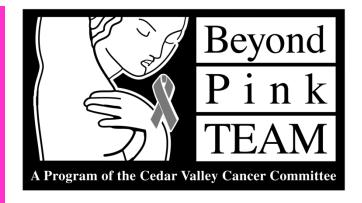
Touch of Courage

... Connection

January 2020



Celebrating 30 years in the Cedar Valley

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Buh-Bye, Breast Cancer?

Preventing breast cancer

Re-printed with permission from the Mayo Clinic Alumni, Issue 4, June 2018

Can breast cancer be prevented with a vaccine? Keith Knutson, Ph.D., Department of Immunology and director of the Discovery and Translation Labs Cancer Program at Mayo Clinic in Florida, thinks so. And he thinks it will happen during his lifetime.

In collaboration with the National Breast Cancer Coalition, Dr. Knutson has developed a vaccine that could prevent all three subtypes of the disease – estrogen receptor (ER)-positive, HER2-positive and triplenegative. The vaccine targets six proteins (HER2-neu, mammaglobin-A, MAGEA3, surviving, hTERT and MUC1) that have been found through multiple studies to overexpress in breast cancers.

The new vaccine is a fundamental shift from how vaccines traditionally prevent infectious disease. Rather than use a virus, bacteria or their components, Dr. Knutson's vaccine immunizes against proteins that are encoded in a patient's DNA.

"When we target an infectious disease with a vaccine, we generate

immunity against the microorganism that causes the disease by attacking the foreign agent," says Dr. Knutson, "Breast cancer isn't caused by a microorganism. Rather, it is driven by the body's natural proteins. Therefore, we are targeting the proteins, which hasn't been done before in a vaccine for primary prevention. Cancer vaccines sensitize the immune system to the appearance of cancer tissue. We know from preclinical studies that targeting these molecules in animal models is safe. This is a new trajectory for how we prevent disease."

Dr. Knutson is embarking on a yearlong phase I clinical trial with women who have been treated for advanced metastatic breast cancer that is likely to recur. This effort is supported by the National Breast Cancer Coalition.

"We want to involve patients who are likely to benefit from the vaccine while we make sure it performs as we think it will – generating a safe

Buh-Bye Breast Cancer continued on pages 6 & 7

A Survivor Shares . . . "You've Come for Me, and You're Going to be Sorry

A survivor's story by Brianna Moodie

My name is Brianna Moodie. I am a breast cancer survivor. On February 20, 2019 I was diagnosed with Stage 2, grade 3, invasive ductal carcinoma. But I'm not just a survivor, I am a wife, and a busy mom of 3 little boys. My mom is a two-time breast cancer survivor and had urged me for years to begin having mammograms early. She was diagnosed at 46, so I needed to start 10 years younger. My family doctor also urged me to get checked. finally went for first my mammogram at the age of 36.

I knew that I was doing the right thing showing up for that mammogram, but my mind was racing, I was nervous, and I was scared. I was giving myself a mental pep talk... "You're fine...in and out...you're fine. Nothing to worry about." The mammogram was done, and I was out of there. And the following day, came the call. A spot on my right breast. Something didn't look right, and they needed me to come back for more imaging. That imaging led to an ultrasound and then a biopsy. I could feel my heart pounding and although my mind was telling me to stay positive, my heart was telling mesomething is wrong. The next day, those words came- "it's cancer." And from that moment I felt I felt like the pause button was pushed on my life. The numbness and fear that washed over me in that moment was paralyzing. I have three little boys! They need me! And I need them!

A plan was set... 16 chemotherapy treatments, 8 weeks of a dense dose treatment, AC (Adriamycin and ytoxan) followed by 12 Taxol and carboplatin treatments. A double

mastectomy and reconstruction followed the treatment.

