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.

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

    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

    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-1 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 UCONNs (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-1 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 Promoters
  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


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