

Working Together in Cincinnati: Interpreting Breast Cancer Research Findings for the Community

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Collaboration is essential to the success of the NIEHS/NCI-sponsored Cincinnati Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Center (BCERC). The Cincinnati BCERC and its Community Outreach and Translation Core (COTC) consist of partnerships between local breast cancer advocates/survivors, service providers and researchers. BCERC advocates want to better understand current breast cancer research findings that are regularly reported in the electronic and print media. The READ (Review, Evaluate and Disseminate) Committee, a COTC sub-committee, was formed to make available cogent and easy-to-read synopses of recently published breast cancer research. BCERC advocates and service providers help to identify the research topics and findings of interest to survivors. And the researchers provide expert review and commentary of relevant publications.

The purpose of the READ Committee is to enhance public understanding about the latest breast cancer research findings. The research topics of particular interest are environmental exposures, environmental genetics, developmental impacts of environmental exposures, diet, and life style risk factors. BCERC advocates serve as scouts, identifying research findings being presented in the popular press that require interpretation and assessment of their potential significance for personal decisions, treatment, prevention and/or public policy. The original articles in the scientific journals are reviewed by scientists associated with the Cincinnati BCERC. A standardized question and answer template is used to organize the one-page review and commentary. Reviews are assessed for their readability and then posted on-line on the Cincinnati BCERC web page.

The purpose of the READ Committee will be presented. The research topics of interest to advocates and central to the research agenda of the Cincinnati BCERC will be discussed. The process for selecting articles to be reviewed, the format of the reviews and the readability assessment will be described. Personal reflections of sub-committee members will be presented to demonstrate the potential personal and public value of this resource.

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