

2005 – 2021 CT BHI Grant Recipients



OUR MISSION

The Connecticut Breast Health Initiative's Mission is to make a difference locally in the fight against breast cancer by providing grants to support education and research. One hundred percent of monies raised by CT BHI stays in Connecticut, the only program of its kind in the state.

RESEARCH CLOSE TO HOME

CT BHI funds (seed money) new research which is an important precursor to large privately or federally funded studies, specifically in the areas of breast cancer diagnosis, treatment and survivorship. In addition, CT BHI funds educational programs and initiatives that support breast cancer awareness, treatment, quality of life and survivorship.

2021 RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center – Saint Francis Comprehensive Women's Health Center Breast Health Outreach Program

Kristen Zarfos, MD, Medical Director, St. Francis Hospital Women's Center

The Hospital of Central Connecticut – Breast Health Program

Linda Hodgkins, Lymphedema Clinical Program Manager

UConn Health – Novel Therapeutic Targeting of Metastatic Breast Cancer

Kevin Claffey, PhD, Center for Vascular Biology and NEAG Cancer Center

2020 RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center – Saint Francis Comprehensive Breast Health Center Breast Health Outreach Program

Blanca Sargisian, RN, BSN, Program Lead

The Hospital of Central Connecticut – Rehabilitation for Breast Health

Linda Hodgkins, Lymphedema Clinical Program Manager

UConn Health – Personalized 3D Printed Breast Forms Project

Liisa Kuhn, Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering

2019 RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

CT BHI Howard H. Belkin Memorial Grant

Middlesex Health – Patient-centered Diagnosis of Breast Cancer: Can Molecular Breast Imaging (MBI) Reduce Unnecessary Biopsies?

Ravi Jain, MD, PhD

Norma F. Pfriem Breast Center, Bridgeport – Mujer a Mujer (Woman to Woman) Program

Donna J. Twist, Executive Director, Norma Pfriem Breast Center

Norwalk Hospital – Development of the Connecticut Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC) Program at Norwalk Hospital-Memorial Sloan Kettering

Linda Vahdat, MD, MBA

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center – Saint Francis Comprehensive Breast Health Center's Community Outreach/Education Program

Kristen Zarfos, MD

CT BHI Marsha Goldstein Grant

The Hospital of Central Connecticut – Rehabilitation/Prevention of Lymphedema
Linda Hodgkins, Lymphedema Clinical Program Manager

2018 RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

Stamford Health – High Risk Breast Cancer Assessment Program
Barbara Carr, MS, Director of Women's and Children's Service Line

UConn Health – “Genomic Assessment of Tumors from Metastatic Breast Cancer Patients: Comparison to Circulating Tumor Cells Identified in Same Patient Population”
Susan Tannenbaum, MD

University of Connecticut – “Genetic Counseling for BRCA1/2 Mutations: Preferences and Outcomes of Counseling”
Keith M. Bellizzi, PhD, MPH

2017 RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

Middlesex Hospital – Diagnostic Molecular Breast Imaging to Evaluate Inconclusive Mammogram and Ultrasound Findings
Ravi Jain, MD, PhD

Norma F. Pfriem Breast Center, Bridgeport – Support Groups for Underserved Patients
Donna J. Twist, Executive Director

The Hospital of Central Connecticut – Integrative Therapies for Breast Health
Denise Jones-Gagne, Community Outreach and Program Manager, Hartford Healthcare Cancer Institute-Central Region

UConn Health Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center – DigniCap® Cold Cap

UConn Health – A Multifactorial Approach to Improve Breast Cancer Survivorship Symptom Care
Xiaoyan Wang, PhD

UConn Health Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center – “A Brand New You”
Nancy Baccaro, APRN

UConn Health Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center – “Hair Salon Collaboration to Improve Breast Health”

Christina Stevenson, MD, FACS

Witness Project Connecticut, Inc., Bridgeport – “Educate & Empower”

Marilyn Moore, Executive Director

2016 RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

CT BHI Jean Cushing Memorial Grant

The Jackson Laboratory – Beyond Genetics: Genomics in Breast Cancer Diagnosis, Treatment and Research

