

The Breast Health Global Initiative *Bulletin*

BHGI Launches International Research Program

The Director's Message

by Benjamin O. Anderson, M.D., Chair and Director

Fall 2006 is another benchmark for the Breast Health Global Initiative (BHGI) as we launch the international research arm of our program. The purpose of BHGI research is to establish an evolving vehicle to promote best practices for breast health care, address the dearth of international health data, and identify existing gaps for future interventions.

A fundamental facet of our mission is to implement the evidence-based, economically feasible and culturally appropriate Guidelines in resource-limited countries and study their impact on improving breast health care among nations with developing economies. Collectively, the results of international studies will generate new data to validate and expand upon future iterations of the "Guidelines for International Health and Cancer Control" (Guidelines) published in *The Breast Journal* in 2006. International projects will provide essential information on how breast health and cancer control can be improved in developing countries.

The BHGI research program was made possible last spring through an extraordinary \$500,000 special award from The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation to support the BHGI mission and further BHGI international initiatives. In October, we announced a limited call for pilot research project proposals to participants of the BHGI 2005 Global Summit on International Breast Health. We will support international pilot research and demonstration projects to address key issues in breast health care delivery. Projects may involve testing of innovation in breast health care and assessment of breast health care systems in medium- and low-level resource countries. The projects will provide much-needed data to set strategies for those countries to improve health care services.

Currently, the BHGI is collaborating with the U.S. National Cancer Institute's Office of International Affairs as advisor to a demonstration project called "Downstaging of Breast Cancer In Fakous" taking place at the Fakous Cancer Centre in Egypt. Dr. Gabriel Hortobagyi, Chair of the BHGI Executive Committee and Professor and Chairman of the Department of Breast Medical Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center and I are working as unpaid advisors to the project. Dr. Joe Harford, Director of the NCI Office of International Affairs and member of the BHGI Steering Committee, has helped launch this project in part as a forerunner to provide a learning opportunity for the BHGI international projects to come.

I look forward to keeping you apprised on progress. ▲




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BHGI Collaboration with PAHO

Pan American Health Organization Sponsors Spanish Translation of Guidelines

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Unit on Non-communicable Diseases has generously sponsored the translation and printing of the BHGI “Guidelines for International Breast Health and Cancer Control” in Spanish. The Guidelines for best practices with limited resources published in 2006 (Breast J., 12(s1)) will soon be available to Spanish-speaking societies in print and through the Internet via the BHGI and PAHO website.

The idea to prepare a Spanish version of the guidelines between BHGI and PAHO began last summer at the July UICC World Cancer Congress in Washington, where BHGI Chair and Director Dr. Ben Anderson and Program Manager Leslie Sullivan met with Alberto Barcelo, MD, PAHO Regional Advisor on Non-communicable Diseases (NCD), and Silvana Luciani, PAHO NCD Project Manager, to explore collaborative opportunities.

“PAHO has been a BHGI collaborating organization since we began and, as a leading international organization and public health agency for countries of the Americas, I couldn’t be more pleased with their leadership in this project,” said Dr. Anderson. “We are tremendously grateful to PAHO for facilitating this important endeavor to improve breast health and cancer treatment

for medically underserved Spanish-speaking countries of the world.”

Global dissemination of the Guidelines is an ongoing BHGI goal, and translation is essential to achieving this goal. The PAHO-sponsored Spanish translation makes the Guidelines widely available to an array of audiences—specifically to ministries of health, medical centers and health care providers.

“The aim is to make these breast cancer guidelines available and accessible in Spanish, in order to foster better decision making for high quality care in breast cancer programs throughout Latin America,” said Ms. Luciani. “We are delighted to partner with the BHGI to expand the dissemination of these Guidelines.”

The Breast Health Global Initiative gratefully acknowledges and thanks PAHO for making this valuable medical tool available in Spanish. We also would like to thank and acknowledge the contributions of esteemed BHGI collaborators, Hernan Vargas, M.D., Julio Ibarra, Jr., M.D., and Leticia Fernández Garrote, M.D., Ph.D., to this endeavor. ▲



The Spanish version of the Guidelines will be distributed throughout Latin America and available for downloading in December at <http://www.fhcrc.org/science/phs/bhgi/> and <http://www.paho.org/>.