I had read a survivor's story before I started treatment, she was talking about how she felt 85% of her battle with cancer was mental. I knew I was going to be fighting for my life, but I also knew that while fighting I had to remain positive, even on the days when I felt so defeated, and frankly, totally alone. As a family, we decided to plan something fun every couple of weeks, something to look forward to...a get together with friends, dinner at our favorite place, or a little weekend getaway. A goal to work toward to keep the positivity flowing and my spirits up. I was blessed and continue to be blessed by the amazing support of family and friends, who joined in with planning those little markers along the way. I was amazed at the kindness, the support, the LOVE I felt. I had people and help right at my fingertips and they were so eager to help. If I can tell any other fighters out there reading this, it's to take the help! Allow people to help you. It's so important to stay positive and to know you are not alone. And be kind to yourself. Things are changing that you have no control over. Keep your morale high and yourself love strong.

I discovered a strength within myself that I didn't know was there. And that, I owe to my faith. On those extra hard days, when the pain was too much, both emotionally and physically, I knew I could pray at any time. Day or night. It gave me strength to get up each day and try again. It helped me immensely in my fight to stay positive.

Although my life's "pause button" had been pushed, I felt that I grew and evolved during my journey. And I continue to grow as a survivor. It was as though I was watching life carry on around me- but in my bubble I was growing. The play button has since been pushed, and life has resumed. But I have a new perspective and outlook on life. I feel that as a survivor, I will continue to fight every day, fighting for physical wellness, mental clarity, and peace. And, I know that I can. Because cancer taught me many things, but most importantly it taught me that I am strong. I told cancer on the day I was diagnosed, "You've come for me, and you're going to be sorry." I still stand by that declaration and will continue to as my journey after cancer carries on.

My Happy Haven

There is a new non-profit to the Cedar Valley. "My Happy Haven" as a passion to help women with cancer. The group provides bedroom makeovers with the support of sponsors and volunteers.

If you know of someone deserving of this service, check out their Facebook pages:

My Happy Haven-– Waterloo/Cedar Falls or My Happy Haven-North Iowa.

My contact information is: Shannon Huey 641-583-3854.

Where They Are Now!

Bambinos

A Face of Hope and Bambinos Founder, Donna O'Brien was diagnosed at age 45 with invasive lobular breast cancer on November 17, 2008. Following the removal of 26 lymph nodes, she was informed 21 of them were positive. This began the fight of her life: A single mastectomy, 5 months of chemotherapy, 35 radiation treatments, a second mastectomy and reconstruction (16 surgeries in total).

Now, ten years later, Donna is still cancer free. She continues with an oral "chemo" medication to block estrogen from entering her body. She will continue that treatment until she is 15 years cancer free.

Donna lives in Waterloo with her husband and her dog Tillie. She is happy to be alive and able to pay it forward with Bambinos! She says "I am grateful for all of the love and support I received from my amazing family and friends while battling through cancer. When I saw the impact the Beyond Pink TEAM made on the lives of others fighting this battle, I knew I wanted to find a way to help. I am absolutely in LOVE with this journey we are on together and hope we can take it to the next level to make a REAL difference for those who are in the fight of their lives."

Bambinos, a sweet, fluffy cookie creation, exists today because of a desire to help others, and one of the best ways to do that is through encouragement. We are better together than we could ever be alone.

Bambinos are available at Crossroads and College Square Hy-Vees with a portion of proceeds going to the Beyond Pink TEAM.

Breast Cancer is a Political Issue

Members of the Beyond Pink TEAM would like Senators Grassley and Ernst to cosponsor the Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act as it will help women and men like Ellen Duffy, a deceased member of the Beyond Pink TEAM.

Little did Ellen Duffy know when she joined Beyond Pink TEAM, because her mother was a breast cancer survivor, that she would be diagnosed with the same disease a few years later. Ellen was diagnosed with breast cancer and before she completed her initial treatment it was discovered the breast cancer had spread to her bones. With metastatic breast cancer Ellen was unable to work at either of her two jobs: as a nurse for Covenant Hospital or as an assistant at a fitness center. After one year both of her employers let her go which left her with no job and no health insurance. While she applied for Social Security disability, she still had to wait more than 2 years to become eligible for Medicare and didn't live long enough to receive it. Ellen was 47, single, never married, and lived her final year very sick and in constant fear of losing her home because she could not pay her bills. Below is a photo of Ellen (on the right) lobbying with us.



