Our mission is to see a world free of the devastating effects of BRCA-related cancers.

The Basser Center for BRCA at Penn Medicine’s Abramson Cancer Center provides families with a place they can turn to for education, genetic counseling, and treatment. We raise awareness around the world. We are at the center of a global hub of scientists, geneticists, and physicians dedicated to successfully treating BRCA-related cancers, and eventually preventing them altogether.

“I started my career focusing on how to find better options for people faced with a BRCA mutation. We have come a long way, and I know that by the end of my career, the Basser Center will play a significant role in offering a greater array of higher quality choices.”

SUSAN DOMCHEK, MD
Basser Professor in Oncology
Executive Director, Basser Center for BRCA

Sharing the personal histories of those affected by BRCA mutations helps us face the future together with heart and mind. Through sharing, we empower each other not only with information, but also with bravery, compassion, and life-transforming insights. When we help each other, we in turn help our whole community better understand cancer risk, life-saving choices, and the value of genetic counseling.
Laura Temple
Philadelphia, PA, Stage 1 Breast Cancer, Age 53

Laura lost her mom to ovarian cancer after a five year battle. Just six months later, she found a lump in her own breast. The confusion that followed was not only devastating—it was life-threatening. After inconclusive evaluations by two different hospitals, Laura found the Basser Center and gained control.

At Penn, Laura learned she was a carrier of a BRCA2 mutation. Dr. Susan Domchek helped Laura prepare to discuss the impact of these results with her family and how her mutation status might affect them as well. Testing revealed the BRCA mutation had been passed down through her mother’s side of the family. Three of the four sisters, including Laura, carry the BRCA2 gene mutation and have developed breast cancer. Laura’s brother has not yet been tested.

Dealing with BRCA and its hereditary implications has brought Laura and her sisters closer together, but it was still hard for Laura to tell her sons that they may face an increased risk, and that their children, in turn, may as well. Focusing on the tremendous progress and promise of new scientific discovery helps Laura keep her anxiety about her sons’ futures at bay. Laura continues to dedicate herself and her health efforts to the loving memory of her mom. She only wishes she and her mother had known they carried the BRCA2 mutation before developing cancer so they could have taken preventative steps.

Now, empowered with information, Laura’s family and the generations that follow can face their futures with more hope.

“...you really can’t tell what a person has been through by just looking at them. This experience has given me an empathy for others that I did not have before.”

Sisters pictured from left to right – Jennifer Schensib, Laura Temple, Sarah Matos, and Kathy Kilby.

You really can’t tell what a person has been through by just looking at them. This experience has given me an empathy for others that I did not have before.”

Sisters pictured from left to right – Jennifer Schensib, Laura Temple, Sarah Matos, and Kathy Kilby.
ERIKA STALLINGS
New York, NY, BRCA2 Previvor, Age 31
Co-Chair of the Basser Center’s Young Leadership Council

Erika was too young to understand the first time her mother, Samantha, was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 28. Samantha went into remission, but by the time Erika was a senior in college 14 years later, her mother’s cancer had returned. That was 2007, and available genetic testing revealed her mom’s BRCA2 mutation. When Erika turned 29, she decided to confront the possibility of having a BRCA mutation herself.

After discovering she also carried a BRCA2 mutation, Erika weighed her options. A prophylactic mastectomy seemed to be the best choice for her medically, but she knew, as a young single woman, that enduring such a drastic change would be emotionally and physically challenging. With her mother’s cancer journey in mind, Erika ultimately decided to undergo the surgery. She was grateful to have an amazing and protective support group throughout the entire process—her devoted circle of friends took turns going with her to different doctor appointments, and even threw her a post-surgery celebration.

Although Erika knew BRCA mutations impact African Americans, particularly with strong family histories like hers, she couldn’t find a single article about a personal experience with a BRCA mutation written by a woman of color. She decided to write her own article, which was eventually featured on the website, Jezebel. Among the positive responses to the article was a message from the Basser Center’s Outreach manager, who noticed Erika’s gift for explaining this difficult subject. With their encouragement, Erika organized an event with her law firm, Kelley Drye and Warren LLP, to focus on the legal implications of BRCA. The successful event was moderated by Honorable Barbara Jaffe, Acting Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, and featured Dr. Susan Domchek and Dr. Kathie-Ann Joseph, a breast surgeon at NYU School of Medicine. Erika’s continued engagement with the Center has led to her role as co-chair of the newly formed Basser Young Leadership Council. Erika’s drive to educate others about BRCA mutations had found a new platform.

“Since learning about my BRCA mutation status, one of my goals is to make sure all communities are aware of the importance of knowing how one’s family history impacts cancer risk. And Basser has been incredibly supportive of every idea I’ve had.”
To say Steven Merlin lives a healthy lifestyle would be quite the understatement. He takes extraordinarily good care of his health and body. His diet and 50-mile bike rides were legendary. So when he wasn’t feeling like his usual self in May of 2012, and had to skip the beach on a perfect Memorial Day weekend, he knew something wasn’t right.