New Date: Global Summit on International Breast Health

October 1-4, 2007 in Budapest, Hungary

The next biennial BHGI "Global Summit on International Breast Health Care" ("Global Summit") will convene in Budapest, Hungary, from October 1-4, 2007, rather than late September, as previously announced.

The 2007 Global Summit will showcase examples of successful breast care projects and develop how-to guidance for **implementation** of the breast health guidelines in underdeveloped nations. The BHGI will use the data to refine and expand its 2005 "Guidelines on International Breast Health and Cancer Control" within the comprehensive areas of: early detection, diagnosis, treatment and health care systems to address **implementation**. The BHGI will publish outcomes of the Global Summit in a peer-reviewed medical journal.

Global Summit participants will be selected through a review process conducted by the BHGI Scientific Advisory Committee. Interested specialists with real-world and publications experience should e-mail a brief letter of introduction and CV to lsulliva@fhcrc.org. For more information on the Global Summit go to: www.fhcrc.org/science/phs/bhgi/

Global Summit Panel Co-chairs Announced

The 2007 Global Summit panel co-chairs recently approved by the conference Scientific Advisory Committee are international experts in the field. The panel co-chairs bring a wealth and depth of domestic and international experience in public health as well as Guidelines development through the previous work of the BHGI.

The co-chairs come from different disciplines and parts of the world but they share a dedication to the mission of the BHGI. Dr. Yip noted that "During the 2005 BHGI Global Summit, the guidelines for management of breast cancer were stratified according to the resource level of each country into basic, limited, enhanced and maximal, which allows a practical approach to breast health care in the different developing countries which

continued on next page

2007 Global Summit Panel Co-chairs

EARLY DETECTION

Cheng-Har Yip, MD

Professor of Surgery, Dept. of Surgery, University Malaya Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Robert A. Smith, PhD

Director of Cancer Screening, American Cancer Society, Atlanta, Georgia

DIAGNOSIS

Roman Shyyan, MD, MSc

Surgeon-Oncologist, Lviv Regional Cancer Center, Scientific Editor & Medical Writer, Oncology Section "Medicine of the World" Journal (Ukr), Lviv Cancer Center, Lviv, Ukraine



Stephen F. Sener, MD

Vice-Chairman, Department of Surgery, Evanston Northwestern Healthcare, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Evanston, Illinois President, American Cancer Society (2004-2005)

TREATMENT PANEL

Alexandru Eniu, MD

Cancer Institute "I. Chiricuta", Department of Breast Tumors (oncology), Republicii, Cluj-Napoca, Romania



Robert W. Carlson, MD

Professor of Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology and Stanford Medical Informatics, Stanford University, Stanford, California

HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

Joe Harford, PhD

Director, U.S. National Cancer Institute, U.S. Office of International Affairs, Bethesda, Maryland



Edward Azavedo, MD, PhD

Associate Professor, Mammography Section, Department of Radiology, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden

New Date: Global Summit, continued

have different resources. As co-chair of the Early Detection panel with Dr. Smith next year, I am very excited about this because a large proportion of breast cancers in developing countries present in advanced stages, and programs for early detection are important because it is more cost-effective to treat an early cancer than to treat an advanced breast cancer.”

Dr. Sener, co-chair for the diagnosis panel, brings an expansive background of leadership in the field. “As President of the American Cancer Society (2004-’05), I appreciated the increasing incidence of breast cancer worldwide and the routine presentation of locally advanced disease in many countries. I am especially excited to have been invited by Dr. Anderson to co-chair the Diagnosis Panel with Dr. Roman Shyvan for the 2007 Global Summit on International Breast Healthcare in Budapest, Hungary.”

“We hope to expand and refine the 2006 guidelines. This effort represents a unique opportunity to develop strategies for implementation for the evidence-based guidelines for international breast healthcare, which used a consensus-driven approach, for countries with limited resources. The chance to participate in creating culturally appropriate, economically stratified guidelines will be especially gratifying to the consensus panel members. I look forward to sharing my experiences in worldwide cancer control with colleagues from many corners of the globe.”

