

The Breast Health Global Initiative *Bulletin*

SECOND BIENNIAL BHGI SUMMIT UPDATES GUIDELINES

New Guidelines to Be Published in January 2006

An American woman who develops breast cancer might learn she has the disease when she has her annual mammogram. Or, acting on breast health information from her doctor or the news media, she may find a lump by self-examination. If she needs treatment, she'll have an 85% likelihood of surviving her disease, even greater if the cancer is detected early, as the majority of breast cancers are in the United States.

For a woman living in a country with resource constraints, the situation is very different. She probably has never had a mammogram. If she does find a breast lump herself, cultural perceptions of cancer and limited access to medical care may keep her from seeing a doctor until the cancer is advanced and hard to treat. And any treatment she does receive probably won't be optimal.



Resolving such disparities is the key aim of the Breast Health Global Initiative (BHGI), which strives to develop evidence-based, economically feasible, and culturally ap-



propriate guidelines for developing countries to improve breast health outcomes. The BHGI is a collaboration of national and international organizations that is co-sponsored by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

A Road Map for Breast Health Care

The second biennial summit of the BHGI took place in Bethesda in January, bringing together 67 participants

continued on next page

About the Breast Health Global Initiative

FRED HUTCHINSON
CANCER RESEARCH CENTER
A LIFE OF SCIENCE



The Susan
G. Komen
Breast Cancer
Foundation

The **Breast Health Global Initiative** (BHGI) strives to develop evidence-based, economically feasible, and culturally appropriate guidelines for underdeveloped nations to improve breast health outcomes. The BHGI is co-sponsored by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (FHCRC) and Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The Hutchinson Center is world renowned in cancer research and a global leader in the field with the mission of the elimination of cancer as a cause of human suffering and death. The Komen Foundation is a global leader in the fight against breast cancer through its support of innovative research, community-based outreach programs, and advocacy.

For more information go to www.fhcr.org/science/phs/bhgi/ or email lsulliva@fhcr.org.

from 33 developed and developing countries on five continents. The summit was hosted by the National Cancer Institute's Office of International Affairs. Participants included health care professionals, epidemiologists, sociologists, economists, ethicists, advocates, and representatives of health organizations and health ministries.

The summit focused on updating and expanding the 2003 Guidelines, with an emphasis on developing specific recommendations for resource allocation based on the level of available resources. Panels used a stratification scheme with four incremental resource levels—basic, limited, enhanced, and maximal—to delineate a systematic but flexible approach for building breast care capacity.

The Guidelines strive to outline best practices under the constraints of limited resources and can therefore serve as a road map for breast health care to help health ministries decide how to prioritize spending to ensure the greatest positive impact on breast health. They are divided into four sections: early detection of breast cancer and access to care, diagnosis and pathology, treatment and allocation of resources, and health care systems and public policy.

The Guidelines will be published in a supplement to the 2006 January/February issue of the *Breast Journal*. In addition, they will be made freely available on the websites of the Hutchinson Center and Komen Foundation, with web links to BHGI collaborating organizations and other global health organizations.

Guidelines Implementation

The summit included a meeting of the BHGI Steering Committee. Chaired by Gabriel N. Hortobágyi, MD, Professor and Chairman of Breast Medical Oncology at the MD Anderson Cancer Center, this committee has been charged with determining how to help countries implement the Guidelines.

To this end, the committee is defining plans and seeking funding to support pilot research projects, demonstration and implementation projects, and educational programs that fit with the mission of the BHGI and follow the Guidelines framework. In addition, it is considering collaborative strategies for stimulating and strengthening essential public health sciences research into breast cancer through the BHGI.

The Steering Committee is reviewing and will select among four international projects related to breast cancer, each of which is based on one of the previously described sections within the Guidelines. In December, the BHGI Implementation Task Force, which includes the Executive Committee and corporate partners, will meet to explore development and funding of the select-ed projects.

**FRED HUTCHINSON
CANCER RESEARCH CENTER**

A LIFE OF SCIENCE

About the Hutchinson Center

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, home of three Nobel laureates, is an independent, nonprofit research institution dedicated to the development and advancement of biomedical research to eliminate cancer and other potentially fatal diseases. Fred Hutchinson receives more funding from the National Institutes of Health than any other independent U.S. research center. Recognized internationally for its pioneering work in bone-marrow transplantation, the Center's four scientific divisions collaborate to form a unique environment for conducting basic and applied science. Fred Hutchinson, in collaboration with its clinical and research partners, the University of Washington and Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center, is the only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center in the Pacific Northwest and is one of 40 nationwide. For more information, visit the Center's website at www.fhccr.org.