At that time, he was working at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. His primary care physician said, “Let’s wait a few days and see.” But when his urine turned dark and his eyes became jaundiced, he went back for more tests. His physician referred him to a specialist who scheduled an endoscopy the very next morning. The procedure revealed a very aggressive pancreatic tumor. Because he was in excellent physical shape, he was a terrific candidate for the Whipple procedure, a complex operation to remove part of the pancreas, small intestine, and gallbladder. His surgeon scheduled the procedure immediately.

Since Steven carried a BRCA mutation, he was a candidate for a PARP inhibitor clinical trial after his cancer was discovered to have metastasized after initial chemotherapy. Steven threw himself into finding the best treatment options. During his research, one name kept coming up over and over: Dr. Susan Domchek. Clinical trials were showing improved outcomes for BRCA-related pancreatic cancer patients using PARP inhibitors. That’s when the stars began to align and Steven enrolled in the clinical trial.

After more than two years on a PARP inhibitor, things look very positive. Steven has barely skipped a beat during his treatment, keeping a close eye on his diet, continuing to set goals, and looking to the future.

Steven also works hard to be a positive role model in his community. He mentors medical students so they can be better physicians. And he shares his story with other cancer patients, especially those with pancreatic cancer. Through Steven, they can see living proof that the Basser Center is winning the war on BRCA-related cancer.

“You’re going to see more and more patients like me, showing dramatic improvement because of new targeted therapies.”
CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF HOPE

Since its establishment, the Basser Center has much to celebrate. We are thrilled for Mindy and Jon Gray’s recent $21 million gift, which brings their investment in the Center to an astounding $55 million. Through the commitment of our generous donors and philanthropic partners, the Basser Center is changing the future for generations to come.

In just five years, we have accomplished so much:

- 26 investigators funded at Penn
- 12 institutions funded worldwide
- 1,500 people received genetic counseling
- 1,900 individuals in research registry
- 47 outreach events
- 1.7 million people reached through social media
- $68 million dollars raised
- Countless people given hope

“We have been awed by the advancements made possible through the research and collaborations at the Basser Center over the last five years, and are more hopeful than ever that our support will lead to the prevention of and cures for BRCA-related cancers.”

MINDY AND JON GRAY
Founders, Basser Center for BRCA
WE MADE TREMENDOUS PROGRESS IN 2016.

RESEARCH

SHARING KNOWLEDGE. ADVANCING SCIENCE.

The funding we provide focuses on cutting-edge science and a team approach, encouraging dynamic collaborations among top researchers in their pursuit of a cure for BRCA-related cancers. Whether the work takes place here in Philadelphia or at other research centers around the world, we are empowering scientists to join forces to improve patient care and provide better options for the next generation.
INTERNAL PENN GRANTS
ADVANCING THE SCIENCE AMONG US.

Internal funding encourages collaborators across University of Pennsylvania Schools and Centers to pursue promising and innovative science. Through these internal grants, the Basser Center provides the vital funding needed to help our scientists and physicians build upon our solid foundation in both research and patient care. Penn has always been a leader in the study of BRCA-related cancers. Through the Basser Center’s continued support, we’re poised to find the next lifesaving advancement.

Individuals who have a BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene mutation have an increased risk for developing certain cancers, including breast, ovarian, prostate, and pancreatic. These hereditary mutations can affect both men and women and can be passed down from either parent. Research funded by the Basser Center propels better prevention, screening, and treatment options for individuals with a BRCA gene mutation. Through research, we continue to bring hope to those who need it.

The following section outlines the four, multi-year, team science grants being supported by the Center.

PARP inhibitors represent a big advancement in precision medicine. Normally, when cells develop DNA breakages, the body repairs the breakage with PARP. PARP inhibitors are particularly effective in cancers associated with BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations. In cancer cells lacking BRCA, DNA repair mechanisms are already not working normally. This situation, combined with a PARP inhibitor, creates a “one-two” punch which can kill the cells and reduce tumors.

Following the approval of the first PARP inhibitor, olaparib, in 2014, the FDA approved rucaparib for BRCA-related ovarian cancer patients in 2016, making it the second FDA-approved drug for BRCA-related cancers in just two years. The Basser Center has taken a lead role in these FDA approvals.

Mutations in BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes cause deficient DNA repair that can eventually lead to cancer. However, not enough is known about how other cell functions or mechanisms behind that faulty repair let cancerous cells survive. Understanding and exploiting the way that DNA repair works is the aim of Dr. Roger Greenberg’s team.

The team is taking a unique look at a tumor’s internal environment, DNA repair sites, and a type of RNA that normally acts as the “messenger” for DNA’s instructions. Each area of study could lead to innovative clinical trials at the Basser Center. The hope is to deline out even more “pink slips” to members of cancer’s repair team (see the research update on previous page) while minimizing toxic effects to healthy, non-cancerous cells. Dr. Greenberg’s team has been able to see DNA repair and PARP inhibitors working in real time. They’ve also developed innovative PET imaging techniques that may determine which patients are most likely to respond to PARP inhibitors, as well as novel mechanisms that dictate survival of BRCA mutant cancers. The goal is to translate these basic advances into new strategies that restore cancer cells’ vulnerability to PARP inhibitors, chemotheraphy, and other targeted treatments.

