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October 2005

Advocates Succeed: Senate Votes Funds for Breast Cancer Research for 2006

Once again, National Breast Cancer Coalition advocates saved the most innovative breast cancer program in the federal government, the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program. Because our National Action Network was on full alert and in constant contact, advocates from more than 10 states and the District of Columbia came to Capitol Hill to storm the Senate.

[View full article.](#)



Missouri advocate Sue Baebler awards Sen. Jim Talent (R-MO) for his support of NBCC.

October Brings a Sea of Pink

This month throughout the United States, organizations focus on pink awareness ribbons, pink lights, pink everything. There has been enough pink when it comes to breast cancer awareness. It is time to apply the money spent on pink lights to much-needed legislation that can have meaningful results, such as the [Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act](#). NBCC tried during the last Congress to turn attention to this legislation, which aims to study possible impacts of the environment on breast cancer. NBCC advocates distributed a [fact sheet](#) and a pink lightbulb to congressional offices. One staffer asked, "What am I supposed to do with this?" Exactly. Pink lightbulbs will not save lives.

Diagnosis & Treatment News

Herceptin plus chemotherapy for women with HER2-neu positive early-stage breast cancer

Data just published in [The New England Journal of Medicine](#) and from the first planned interim analysis of Phase III trial [BCIRG 006](#) confirm an impressive reduction in the risk of breast cancer recurrence and improvement on overall survival among women treated with Herceptin in combination with chemotherapy. The studies use different chemotherapy regimens and result in different safety profiles for the combinations. [See NBCCF's full analysis.](#)

Is digital mammography better?

The American College of Radiology Imaging Network released data from a large clinical study that compared film and [digital mammography](#). Participants in this study, the Digital Mammographic Imaging Screening Trial (DMIST), were given both digital and film mammograms. The study primarily aimed to detect a difference in the ability of the two technologies to find cancer. DMIST also looked to determine if the two technologies performed differently for prespecified subgroups defined by age, breast

Calendar

New York Gala
November 3
*Tavern on the Green,
New York*

Project Lead
November 2-6
Washington, D.C.

Strategic Consensus Conference
November 13-15
*The Ritz-Carlton,
Philadelphia*

San Francisco Gala
December 5
*The Great American Music Hall,
San Francisco*

Project LEAD Clinical Trials
January 19-22, 2006
Washington, D.C.
(LEAD graduates only)

Project LEAD
March 22-26, 2006
Houston

Double Your Dollars!

Because of a generous grant from the Joyce and Irving Goldman Family Foundation, gifts to the National Breast Cancer Coalition Fund will be matched dollar for dollar. Your tax-deductible donation will work twice as hard for research, access and educational programs. Thank you for your past support and your continued commitment to stopping breast cancer. **Make a**

density, menopausal status, race, risk of breast cancer and machine brand. [See NBCCF analysis.](#)

Coming to a Consensus

NBCCF's [Strategic Consensus Conference](#) will lead participants to broad and meaningful consensus on a patient-centered strategy that answers the question, "What is needed to ensure that biomarker research efficiently answers clinically relevant questions about breast cancer?" After this conference, which takes place Nov. 13-15 in Philadelphia, NBCCF will engage in follow-up activities and leverage its influence to help ensure full implementation of the consensus panel's recommendations. NBCCF will also report on the strategic initiatives that flow from the group's deliberations, so watch our [website](#).

Help the Revolution

"We want to know the cause. We want to know the cure. We want to know that it will not be passed on to a new generation. We want all women and their families to have access to quality health care. We want to end breast cancer for everyone. We want, and we will have, a revolution." — Fran Visco, NBCCF president

It is easy to be part of our Breast Cancer Revolution — just take NBCCF's [quick questionnaire](#). The input we gather is vital because it will fuel an Action Plan on Breast Cancer that is patient-centered and led by activists. You can hear or read Fran Visco's entire speech about our revolution from our website's [homepage](#).

Gear Up for a Gala

NBCCF's New York Gala, featuring former President Bill Clinton as our honored guest, will mark the launch of the Virginia Clinton Kelley Fund. Actress Brooke Shields, shown here with NBCCF President Fran Visco, hosted a planning meeting for the event's host committee. Visit our website for [more events](#).



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donation.

Your Story Can Help!

More than 500 stories from 50 states have been submitted to our Stop Breast Cancer: Personal Stories, Public Action™ Campaign. Your story (which can be anonymous) is important to our advocacy efforts. Take the time to **submit your story**. And, encourage others to do the same. Let's move from awareness to advocacy! Here are some campaign results gathered so far from those who have submitted stories:

- One in five lost employment/health coverage after being diagnosed;
- 37 percent believed they lacked information to make decisions about treatment and living with breast cancer; and
- 40 percent were unable to receive the care they needed, when they needed it.

To learn more about this campaign, **visit our website** or call (800) 622-2838 ext. 579.