Breast cancer is a political issue. The federal government is the largest funder of biomedical research. Laws regulate and support access to care

and health care systems. Third party payors are subject to state and federal regulations. In fact, every aspect of breast cancer is touched by public policy.

That is why Beyond Pink TEAM and the National Breast Cancer Coalition need your help to pass the *Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act*: A bill to waive the 24 month waiting period for Medicare eligibility and the 5 month waiting period for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits for individuals with Metastatic Breast Cancer. (H.R. 2178 and S. 1374)

Action Requested: Call lowa's Senators Grassley (202-224-3744) and Ernst (202-224-3254) offices and urge them to "Please cosponsor the Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act (5. 1374)". Or email Kirsten_Wing@finance.senate.gov with the same message.



National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC) set a deadline...To know how to end breast cancer by January 1, 2020...Ten years to determine how we can bring an end to breast cancer. Now, nearly ten years later, we have made tremendous progress, but with the Deadline here, it is necessary to update and speak to the future. NBCC's logo focuses on its new campaign, "Stop the Clock". It features a timer, continuously counting down from 13 minutes, creating a sense of urgency, reminding site visitors that women are dying from breast cancer, one woman every 13 minutes.

Donors from September 1 through November 30, 2019 – Thank you for all your support!

Janice Akin

Alpha Sigma Tau

Cindy Angel

Aramark Employees

Deborah Bartels

Buchanan County Health Center

"Be the Change" Fitness Group

Buchanan County Health Center

Bunger Family Foundation

Mervin & Karen Carnahan

Pain Cave

Cedar Falls Community Credit Union

Staff and Members

Cedar Falls Community Main Street

Cedar Valley Cyclists

City of Cedar Falls Public Safety

City of Janesville Fire Department

Cinda Dodd

Dunkerton Community School

Joan Easton

Danette Elder

Stanley Engel

Cindy Ersland

Farrell's

First National Bank

Robert "Bob" Goodrich

Dee Hughes

Barbara Hunt

Isle Casino & Hotel

Amy Jardon

Cathy Jensen

Shannon Jensen

Joywheel Cycling- Jessica McDowell

and Bre Bader

Mary Jo Juel

David Kelling

Kevin Lichty

Craig Merrifield

Mod Salon, Inc.

Jodi Muller

Stanley Nielsen

Donna O'Brien

Martha Paprocki

Peoples Community Health Clinic

Employees

Scheels

Single Speed Brewing

Shawn and Janelle Smeins

Marilyn Teig

Visions Hair Studio

Waverly Health Center Empl

Doris Webber

Cindy West

Roger White

Carol Wilson

UNI's Alpha Sigma Tau's hosted a soup dinner "Save the TauTau's with \$1,650.00 of the proceeds going to the Beyond Pink TEAM. Soup dinner was so successful, they ran out of soup! Thank you for supporting the breast cancer survivors in the Cedar Valley.



Cedar Valley Cyclists raised \$1085.00 with their 4th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Ride. Thank you for your generosity!



Cedar Falls Public Safety celebrated the month of October bringing breast cancer awareness to the public with their "pink" wrapped vehicle and selling badges. Proceeds of \$2,833.48 were donated to the Beyond Pink TEAM. Thank you!

Celebrations – Fundraisers – Events

Thank you to all individuals, businesses, organizations and communities



Thank you Community Main Street Girls Night Out and local merchants of Cedar Falls Downtown District for their \$1600.00 donation.



Single Speed Brewery held its "Pint (Pink) Ride" with a donation of \$492.00 to the Beyond Pink TEAM. Some even brought out their "PINK" bike for the occasion. Thank you!



