



THE LEADING Edge

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CARING AND CURING IS YOU

Spring 2011

PREVENTING BREAST CANCER FROM THE OUTSIDE IN

In the ongoing quest to conquer breast cancer, every discovery—every stride in the understanding and treatment of the illness—represents hope for countless women and all those who love them. Dedicated to this pursuit of progress, breast cancer researchers, clinicians, and philanthropic organizations such as the Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation (LSCRF) share the goal of unlocking the remaining mysteries of breast cancer, in order to improve and save a great many lives.

Recent, promising developments include scientific advances that are helping to further enhance prevention strategies for women at high-risk of developing breast cancer. Oral medications, such as tamoxifen and raloxifene, have proven to be highly beneficial with regard to prevention—and yet, significant side effects are causing large numbers of women to decline these medications. Recognizing this concerning trend, Seema A. Khan, MD, a surgical oncologist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital who has benefited from the support of LSCRF, is committed to improving breast cancer prevention by offering women effective strategies that do not cause uncomfortable side effects.

With funding from LSCRF fueling her current research, Dr. Khan, co-leader of the Breast Cancer Program at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University and the Bluhm Family Professor of Cancer Research at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, is working to develop an innovative, “outside in,” rather than “inside out,” approach to delivering breast cancer prevention medications. This “outside in,” or transdermal, approach involves applying medications directly to the skin of a woman’s breast, in order to direct and limit treatment to the part of the body that requires the therapy. By preventing harmful levels of breast cancer prevention drugs from circulating throughout the body, the transdermal strategy helps women to avoid the unwanted, secondary problems often associated with tamoxifen and similar pharmacological treatments. In the case of tamoxifen, these problems range from common side effects (e.g., hot flashes) to more serious, rare events (e.g., blood clots, stroke, and uterine cancer).

“By delivering drugs through the skin, we aim to concentrate them in the breast to a sufficient degree for effective cancer prevention, but with low circulating levels to avoid adverse effects,” explains Dr. Khan. “This alternative method of drug delivery could allow women to benefit from more of the good effects [of medications like tamoxifen] and to experience fewer of these medications’ bad side effects.”

Indeed, if Dr. Khan’s work with topically-applied tamoxifen proves successful, it could pave the way for the use of other drugs that are not typically considered for breast cancer prevention because of the side effects associated with the medications when they are orally administered.



Seema A. Khan, MD

“The potential impact of this current research is huge,” Dr. Khan notes.

Similarly, the power of relatively modest seed grants, such as those provided to Dr. Khan by LSCRF, is significant. This truth is underscored by the fact that every dollar donated by LSCRF to breast cancer research enables the Lurie Cancer Center to receive more than \$38 from the National Cancer Institute and other prestigious granting agencies. Moreover, as a direct result of the research strides achieved with the aid of LSCRF’s philanthropy, Dr. Khan has secured additional funding—including a Komen Foundation grant—for translational research activities in cancer care.

Dr. Khan now has taken her promising work with transdermal prevention strategies to the next level of investigation. She and her colleagues have launched a clinical trial to test the ability of the transdermal approach to deliver adequate drug concentrations to women scheduled for mastectomies. Through this study, Dr. Khan and her team will evaluate the effects of a patch that contains a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) drug, similar to ibuprofen. Study participants will be asked to wear the patch on either the breast or the skin of the abdomen three days prior to surgery. The researchers anticipate that blood and breast tissue tests will show that women wearing the patch on the breast will have significantly higher concentrations of the drug in their breast tissue than will the women who applied the patch to their abdomens.

Such novel and important work brings additional distinction to the extremely impressive career that Dr. Khan has cultivated through the years. Dr. Khan laid the groundwork for her present research interests years ago, when she and her husband, a pain researcher and faculty member at Northwestern, combined their areas of expertise to publish a paper on the measurement of breast pain. Though the couple ultimately turned their attention to other clinical and research endeavors, their early paper on breast pain sparked the interest of a biopharmaceutical firm years after the piece was published.

