

Emerging Topics in Breast Cancer and the Environment

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Development of a Multimedia, Educational CD on Environmental Risks and Breast Cancer. Janet M. Gray and Cristian Opazo, Vassar College.

Working with a team of talented students and technical professionals, we have developed a multimedia educational CD on 'Environmental Risks and Breast Cancer'. Drawing from the primary scientific literature in the field, the CD explores issues related to the possible role of exposures to a wide variety of common chemical and other environmental factors that may contribute to the high incidence of breast cancer in the United States. Aimed for the general public, the CD is designed to be attractive, easy to navigate, and scientifically sophisticated, yet still accessible to a diverse audience. It provides both evidence regarding various environmental exposures as well as suggestions for minimizing them. Five original animations in the CD explore key concepts underlying the mechanisms by which environmental factors might increase the risk in breast cancer. Fully linked glossary and reference information provide resources for users who want access to additional information.

We are currently revising the Beta test version of the CD that we completed this spring, incorporating suggestions from scientific reviewers and general users of the CD. We hope to complete the revised CD this winter and are planning for its use and distribution in a number of programs including those sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute/Center for Environmental Oncology and the Silent Spring Institute. Working with the UPCI/CEO, major programming initiatives will include assessment of effectiveness of the CD as an educational tool in a variety of different outreach environments.

As we undergo this final revision, we are eager for continued feedback and engagement in discussion of our public outreach efforts focused around the use of this CD.

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