Health Care Systems co-chair, Dr. Edward Azavedo, shares this enthusiasm. “It is indeed a great pleasure for me to help lead the BHGI Global Summit panel to address Health Care Systems with Dr. Joe Harford of the NCI through the development and publication of *Guidelines for International Breast Health and Cancer Control—Implementation*. Guidelines for implementation can ultimately make dramatic changes to the health of millions of less fortunate people in our world. My commitment to nationwide cancer screening programs, particularly my international work and study, has shown me that improvement of Health Care Systems is fundamental to lasting improvements in health care delivery in developing countries.” ▲



The Susan
G. Komen
Breast Cancer
Foundation

Komen Foundation Landmark International Meeting: *Global Breast Cancer Advocates Summit*

**September 29-30, 2007
Budapest, Hungary**

The Komen Foundation is sponsoring a landmark international advocates’ summit, the Global Breast Cancer Advocates Summit, in association with the Breast Health Global Initiative that will precede the BHGI Global Summit. Scheduled on Saturday and Sunday, September 29-30 in Budapest the program will bring advocates from around the world. Diana Rowden, Director, International for the Komen Foundation will be the Program Chair. The program is to be published. www.komen.org

Immediately following the Advocates Summit will be the BHGI Global Summit on International Breast Health Care, beginning Monday through Thursday, October 1-4, 2007. ▲

Dr. Chin-Yau Chen Named Leader of Breast Disease Clinic in Taiwan Publishes comprehensive analysis of Paget's Disease

A visiting surgical scientist from Taiwan, Dr. Chin-Yau Chen, spent most of 2005 researching Paget's disease of the breast in collaboration with Dr. Benjamin O. Anderson, chair and director of the Breast Health Global Initiative (BHGI).

While in Seattle, Dr. Chen, the chief of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit for Keelung Hospital, Taiwan, also worked as a visiting surgeon to the University of Washington Department of Surgery and as a visiting scientist to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. At the Hutchinson Center, he worked with Dr. Noel Weiss of the Epidemiology Research Program in Public Health Sciences.

Dr. Chen returned to Taiwan in February 2006. Dr. Chen was recently named the leader of the Breast Disease Clinic for the Keelung Hospital in Taiwan and is also working as a research fellow in the Department of Surgery at the Veterans General Hospital-Taipei.

Dr. Chen has been asked to develop a breast program in his institution. He reflects positively on the experience of his time spent in the Northwest. "It was a productive journey in Seattle," he said. "I was offered a beautiful and quiet working place that was full of resources. There they tried their best to make me feel as comfortable as in my homeland."

"Working with Dr. Anderson and the Breast Health Global Initiative was an excellent way to learn more about breast cancer in developing countries. Their professional teamwork and evidence-based approach to comprehensive patient care in limited resource countries was very impressive. The experience helped me to understand what changes should be made in Taiwan."

Dr. Chen recently published in *Cancer* a SEER study on Paget's disease of the breast, which is the largest, most comprehensive analysis of Paget's disease in the United States from 1988 to present. Dr. Chen's article addresses incidence, evolving clinical presentations, associated disease and treatment in the U.S. of Paget's disease. "Paget's Disease of the Breast: Changing Patterns of Incidence, Clinical Presentation, and Treatment in the U.S." was published online in the Aug. 24, 2006, issue of *Wiley InterScience* (www.interscience.com). ▲



National Guideline Clearinghouse™ (NGC) publishes BHGI Clinical Practice Guidelines

The National Guideline Clearinghouse™ (NGC) will post on its website structured abstracts from the BHGI "Guidelines for International Breast Health and Cancer Control" published in 2006. Inclusion on the NGC website facilitates global dissemination of the Guidelines.

The NGC is a public resource for evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. It is an initiative of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The NGC was originally created by AHRQ in partnership with the American Medical Association and the American Association of Health Plans (now America's Health Insurance Plans).

