \$13,824,000 will be transferred into the research account.

The Governor's proposed budget contains an allocation of \$480,000 to the California Breast Cancer Research Fund (tax check off accounts). The Franchise Tax Board report shows that contributors increased by 5% or 3,136 more tax payers. The Fund collected \$112,000 more, a 20% increase which brings the total for 2002 to \$736,040.

Fundraising Update

There are three outreach activities scheduled for February and March which center around the Tax-Check Off program. They include one Cal State Men's basketball game, one Cal Women's basketball game and a Golden State Warriors game. In addition, we intend to have six on-site rallies, featuring the Tax-Check Off program in the state wide law offices of Heller, Ehrman, White and McAuliffe.

Collaborative efforts with the six largest Macy's in California to include paycheck stuffers about the Tax-Check Off Program are underway. In addition, the CBCRP has submitted letters of intent to The California Wellness Foundation, The California Endowment, and The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for enhancement of our outreach and technical support for the community research collaboration awards and for Program evaluation.

Maria Pellegrini, a member of the Community Partners Executive Team and ex council member, has agreed to circulate our foundation proposals among other foundation staff and critique our proposals offering insightful comments. As Program Manager for the Keck Foundation, Ms. Pellegrini directed a \$2,500 donation to the California Breast Cancer Research Program.

The media team is following up on a letter addressed to our PI's inquiring about their interest in working with the media to disseminate information about the program and the research we fund. Having received a positive and overwhelming response, the team is working diligently to develop a plan for a series of articles over the next few months.

2002 Annual Report

The 2002 Annual Report to the Legislature is awaiting approval before final distribution.

Breast Cancer Course for Researchers

Katherine McKenzie extended an invitation to CBCRP council members to attend both "The Breast Cancer Course for Researchers" conference, March 26-27, 2003 and the 3rd International Santa Barbara Symposium, "The Intraductal Approach to Breast Cancer, March 27-30, 2003.

V. New Business

Discussion of Joining Forces Conference Award (Attachment 8)

Larry Fitzgerald presented the background and scope of a Joining Forces Conference and the council provided input.

VI. Committee Reports

Collaboration with BCEDP (Attachment 10)

The BCEDP collaboration committee underwent a name change. They are now the Cancer Detection Program-- Every woman Counts Committee Collaboration.--CDPEWC. The committee defined its purpose and mission in a new mission statement: "*The purpose of the Collaboration Committee is to seek ways to collaborate that are mutually beneficial to the BCRP and the Cancer Detection Section Every Woman Counts program, in order to increase, improve and enhance the relevance to research funded by the BCRP to the underserved women of California.*"

The committee decided to participate in the upcoming 2003 Breast Cancer Symposium by offering a workshop which would focus and be consistent with the theme "Ten Years of Progress" by presenting the Every Woman Counts Program from its inception to the present, highlighting opportunities for research. Partnerships will also be afforded the opportunity to participate as exhibitors or in poster sessions.

The committee has decided to include as a regular feature an article or item of information in the CBCRP Newsletter from the Program. The first article will focus on the EWC program and encourage people to attend the breakout session. In addition, the committee has committed to four to six contributions a year from the BCRP to the CDPEWC Program update that is distributed on a monthly basis to the ten funded partnerships throughout the state.

Outreach Committee (Attachment 11)

Ellen Mahoney reported on the spring issue of the CBCRP Newsletter. She stated that it is the intention of the committee to publish three newsletters a year focusing on articles which are more publicly oriented.

Ellen also provided an update on the committee's progress in organizing the 2003 symposium. The committee has chosen two main themes; "Ten Years of Progress and "Environment and Breast Cancer Prevention". She announced that Sara Weddington has agreed to be the keynote speaker and Ellen Mahoney will moderate the plenary session. There will be four breakout sessions at the conference. The Collaboration Committee will coordinate with the Cancer Detection Program-Every Woman Counts to plan one of the breakout sessions. The remaining three will be Emerging Topics in Breast Cancer Research, New Treatment Strategies and Diet and Breast Cancer. Scientific moderators and speakers for these sessions were identified.

Priority Setting Committee (Attachment 12)

Anna Wu described the Priority-setting activities planned for the March Council meeting. They include annual assessment data looking at institutions receiving awards; success rates of primary and complementary grants from last cycle; and a review of award types that have received few applications. Tri-annual activities planned for the March meeting include a presentation by the Research Administrators addressing the issue of translation. Additionally, the committee discussed working with an epidemiologist to address two of the criteria--reducing disparities and addressing a breast cancer need that is specific to the burden of breast cancer in California.

Staff Presentation – CBCRP Website

Lyn Dunagan, the Communications Project Manager, unveiled the newly redesigned CBCRP Web site. In addition to a streamlined design and navigation, research reports are now stored in a database, allowing for a broader use of data. New views include a list of funded institutions, awards broken out by cycle and by award type, and a list of publications based on CBCRP research. The data is a subset of GRAIL, the grant management database, and reflects actual funded data. An online donation processing module is nearing completion, pending UC approvals, and will allow the program to accept on-line credit card donations. The new Web site may be viewed at www.cbcrp.org, and comments are welcome.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