Kate Reed, MPH, ScM

The Hospital of Central Connecticut – A Five Year Study Examining the Incidence of Breast Cancer Rates and Stages of Breast Cancer in Young African American Women Using Ultrasound Screening

Kristen Zarfos, MD

UConn Health – Improving Breast Cancer Survivors’ Return to Work Experiences

Alicia Dugan, PhD

CT BHI Cathy D’Apice Memorial Grant

Yale University – Shave2, A Multicenter Randomized Controlled Trial of Routine Cavity Shave Margins vs. Standard Partial Mastectomy;

Anees B. Chagpar, MD

2015 RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

The Hispanic Center of Greater Danbury, Inc. – The Hispanic Center Breast Cancer Project

Andrea Contreras-Munoz, Project Director

MidState Medical Center – Integrative Therapies for Breast Health

Denise Jones-Gagne, Program Coordinator, Cancer Program

Western Connecticut Health Network, Danbury – Personalized Genomic Medicine Leads Beyond BRCA to Predict a Women’s Risk of Breast Cancer: Identification of Novel Breast Cancer Genes in Women Who are BRCA-negative

John Martignetti, MD, PhD

Witness Project of Connecticut, Inc., Bridgeport – Educate and Empower Through Patient Navigation

Marilyn Moore, Executive Director

UConn Health – Disparities in Breast Cancer: Is Elevated Serum sLAG-3 a Predictor of More Aggressive Disease in African-American Women?

Henry Smilowitz, PhD

UConn Health – Identifying Underdiagnosed and Undertreated Cancer-Related Fatigue in Breast Cancer Survivors

Xiaoyan Wang, PhD

2014 RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

The Hospital of Central Connecticut – Healthy Lifestyles: A Breast Health Program for Women at Increased Risk, Those Currently Undergoing Treatment, and Breast Cancer Survivors

Bethany Carr, APRN-BC, MSN, CBPN-IC

The Hispanic Center of Greater Danbury, Inc. – The Hispanic Center Breast Cancer Project

Andrea Contreras-Munoz, Project Director

Yale School of Public Health – The Lifestyle, Exercise and Nutrition (LEAN) Study

Melinda Irwin, PhD, MPH

UConn Health – Trial of Vaginal Estrogen for Urogenital Symptom Relief in Women on Aromatase Inhibitors

Angie Kueck, MD, Susan Tannenbaum, MD and Pamela Taxel, MD

UConn Health – Translational Mechanisms of Bone Loss with Aromatase Inhibitors in Postmenopausal Women with Early Stage Breast Cancer

Faryal S. Mirza, MD

Yale University (Yale Cancer Center) – Outcomes of Adjuvant Chemotherapy in Breast Cancer

Sarah S. Mougalian, MD

University of Connecticut – Predicting and Enhancing Connecticut Breast Cancer Survivor's Health Behaviors

Crystal Park, PhD

The Hospital of Central Connecticut – A Five Year Study Using Breast Ultrasounds as an Early Detection of Aggressive Breast Cancer in Young African American Women

Kristen Zarfos, MD

2013 RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

The Hospital of Central Connecticut – Breast Cancer Risk Counseling Program

Bethany Carr, APRN-BC, MSN, CBPN-IC

Yale University – Understanding Intratumoral Heterogeneity in Breast Cancer

Anees Chagpar, MD; Associate Professor; Director of The Breast Center Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven Hospital

MidState Medical Center – Integrative Medicine Program and Caregiver Services

Katherine Clements, RN, OCN, CBCN and Kristoffer Popovitch, RT, MBA

Hartford Hospital – Oncotype DX® Breast Cancer Assay in Sub-centimeter Tumors – Correlation with Clinico Pathological Parameters and Impact on Treatment Decisions

Patricia DeFusco, MD

Chatham Health District, East Hampton – B-CAP – Breast Cancer Awareness Program

Vickie Han, LPN

Fairfield University – The Role of Peroxiredoxin Proteins in Breast Cancer Cell Survival

Shelley Phelan, PhD

St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation, Bridgeport – Complimentary Creative Arts Therapy