The firm specialized in transdermal drug delivery and wished to discuss with Dr. Khan the possibility of offering women a tamoxifen gel for the treatment of breast pain. At that time, Dr. Khan was more focused on breast cancer prevention, as she is today, but she was intrigued by the concept of a topical tamoxifen gel. From that initial seed of interest stemmed Dr. Khan’s current investigations into the transdermal approach to breast cancer prevention.

“Had we not written the paper [on breast pain], I would have never heard about the tamoxifen gel, and I wouldn’t have embarked on this major research direction in breast cancer prevention,” Dr. Khan remarks. “This experience taught me that no research effort is ever wasted, and that is an important lesson that I pass on to medical students and residents.”

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The Leading Edge, Spring 2011

PAGE 2



Dear Friends,

I am constantly heartened by encounters and experiences that remind me of the importance and meaning of the work of the Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation (LSCRF). As Chair of the foundation, I am humbled when I witness the scope of our philanthropy and I am inspired by the knowledge that our efforts continue to touch so many lives.

Recently, as a friend sat in the waiting room of the Lynn Sage Comprehensive Breast Center at Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Prentice Women's Hospital, she overheard a patient talking to her husband about her treatment options. They discussed the clinical trials that are underway at Northwestern and expressed their gratitude that the woman has the option to enroll in these pivotal studies. The couple went on to say how lucky they feel to live near a breast center that is characterized by both outstanding patient care and a commitment to leading-edge research.

Unfortunately, all parts of our country do not offer this same level of expertise in the clinical and research arenas—a reality that was brought home to me a few weeks ago, when I talked with another friend about her aunt from southern Indiana. Her aunt has to travel several hours to St. Louis to find a mammography clinic that staffs board-certified radiologists. As I listened to my friend, I began to think about the powerful implications of LSCRF's commitment to funding fellowships. By investing in the careers of the next generation of breast cancer specialists, we are helping to ensure that future breast cancer patients will benefit from the most exceptional clinical care, which, in turn, will lead to more positive outcomes. It is my great hope that, before too long, my friend's aunt in southern Indiana will be able to find a highly trained radiologist close to her home to read her mammograms. When this hope becomes a reality, we all will see yet another positive result of LSCRF's support of fellowship training.

As I continued to contemplate the strides that LSCRF helps to facilitate, I spoke with some of the esteemed doctors and researchers associated with the Lynn Sage Comprehensive Breast Center. They commented not only on the importance of fellowships, but also on the essential roles of basic, translational, and clinical research in the prevention and treatment of breast cancer. LSCRF is proud to lend support to a variety of promising research endeavors, several of which are identified on page 5 of this newsletter. By providing crucial seed funding to investigators, our foundation enables them to make discoveries that lead to additional grants from other sources. More support yields greater progress and, ultimately, more lives saved.

As these various examples illustrate, all of us - and all our friends and loved ones - have been touched by breast cancer in some way. Every time I learn of another woman affected by the disease, I am grateful for and proud of the myriad of resources that LSCRF provides to women and their families.

Today, I offer you my heartfelt thanks for your past generosity, and I ask you to consider making another gift that will help all of us at LSCRF to further strengthen our foundation's legacy of good work. Much remains to be accomplished in the fight against breast cancer, and we are steadfastly committed to doing everything in our power to improve and save lives. Together, let's work to arrive at the day when breast cancer is a disease of the past.

I wish you, your family, and your friends good health and the brightest of tomorrows.

Andrea M. Gordon
Chair, Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation

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*New in
July 2011!*

We've developed a new method of recognizing individuals whose friends and loved ones make gifts in their honor. Beginning in July, we will send honorees one of five beautiful cards that depict Chicago's buildings aglow in pink during LSCRF's Light the Way to Find a Cure Campaign. We are excited to share these cards with all of you and to add this special new element to the LSCRF Tribute Program. Thank you for your continued generosity and caring! To learn more about the LSCRF Tribute Program, please contact Priscilla Page at 312-926-4274.