Supporting Beyond Pink TEAM

Who gave of their time and talents for breast cancer awareness!



of survivorship were recognized at the 13th Annual Pink Ribbon Run

PInk Ribbon Run Sponsors – Thank you to these businesses for their support of the 13th Annual Pink Ribbon Run

148 Survivors representing 1206 years

Oakridge Realtors **GreenState Credit Union** Community Auto Group Nagle Signs Inc. First National Bank 93.5 the Mix **ICAN KWWL Breast Care Center** Mudd Advertising **CUNA Mutual Group** John Deery Motors Kimball Beecher Family Dentistry UnityPoint Health **NuCara Pharmacy** MercyOne Scheels **PDCM Insurance** VGM Forbin Profile by Sanford **Avalon Plastic Surgery Lincoln Savings Bank** Cedar Falls Tourism and Visitors Bureau Martin Bros. Food Market Culligan The Kinder Agency-Farmers Insurance

Trio/Salon Iris

Brass Tap

Century 21

Bambinos Jilly 38

Sub City West Pump Haus

Balance Wellness

Here's What's Poppin'

Once again, Visions Hair Studio donated \$1,345.00 from tips and "Pink" merchandise sold during October. Thank you, Mo Hardy and Visions!



Janesville Fire Department
donated \$675.00, a portion of
proceeds from this year's t-shirt
fundraiser, to the Beyond Pink
TEAM. And yes, Iowa's Pink Heals

festivities!

firetruck was there to join in the

Farrell's "worked out" supported the Beyond Pink TEAM with a \$300.00 donation. Thank you for your strength in support!





Support Group Dates

January 6, 1:30 p.m.

Touch of Courage

Breast Cancer Support Group

2101 Kimball Ave., Bd Rm, Waterloo Pat – 319-232-8691

January 7, 1:30 p.m.

Care & Share Cancer Support Group

Covenant Cancer Treatment Center 200 E Ridgeway Ave., Waterloo Jessica – 319-272-2816

January 21, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Young Cancer Survivors – Meet, Mingle and Learn

Cedar Valley Unitarian Universalist 3912 Cedar Heights Dr., Cedar Falls Gabbi – 319-292-2225

February 3, 1:30 p.m.

Touch of Courage

Breast Cancer Support Group

2101 Kimball Ave., Bd Rm, Waterloo Pat – 319-232-8691

February 4, 1:30 p.m.

Care & Share Cancer Support Group

Covenant Cancer Treatment Center 200 E Ridgeway Ave., Waterloo Jessica – 319-272-2816

March 2, 1:30 p.m.

Touch of Courage

Breast Cancer Support Group

2101 Kimball Ave., Bd Rm, Waterloo Pat – 319-232-8691

March 3, 1:30 p.m.

Care & Share Cancer Support Group

Covenant Cancer Treatment Center 200 E Ridgeway Ave., Waterloo Jessica – 319-272-2816

April 6, 1:30 p.m.

Touch of Courage

Breast Cancer Support Group

2101 Kimball Ave., Bd Rm, Waterloo Pat – 319-232-8691

April 7, 1:30 p.m.

Care & Share Cancer Support Group

Covenant Cancer Treatment Center 200 E Ridgeway Ave., Waterloo Jessica – 319-272-2816

April 21, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Young Cancer Survivors – Meet, Mingle and Learn

Cedar Valley Unitarian Universalist 3912 Cedar Heights Dr., Cedar Falls Gabbi – 319-292-2225

Splash of Color – Women of Color Breast Cancer Support Group

Community support and resources available Upon request

Cathy - 319-504-2703 for details

Look Good . . . Feel Better Hair – Makeup – Nails - Skin

Covenant Cancer Treatment Center 200 E Ridgeway Ave., Waterloo Call Jessica at 319-272-2816 for dates & RSVP

Living Green

By Patty Wandschneider



Citrus Eucalyptus Cleaning Spray

In a 16-ounce glass spray bottle, combine 1 cup distilled white vinegar with one and a half cups filtered water.

Add 15 drops of orange, 10 drops of lemon, and 10 drops of eucalyptus essential oils.

Buh-Bye Breast Cancer, continued from page 1

immune response," he says. "Patients who have had advanced metastatic breast cancer have nothing to lose."

A phase II trial, likely to begin in 2020, will focus on patients who are at high risk for breast cancer. Dr Knutson estimates it will take five to 10 years to determine if the vaccine reduced incidence of breast cancer in the high-risk population. A phase III trial would involve 100,000 women across multiple centers.

"Look around you for a woman who is about 25 today," says Dr. Knutson.