Betsy Rice, RN-BC, CBCN, Oncology Operations Manager

UConn Health – Sickle Cell Trait and Survival Disparity in Breast Cancer

Helen Swede, PhD

UConn Health – Comprehensive Study to Identify Cause of Fatigue in Breast Cancer Patients Undergoing Breast Irradiation

Susan Tannenbaum, MD and Jayash Kamath, MD, PhD

The Norma F. Pfriem Breast Care Center, Bridgeport – Pathways to Screening

Donna Twist, PhD, Executive Director of Norma F. Pfriem Breast Care Center

2012 RESEARCH GRANTS

Yale Cancer Center – Co-Targeting IGF-I Receptor and HER2 in Breast Cancer

Michael P. DiGiovanna, MD/PhD

St. Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport – High Risk Women's Clinic Study
Cindy Czaplinski, RN, MSN, NE-B.

UConn Health – Early Detection of Cardiotoxicity by Advanced Cardiac Imaging and a Novel Biomarker in Breast Cancer Patients Undergoing Chemotherapy
Erick Avelar, PhD

UConn Health – Investigation of the Ability of the UCONN's (University of Connecticut OsteoNecrosis Numerical Scale) to Predict the Risk for Developing Osteonecrosis of the Jaw in Women Receiving Bone-Modifying Therapies for Breast Cancer.”

Regina Landesberg, DMD, PhD and Pamela Taxel, MD

UConn Health – Triple Negative Breast Cancer and Survival Disparity
Helen Swede, MD

2011 RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

Yale University Cancer Center – Co-Targeting IGF-1 Receptor and HER2 in Breast Cancer

Michael P. DiGiovanna, MD/PhD

Yale University Department of Molecular Biophysics, Biochemistry and Pharmacology – Targeting a Breast Cancer Invasion Control Switch

Anthony Koleske, PhD and Titus Boggon, PhD

The Hospital of Central Connecticut – Nutrition and Fitness Program for Breast Cancer Survivors

Donna Boehm, Nurse Navigator

UConn Health – Triple-Negative Breast Cancer and Survival Disparity

Helen Swede, PhD

UConn Health – The Impact of HER2 Status on the Outcome of Patients with Small Breast Cancers

Susan Tannenbaum, MD and Mansai Shah, MD

UConn Health – Regional Breast Tumor and Sentinel Node Procurement for Advanced Molecular Diagnostic and Therapeutic Research

Kevin Claffey, MD

2010 RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

Yale Cancer Center – Co-Targeting IGF-1 Receptor and HER2 in Breast Cancer

Michael P. DiGiovanna, MD/PhD

The Hospital of Central Connecticut – Breast Health Navigation Program

Donna Boehm, RN

VNA of Central CT, Inc. – VNACC Breast Health Education Program

Shonya Harrison

The Hospital of Central Connecticut - Mammography Comparison using BSGI, Whole Breast USG, and Breast MRI in High Risk Patients

Jean Weigert, MD

UConn Health - The Use of N3 Essential Fatty Acids in the Prevention of Osteoporosis and Metabolic Syndrome in Women with a History of Breast Cancer

Anne Kenny, MD

UConn Health - Chemotherapy, Cardiomyopathy and Utility of Cardiac NRI, 3-D echo and biomarkers

Erick Avelar, MD

MidState Medical Center - Healthy Steps

Kathy Clements RN, MSN, AOCN

2009 RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

Hartford Hospital – Prospective Analysis of Breast MRI Outcomes in a Large Hospital Population

Andrew Salner, MD and Michael O’Loughlin, MD

UConn Health – Therapeutic Targeting of Breast Cancer Stem Cells

Kevin Claffey, PhD

UConn Health – Identification of a New Anti-Breast Cancer Drug, SAM

Joan M. Caron, PhD

UConn Health – Vascular and Proliferation-Dependent Protein Expression in Breast Cancer Samples as a way to Distinguish HER2 Positive from HER2 Negative Tumors

Susan Tannenbaum, MD

University of Connecticut, Storrs – Photoacoustic Tomography for Breast Cancer Staging

Quing Zhu, PhD

Yale Cancer Center – Co-Targeting IGF-I Receptor and HER2 in Breast Cancer
Michael P. DiGiovanna, MD/PhD