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The following people were remembered in 2010:

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Leaving a Lasting Legacy

Please consider including the Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation in your estate plans. Learn more about creative gift planning by contacting Julie Captain, Planned Giving Director at Northwestern Memorial Foundation at 312-926-2490 or jcaptain@nmh.org.

2011 BE MY VALENTINE EVENT

Cupid's arrows found a worthy target in the Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation's *Be My Valentine* Family Event, held January 23, 2011, at the Ritz-Carlton Chicago. The event, chaired by Julie Lampert and Jennifer Meyers, raised nearly \$53,000 to advance breast cancer research. The brunch-time benefit attracted close to 400 attendees who were happy to spread a little love and laughter for a good cause.

Surrounded by hearts of all shapes and sizes, award-winning children's musician Justin Roberts performed in the hotel's Grand Ballroom. The fundraiser also featured a variety of activities for children and adults, ranging from cookie decorating to a silent auction and raffle. Joanna Aaron, Sherri Hoke, and Samantha Kaplan chaired the auction.

Clockwise from top left: Sydney Berger; Rebecca Berger; Jessie Berger; Meta Bergen, Past LSCRF Chair

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Samantha Kaplan, Executive Board Member; Joanna Aaron, Executive Board Member



Above: To remind women about the importance of early detection, and to offer comfort and support to survivors and all those affected by breast cancer, LSCRF initiated the "Light the Way to Find a Cure" Campaign in 2002. During October, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, more than 140 sites in Chicago participate in the campaign by lighting their properties pink or flying a pink ribbon flag.

Left: In October 2010, the Trump International Hotel and Tower illuminated its spire pink for the first time to support breast cancer awareness. [The Light the Way to Find a Cure.]

 **Carson Pirie Scott**
CHARGE AGAINST BREAST CANCER™

Special Thanks to Carson Pirie Scott, who remains dedicated to the ongoing support of LSCRF and has donated over \$1.3 million to LSCRF through their Charge Against Breast Cancer initiative.

LSCRF 2012 FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS

- Aromatase: Link Between Obesity and Breast Cancer Risk – Serdar Bulun, MD
- Anti-Progression Activity of NIM811 Against Human Breast Cancer – Charles Clevenger, MD, PhD
- To Evaluate Endoxifen in Patients with ER+ Breast Cancer Receiving Preoperative Therapy ("Window of Opportunity" Clinical Trial) – William Gradishar, MD
- Progesterone Antagonists for the Prevention of Breast Cancer – Seema Khan, MD
- huATN-658, a Humanized Urokinase Plasminogen Activator Receptor (uPAR) Targeting Monoclonal Antibody for the Treatment of Estrogen Receptor (ER) Negative Breast Cancer – Andrew Mazar, MD
- The Role of CD44 Splice Isoform in Breast Cancer Initiating Cells – Chonghui Cheng, MD, PhD
- The Role of Ryndecan-1 and -4 in Breast Cancer Cell Association with the Brain Vasculature – Jennifer E. Koblinski, PhD

SAVE THE DATE

20TH ANNUAL PLAY FOR THE CURE GOLF OUTING

June 20, 2011

Evanston Golf Club

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Ryan Goldstein
Brad Jarol



*Frank Mariani, Thomas J. Mazzetta,
Marc Samotny and Cary Wintroub*

SUMMER SOIREE

Not yet revealed

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2011 FALL BENEFIT LUNCHEON

September 19, 2011

Ritz-Carlton Chicago

Chairs
Michelle Friedman
Ashley Hemphill Netzky
Lara Shipp Shiffman



*2011 Fall Benefit Luncheon keynote speaker and
Academy Award winner Goldie Hawn*

Check www.lynnsage.org for updates on these events or call 312-926-7133.



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the courageous spirit of Lynn Sage, the Foundation supports innovative contributions to the understanding, research and treatment of breast cancer.