Benjamin O. Anderson, MD, Chairman and Director, BHGI; Secretary Michael O. Leavitt, US Department of Health and Human Services; and John C. Nelson, MD, MPH, immediate past-president of the American Medical Association, at the assembly.

WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY PASSES CANCER RESOLUTION

BHGI Represented at Prestigious Global Assembly

In response to the rising levels of cancer worldwide, the World Health Assembly, the highest decision-making body of the World Health Organization (WHO), has adopted a resolution to promote cancer prevention and control strategies for all Member States. The Cancer Prevention and Control Resolution was passed at the 58th World Health Assembly, held this spring in Geneva, Switzerland.

Although many countries have or are developing cancer control programs, a gap persists between existing knowledge and current practices in cancer control, especially in developing countries. The new resolution calls for improved prevention, early detection, treatment, and palliative care. To help countries address the growing health crisis, WHO also will

develop a cancer prevention and control strategy.

Benjamin O. Anderson, MD, Chairman and Director of the Breast Health Global Initiative (BHGI), was a member of the US delegation to the World Health Assembly. The delegation was led by the Hon. Michael O. Leavitt, Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services, and included US Ambassador Kevin E. Moley; Julie Gerberding, MD, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and principal representatives for the US Office of Global Health Affairs and the US Agency for International Development, among other federal representatives.

Anderson, a joint Associate Member of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Public Health Sciences Division, and Professor of Sur-

gical Oncology at the University of Washington School of Medicine, was one of two private-sector advisers invited to join this esteemed group. The other was John C. Nelson, MD, MPH, immediate past-president of the American Medical Association.

As a member of the delegation, Anderson supported the adoption of the Cancer Prevention and Control Resolution, which marks a key first step in placing greater emphasis on the importance of national cancer control programs to include strategies for improving outcomes of cancer, including breast cancer. "It was an honor and a privilege to be part of the US delegation and to participate in this very important global health congress," Anderson said.



The Susan
G. Komen
Breast Cancer
Foundation

Komen Foundation Co-sponsors BHGI

This spring, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation became a co-sponsor of the Breast Health Global Initiative (BHGI), along with the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. The Komen Foundation has been integral to the BHGI since it began in 2002, as cofounder and partnering organization.

The foundation's newly expanded and active role in the BHGI brings a greater connection with international breast health advocacy and benefits this work through the tremendous energies and leadership of Diana Rowden, Director, International, and other Komen international staff. "We at the Komen Foundation feel that our newly enhanced role in the BHGI further fuels our international goals, fostering awareness of the disease and its effects, and serving as an international catalyst in the fight against breast cancer," Rowden said. "The work of the BHGI is a strong complement to Komen's focus and support of education, screening, and treatment projects in communities around the world."

The BHGI is extremely fortunate and proud to have the Komen Foundation dedicated to its mission in this new capacity as co-sponsor.



FIRST PACIFIC HEALTH SUMMIT IS HELD IN SEATTLE

Summit Leads to BHGI Technology Proposal

The first Pacific Health Summit was held this summer in Seattle. It brought together 250 invited participants from 17 Pacific Rim countries to discuss new paradigms in collaborative global health care policy and to address how science can move health care from late-stage disease management to early detection and prevention. Participants represented the public and private sectors and had expertise in such areas as research, medicine, economics, and policy.

The Russell Family Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation were the founding organizations of the summit, and the leaders of those organizations, George F. Russell, Jr, and William H. Gates, Sr, served as co-chairs of the summit's senior advisory group. The presenting organizations were the National Bureau of Asian Research and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

The summit's underlying premise is that nearly one-half of the world's population resides in Pacific Rim countries. Therefore, health care policies and the detection and treatment of disease in this region have a profound impact on populations and economies worldwide. Moreover, many countries in the region face similar challenges arising from conditions that accompany prosperity and aging, as well as the threat of infectious diseases, and in some countries, a lack of access to information and technology is a barrier to health care.

Summit participants examined the issues facing global health care to develop realistic policy solutions, addressing the areas of early detection and prevention, emerging technologies, and economic impact. Panel discussions took place under an umbrella of four plenary sessions: *The Promise of Science*, *The Impact on Public Health*, *The Impact on Health Care and Personal Health*, and *Science, Health, and Economic Growth*.