"By the time she completes her child-bearing years – around age 40 – we could conceivably have this vaccine ready to prevent her from developing breast cancer. This isn't pie in the sky. We believe this is doable. We're working as fast as we can. All of us on the team know women who are or have been affected by breast cancer. The only thing that could speed along our efforts is additional funding for more lab techs, regulatory staff, clinical trial experts and others."

Preventing breast cancer recurrence

Is it possible to prevent recurrence of breast cancer by stimulating the immune system?

Dr. Knutson thinks so. He has three vaccines in clinical trials to reduce mortality from breast cancer in the absence of a primary preventive vaccine.

"We know the immune system protects against cancer. People who have higher levels of immunity to cancer have better outcomes," he says. "We're working on ways to safely boost these protective responses because current drug treatments for cancer are highly toxic. Vaccines, however, are not toxic.

"If we can stimulate enough immunity to these cancers, our hope is that the immune system will take over and prevent cancer from developing or recurring."

Triple-negative breast cancer

One of these vaccines targets triplenegative breast cancer, which accounts for 15 to 20 percent of breast cancers. Currently, patients are treated with chemotherapy for this aggressive form of cancer but suffer from high morbidity from the toxic drugs. Cancer will recur in 30 to 40 percent of patients who have triple-negative breast cancer.

Dr. Knutson and his team have identified an antigen on the surface of triple-negative cancer cells; folate receptor alpha. The team has developed a vaccine that generates an immune response against that protein. The drug in the vaccine has been in clinical trials for patients with triple-negative breast and ovarian cancer since 2012.

"After these patients have completed surgery and chemotherapy, we target the regions of the folate receptor alpha protein that are abnormally expressed in triplenegative cancer," says Dr. Knutson. "We do this by immunizing patients six times over six months. Ideally, patients will develop an immune response. Then, every six to 12 months, we will give them booster shots.

If we can maintain levels of immunity against folate receptor alpha, we could eliminate cancer recurrence or significantly reduce it in patients who are high risk for recurrence."

Vaccination teaches the body's immune system T cells to recognize cancers as the enemy. Dr. Knutson says, "If tumors start to grow back, there are enough of them to outrace or beat the growth of tumor cells."

Dr. Knutson has begun a phase II clinical trial of 280 patients across Mayo Clinic locations and seven other centers. He and his team will follow patients for two to three years, examining how quickly patients develop an immune response, what the response looks like and whether the vaccine has an effect on disease recurrence.

"From our phase I trial, we know the vaccine works in humans to generate

an immune response," says Dr. Knutson. "In fact, the vaccine induced immunity in 90 percent of patients involved, and the response persisted for at least 12 months. We don't yet know if the vaccine prevents disease recurrence. This is an exciting prospect to meet a significant unmet need."

Dr. Knutson's work in this area is supported by a \$13.3 million, five-year Breakthrough Award from the Department of Defense.

Ductal carcinoma in situ

Only about 35 percent of ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) lesions morph into cancer, but physicians can't identify which lesions are potentially dangerous. So, the 60,000 cases of noninvasive DCIS in the U.S. each year are treated with typical breast cancer therapies including surgery, radiation and hormone therapy.

Dr. Knutson has developed a vaccine that aims to treat DCIS patients before other therapies commence to generate a fast-immune response and shrink tumors. Patients would be immunized four times per week for two weeks. If successful, the vaccine could eliminate the need for surgery, radiation therapy and long-term use of hormone therapies. Dr. Knutson's phase I vaccine trial recently began enrolling patients. He hopes this vaccine will become part of a routine immunization schedule to prevent DCIS altogether.

Dr. Knutson's work in this area is supported by a \$3.7 million grant from the Department of Defense.

HER2-neu breast cancer

Dr. Knutson recently received funding for a phase II clinical trial for a vaccine to treat HER2-neu breast cancer, which accounts for 15 to 20 percent of breast cancers. Patients

will be immunized after completing surgery treatment with chemotherapy. The vaccine will boost patients' immune systems, and researchers will follow them to monitor for immune response and cancer recurrence. Dr. Knutson anticipates the trial will begin enrolling its 190 patients next fall. Dr. Knutson's work in this area is supported by an \$11 million, fouryear Breakthrough Award from the Department of Defense.