The Hospital of Central Connecticut – Breast Health Navigation Program
Donna Boehm, RN

2008 RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

UConn Health - Inhibition of Breast Cancer Metastasis by Activation of cAMP Signaling
Paul M. Epstein, PhD

UConn Health – Identification of a New Anti-Breast Cancer Drug, SAM
Joan Caron, PhD

UConn Health – Effect of Aromatase Inhibitors on Blood Pressure and Forearm Vascular Reactivity in Postmenopausal Women with Breast Cancer
Faryal S. Mirza, MD

VNA of Central CT, Inc. –VNACC Breast Health Program
Shonya Harrison

2007 RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

UConn Health – The Correlation of Tumor Vascularity as Imaged by Near-infra-red Technology with Tissue Distribution of Angiogenic Promotors
Kevin Claffey, PhD

UConn Health – Sub-Classification of Breast Cancer by SH2 Profiling
M. Kazuya Machida, MD

YWCA of New Britain – Community Education – Moving Forward with Education and Fitness initiative.

CT BHI agreed to partner with UConn Health to fund a professorship for clinical/translational research dedicated to breast cancer prevention, treatment and research. CT BHI committed to fund this program for three years.

2006 RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

Hartford Hospital – Prospective Analysis of Breast MRI Outcomes in a Large Hospital Population.

Andrew Salner, MD/Director, Radiation, Oncology Cancer Program
Michael O'Loughlin, MD/Department of Radiology

St. Mary's Hospital, Waterbury – The Influence of Age on the Treatment Choice in Women with Breast Cancer.

Tiffany T. Fancher, MD/Department of Surgery

UConn Health - The Effect of Anastrozole on Bone Turnover Markers and Bone Mineral Density on Postmenopausal Women with Primary Breast Cancer.

Pamela Taxel, MD/Asst. Professor of Medicine

UConn Health – Identification of New Anticancer Drug, CH 46.

Dr. Joan Caron, PhD/Department of Cell Biology

UConn Health – Mental and Physical Stressors in Diagnosis of Breast Cancer.

Susan Tannenbaum, MD /Asst. Professor of Medicine Division of Hematology/Oncology

YWCA of New Britain – Community Education – Moving Forward with Education and Fitness Initiative.

2005 COMMUNITY GRANTS

Agency on Aging of South Central CT, New Haven – POW-Protecting Our Women

Community Health Services, Inc., Hartford – Reaching for the Cure

East Hartford Dept. of Health & Social Services – Outreach for Better Breast Health Outcomes

Hill Health Corp. New Haven– Improving Breast Health in the Elderly in Three Connecticut Cities Program

Hispanic Center of Greater Danbury – Breast Cancer Education and Awareness for Latinas

Hispanic Health Council, Hartford – Latina Breast Cancer Early Detection and Support Program

Hospital of St. Raphael, New Haven – Comprehensive Breast Cancer Outreach and Support Program for Underserved Women

Ledge Light Health District, Groton – Breaking the Silence

MidState Medical Center, Meriden – CT Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

Northeast District Dept. of Health – Outreach to Special Ethnic Populations for Breast Health Education

Norwalk Dept. of Health – Norwalk’s Breast Health Initiative

Saint Mary’s Hospital Corp., Waterbury – Funding for Open Biopsies in Uninsured and Underinsured Women in Saint Mary’s Hospital’s CT Breast Health and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

St. Vincent’s Medical Center Foundation, Bridgeport – St. Vincent’s Swim Across the Sound Breast Cancer Support and Education Program

Uncas Health District – To provide the Community Members of Norwich and Montville, CT with Breast Health Education and Outreach

UConn Health – Reducing Barriers to Mammography and Breast Care in Underserved and Underinsured Women in the Community Setting

YWCA of New Britain – New Britain Initiative to Support Women’s Breast Health

Hartford Hospital – Prospective Analysis of Breast MRI Outcomes in a Large Hospital Population (2 year grant award)



**Over \$4.2 million in total
grants funded to date**

Connecticut Breast Health Initiative, Inc.

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