The new summit was quickly embraced by many prominent organizations in the global health arena. One sponsoring organization was the National Center for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the official link between the US business community and APEC. In formally recognizing the summit, APEC leaders said it is the best opportunity to transform international health care around early detection and prevention of diseases and “engender cooperation for global policies to support life-sciences innovation.”

The summit drew many leaders in global health, including representatives from the World Health Organization and from national health institutions in China, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and the United States. The BHGI was represented by Benjamin O. Anderson, MD, Chairman and Director, and Leslie Sullivan, Program Manager. As a result of this summit, the BHGI is developing a technology proposal for overcoming barriers to quality pathology.



Successive summits are planned in Seattle in the summers of 2006 and 2007, followed by another in Beijing in 2008 to coincide with the Olympic Games. Progress on the BHGI technology proposal will be reported at the 2006 Pacific Health Summit.

For more information, visit the Pacific Health Summit Web site: www.pacifichealthsummit.org/.

BHGI Leadership Comments

Benjamin O. Anderson, MD

Chairman and Director, BHGI

“The BHGI began just over three years ago with the basic and simple premise of defining ‘best practices with limited resources.’ The mission was to create international breast health care guidelines for countries with limited health care resources that are economically feasible, scientific, and culturally appropriate, to improve breast health outcomes.



“With this mission, an innovative collaborative alliance and network of international experts, collaborating organizations, and corporate and foundation partners came together with a dedication to improving breast health care and breast cancer treatment for medically underserved women around the world. The progress has been steady with the vision and support of this growing international network, to which we are thankful.

“Now, we aim to evolve to another level from theoretical to actual application of the Guidelines. And this fall, our esteemed Steering Committee, chaired by Dr. Hortobágyi, will identify pilot research and implementation projects based on the Guidelines to actualize over the coming year. Our Implementation Task Force of corporate partners and the BHGI Executive Committee will meet this winter to explore development and funding of the projects. We now see the Guidelines not only as a seed of implementation and a road map and vehicle for refining new information, but also as a mandate for improving breast health outcomes for medically underserved women.”

Dr. Anderson is an Associate Member of Epidemiology, Public Health Sciences, at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, and Director of the Breast Health Care Center and a Professor of Surgery, Department of Surgery, Division of General Surgery, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

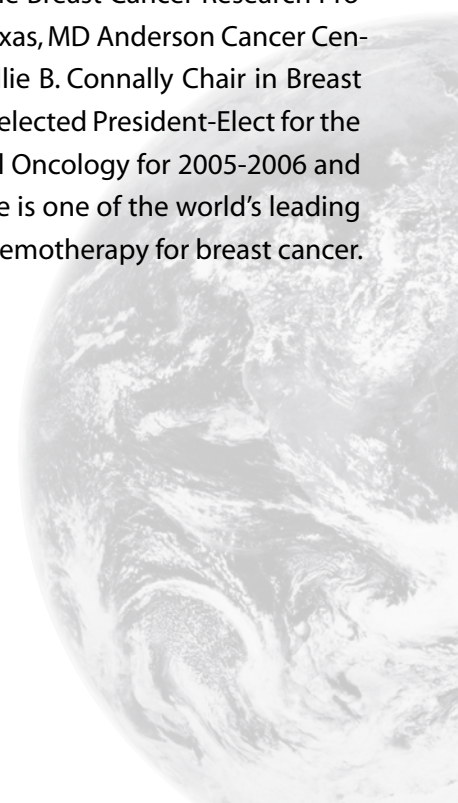
Gabriel N. Hortobágyi, MD

Chairman, BHGI Steering Committee

“Breast cancer recognizes no frontiers: it is a global problem. If we applied all we know today about optimal treatment of breast cancer throughout the world, we would save several hundred thousand lives every year. The Breast Health Global Initiative is an ongoing global alliance and international inquiry into the challenge of improving breast health care around the world. A key step in improving health care is to establish general guidelines for breast health care. The purpose of the Breast Health Global Initiative is to publish Guidelines for International Breast Health Care oriented to countries with limited resources. Equally important, our purpose is to be a hub for linkages between the clinical, advocacy, and public health research communities to advance systemic change for improved breast health care through collective engagement.”