Preventing ovarian cancer recurrence

Dr. Knutson also has developed two vaccines to boost the immune system and prevent recurrence of ovarian cancer. In a recently completed phase I trial funded by the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center, 40 percent of ovarian cancer patients in the trial have not relapsed with three years of data. Typically, 85 percent of ovarian cancer patients relapse after treatment. The team is hoping to develop a phase II trial.

Dr. Knutson says it's likely a secondary ovarian cancer vaccine will come to fruition in his lifetime. "While rare ovarian cancer is deadly. It recurs so rapidly that we can test vaccine strategies relatively quickly."

Always on my mind

The gravity and urgency of his vaccine work weighs heavily on Dr. Knutson. "One of the physician assistants who worked on my first clinical trial died from ovarian cancer. My aunt survived breast cancer. We all know women who develop and die from these cancers, so there's no time to waste," says Dr. Knutson. "Whether I'm at Mayo Clinic, at home, or on vacation, my vaccine work is always on my mind. Rather than get me down, these personal stories motivate me to work even harder. But I'll be happy when we don't have to hear them anymore.



MISSION – Beyond Pink TEAM is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide breast cancer prevention, education, support, and advocacy for comprehensive, quality health care for ALL in the Cedar Valley and surrounding communities.

Resources — Information, support, counseling, and educational materials are available from the following:

Beyond Pink TEAM is a local breast cancer organization providing a variety of services. Our website lists services we provide as well as other services available in the Cedar Valley. **www.beyondpinkTEAM.org**

Living Beyond Breast Cancer includes a helpline, newsletter, and information. Survivors Helpline: 888-753-5222 www.LBBC.org

Young Survival Coalition connects with other young women diagnosed with breast cancer. www.youngsurvival.org

Cancer Care is a national nonprofit organization offering counseling, support, financial assistance, and education to individuals with cancer and their families. **www.cancercare.org**

lowa Cancer Consortium offers cancer information and links to resources in Iowa. www.canceriowa.org

American Cancer Society offers cancer information and services. www.cancer.org.

National Breast Cancer Coalition The NBCC's mission is to eradicate breast cancer by focusing the government, research institutions, and consumer advocates on breast cancer. It encourages advocacy for action and change. **www.breastcancerdeadline2020.org**

National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN) provides state-of-the-art treatment information in easy-to-understand language to people with cancer and their caregivers. **NCCN.org/patients**

National LGBT Cancer Network works to improve the lives of LGBT cancer survivors and those at risk. www.cancer-network.org

National Cancer Institute offers information about cancer, breast cancer, clinical trials, cancer statistics, research and funding, and the latest news. They will also answer your questions by calling 1-800-4CANCER. **www.cancer.gov**

Connect with us Your support financially or through volunteering is both needed and appreciated. Please feel free to complete the following and forward to Cedar Valley Cancer Committee at the address listed below.									
Name					Phone				
Address						City		State	Zip
Email									
I would like to participate with the Beyond Pink TEAM by:									
	Writing a survivor story for the newsletter				☐ Making phone calls and sending emails to policy makers for breast cancer issues				
	Become	ecome part of the Breast Cancer Advocacy Network			☐ Become a member of the Beyond Pink TEAM -Complete this form, send with a check for \$5 to Jeanne Olson, BPT Treasurer, to address at bottom of this page.				
	Volunte	teering: ((check all that apply)				a check for \$5 to Jeanne Olson, BFT Treasurer, to address at bottom or this page.			
		Assist with Support Groups			Educat	ion (Health Fairs/Pr	resentations, Newsletters)		
		Development (Publicity)			Advoca	acy – Deadline 2020	o/Ignite the Cancer Conversa	ation	
	☐ Events (Fundraisers, Projects and More)								
	Make a donation. Make checks payable to Beyond Pink TEAM. (All donations are tax deductible)								
	☐ BPT Fund ☐ Advocacy Fu				y Fund		3 Area of Need		

Touch of Courage . . . Connection

Cedar Valley Cancer Committee 1753 W Ridgeway Ave, Suite 104 Waterloo, IA 50701 www.beyondpinkteam.org