NGC website: <http://www.guideline.gov/> ▲

6th Congress of the Balkanic Union of Oncology Recognizes Dr. Alexandru Eniu

Dr. Alexandru Eniu, a key contributor to the Breast Health Global Initiative (BHGI) and lead



author in the treatment section of the "Guidelines for International Breast Health and Cancer Control," recently received an award for his BHGI work and presentation at the 6th Congress of the Balkanic Union of Oncology (B.U.ON) held in September. Dr. Eniu, from the Cancer Institute "I. Chiricuta" in the Republicii, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, received the B.U.ON Congress award for best oral presentation in clinical research.

Held in September in Sofia, Bulgaria, the multidisciplinary congress of the B.U.ON focused on the fight against cancer. It brought together clinical oncologists, researchers, pharmacologists, epidemiologists and other health care specialists in cancer who all share this common cause. The B.U.ON Congresses is an annual exchange of scientific ideas where participants learn from each other and discuss the problems of cancer patients—prevention, early diagnosis, choice of best treatment, supportive care, quality of life, etc.

We congratulate Dr. Eniu, our esteemed colleague, for the recognition by the Congress of the Balkanic Union of Oncology. ▲

Economically Stratified Matrix Guidelines for Breast Cancer CitiHope Provides Russian Translation

Through the initiative and generous contribution of BHGI collaborator, Tanya Soldak, M.D., Medical Director of CitiHope, a Russian translation of the core economic stratification levels section of the "Guidelines for International Breast Health and Cancer Control," (published 2006, Breast J., 12(s1) called "Resource-Stratified Matrix Guidelines," have been translated into Russian.

"I would like to thank and congratulate Dr. Soldak for taking the initiative to translate the heart of Guidelines publication into Russian and making them more accessible to Russian and other Eastern European healthcare providers and policy makers. The economic stratification levels, of basic, limited, enhanced and optimal, which exist in almost all societies, are a realistic evidence-based approach to creating the framework for a cohesive breast health care and cancer treatment system," said Dr. Benjamin Anderson, Chair and Director of the Breast Health Global Initiative. "Dr. Soldak is a driving force for pragmatic 'step-wise' change in healthcare and the BHGI is grateful for her contributions."

The Russian translation of the Matrix Guidelines will be available in November on the BHGI website, <http://www.fhcr.org/science/phs/bhgi/>.

Note: Translation of the entire Guidelines publication is currently being pursued. ▲



About the Breast Health Global Initiative

The Breast Health Global Initiative (BHGI) strives to develop, implement and study evidence-based, economically feasible, and culturally appropriate *Guidelines for International Breast Health and Cancer Control* for underdeveloped nations to improve breast health outcomes. The BHGI was founded by the **Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center** (FHRC) 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 Leslie Sullivan at lsulliva@fhcr.org. ▲

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 Guidelines for International Breast Health and Cancer Control are the catalyst for public health research and efforts to improve breast health care. We work to advance the global fight against breast cancer and disseminate a message about breast health and breast cancer in a crowded public consciousness of the global health world.



We are grateful to the BHGI member alliance organizations and individuals throughout the world who share this vision.

Founding Organizations



The Susan
G. Komen
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FRED HUTCHINSON
CANCER RESEARCH CENTER
A LIFE OF SCIENCE

Sustaining Scientific Partner



Office of International Affairs (OIA)

Corporate Partners



Collaborating Organizations

- International Union Against Cancer (UICC)
- American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)
- American Society for Breast Disease (ASBD)
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of the United Nations (UN)
- Oncology Nursing Society (ONS)
- International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research (INCTR)
- International Society for Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC)
- International Society of Breast Pathology (ISBP)
- Middle East Cancer Consortium (MECC)
- World Society for Breast Health (WSBH)
- Breast Surgery International (BSI)

World Health Organization (WHO) Affiliations

- Cancer Control Programme
- Health System Policies and Operations
- Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research

The Breast Health Global Initiative (BHGI)

Benjamin O. Anderson, MD, Chairman & Director • Leslie Sullivan, Program Manager

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