Dr. Hortobágyi chairs the Department of Breast Medical Oncology and directs the Breast Cancer Research Program at the University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, where he holds the Nellie B. Connally Chair in Breast Cancer. Dr. Hortobágyi was elected President-Elect for the American Society of Clinical Oncology for 2005-2006 and President for 2006-2007. He is one of the world’s leading authorities on the use of chemotherapy for breast cancer.



Joe Harford, PhD

2005 Global Summit Host

Member, BHGI Steering Committee

"Cancer recognizes neither political nor geographic boundaries. Throughout the world, cancer is becoming an increasingly serious public health issue, with malignancies now killing more people worldwide each year than AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined. By 2020, there are projected to be 20 million new cancer cases worldwide each year, with 70% of these occurring in developing countries. The National Cancer Institute is pleased to be a part of the Breast Health Global Initiative, which addresses the issue of breast cancer in developing countries."



Dr. Harford is Director of the Office of International Affairs (OIA) at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Bethesda, Maryland, and has responsibility for a number of interactions involving the NCI and non-US cancer research institutions. He chairs the Implementation Group of the Ireland-Northern Ireland-NCI Cancer Consortium and is the NCI liaison to the Middle East Cancer Consortium (MECC), the US-Japan Cooperative Cancer Research Program, and the International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research (INCTR). In addition, he represents the United States on the Governing Council of the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

2007 Global Summit on International Breast Health Care

Biennial invitation-only meeting of BHGI to be held internationally

The Global Summit on International Breast Health Care (Global Summit), the biennial invitation-only meeting of the BHGI, will be held outside of the United States for the first time in 2007. International sites for the meeting are currently being researched and considered. The location for the 2007 summit will be announced by early next year.

The 2007 Global Summit format will fundamentally adhere to the 2005 Summit structure, bringing together some of the best minds in medicine, science, policy, public health and health economics. Panels will address early detection and access to care, diagnosis and pathology, treatment and allocation of resources, and health care systems and public policy. However, in 2007 the Summit focus will shift, from development and expansion of the 2006 Guidelines for International Breast Health and Cancer Treatment, to address effective implementation and integration of breast health care interventions described in the Guidelines. Reallocation of existing resources and incorporation of a breast health care program with existing programs to potentially improve outcomes in a cost-sensitive manner and infrastructure will be explored.

The published outcome of the 2007 Global Summit will be an adaptable framework and tool to implement changes for best use of available resource to improve breast health care in a given limited-resource setting.

No date has been determined for the upcoming Summit. Specialists with experience relevant to upgrading healthcare systems and integrating improvements in breast health care programs in countries with limited resources are being sought as participants in the 2007 Summit.

The 2007 Global Summit on International Breast Health Care is by invitation only. To be considered for an invitation to participate in the Summit, interested specialists should send a brief letter of introduction and CV to Leslie Sullivan (lsullivan@fhcrc.org). For more information, visit the BHGI website: www.fhcrc.org/science/phs/bhgi/.

THE BHGI GLOBAL ALLIANCE

Through the dedication, commitment, and support of national and international organizations; individual physicians, scientists, economists, and policy makers; and foundation and corporate partners, the global alliance of the Breast Health Global Initiative (BHGI) and its breast health Guidelines are the catalyst for public health research and efforts to improve breast health care.



The BHGI works to advance the global fight against breast cancer and to disseminate a message about breast health and breast cancer in the crowded public consciousness of the global health world.

We are grateful to our partners throughout the world who share this vision.

Collaborating Organizations

- International Union Against Cancer (UICC)
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)
- National Cancer Institute (NCI), Office of International Affairs (OIA)
- International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research (INCTR)
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of the United Nations (UN)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Breast Surgery International (BSI)
- International Society of Breast Pathology (ISBP)
- American Society for Breast Disease (ASBD)
- World Society for Breast Health (WSBH)
- Middle East Cancer Consortium (MECC)
- International Society for Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC)

World Health Organization (WHO) Affiliations

- Cancer Control Programme
- Health System Policies and Operations
- Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, an initiative of the Global Forum for Health Research in collaboration with the WHO

Corporate Partners



The Breast Health Global Initiative (BHGI)

Benjamin O. Anderson, MD, Chairman & Director
Leslie Sullivan, Program Manager • Susan London, BHGI Publications Editor

The **BHGI Bulletin** is produced several times a year. To download the Guidelines or for information on how your organization can participate in this global alliance, visit: www.fhcr.org/science/phs/bhgi/ or e-mail lsulliva@fhcr.org