The team has published numerous papers that have been featured in high-impact journals such as Cell and Nature, and have received multiple National Cancer Institute grants based on their work. Their work on novel PET imaging modalities has already entered clinical trials. It has also impacted cancer research at-large: PARP inhibitors are being tested on other cancers, and additional cancer-causing genes have been identified based on their findings.

“We have a remarkably diverse team of scientists,” says Dr. Greenberg. “By taking the great successes developed in different areas of cancer biology, we’re leveraging our scientific strengths like no one else, and frankly, changing the field. Private philanthropy lends an invaluable ability to leap into action when a promising idea emerges, which is not possible under the reporting constraints of more traditional grant funding sources.”

PARP inhibitors represent a big advancement in precision medicine. Normally, when cells develop DNA breakages, the body repairs the breakage with PARP. PARP inhibitors are particularly effective in cancers associated with BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations. In cancer cells lacking BRCA, DNA repair mechanisms are already not working normally. This situation, combined with a PARP inhibitor, creates a “one-two” punch which can kill the cells and reduce tumors.

Following the approval of the first PARP inhibitor, olaparib, in 2014, the FDA approved rucaparib for BRCA-related ovarian cancer patients in 2016, making it the second FDA-approved drug for BRCA-related cancers in just two years. The Basser Center has taken a lead role in these FDA approvals.

Mutations in BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes cause deficient DNA repair that can eventually lead to cancer. However, not enough is known about how other cell functions or mechanisms behind that faulty repair let cancerous cells survive. Understanding and exploiting the way that DNA repair works is the aim of Dr. Roger Greenberg’s team.

The team is taking a unique look at a tumor’s internal environment, DNA repair sites, and a type of RNA that normally acts as the “messenger” for DNA’s instructions. Each area of study could lead to innovative clinical trials at the Basser Center. The hope is to deline out even more “pink slips” to members of cancer’s repair team (see the research update on previous page) while minimizing toxic effects to healthy, non-cancerous cells. Dr. Greenberg’s team has been able to see DNA repair and PARP inhibitors working in real time. They’ve also developed innovative PET imaging techniques that may determine which patients are most likely to respond to PARP inhibitors, as well as novel mechanisms that dictate survival of BRCA mutant cancers. The goal is to translate these basic advances into new strategies that restore cancer cells’ vulnerability to PARP inhibitors, chemotheraphy, and other targeted treatments.

The team has published numerous papers that have been featured in high-impact journals such as Cell and Nature, and have received multiple National Cancer Institute grants based on their work. Their work on novel PET imaging modalities has already entered clinical trials. It has also impacted cancer research at-large: PARP inhibitors are being tested on other cancers, and additional cancer-causing genes have been identified based on their findings.

“We have a remarkably diverse team of scientists,” says Dr. Greenberg. “By taking the great successes developed in different areas of cancer biology, we’re leveraging our scientific strengths like no one else, and frankly, changing the field. Private philanthropy lends an invaluable ability to leap into action when a promising idea emerges, which is not possible under the reporting constraints of more traditional grant funding sources.”

Principal Investigator:
Roger Greenberg, MD, PhD

Co-Investigators:
Angela DeMichele, MD, MSCE
Robert Mach, PhD
Mehran Malvandi, PhD
David Markoff, MD, PhD
Andy Minn, MD, PhD
Warren Pear, MD, PhD
Wei Tong, PhD
Lin Zhang, MD
WE'RE NOT THROWING AWAY OUR SHOT: ELECTRIC VACCINES AND OTHER IMMUNO-TOOLS

Team Science Award in Immunoprevention

Dr. Robert Vonderheide, Director of the Abramson Cancer Center, and his team aim to develop a vaccine that can be given to BRCA mutation carriers before they develop cancer: a “polio vaccine” for BRCA. The first phase of this clinical trial is to determine the optimal vaccine dose for patients affected by a range of cancers who have completed their therapy, are in remission, and are at a high-risk for recurrence. Patients are given varying doses of a DNA vaccine delivered using electroporation to more effectively introduce the vaccine into the cell. The team is heartened by the success of the trial thus far. Trial enrollment is nearing completion and detailed studies of the immunological response are underway.

At the same time, Dr. Vonderheide’s team continues to refine laboratory models to help narrow down complementary immunotherapy targets. These targets could either disrupt the internal environment of the cancer cell or manipulate an immune response “checkpoint.” His team is also working to identify factors in tumor cell immunity, how cancer cells can evade the immune system, and whether mutations in the “power house” of the cell—known as mitochondria—can lead to a new cancer treatment target.

“Penn is an epicenter for immunology,” says Dr. Vonderheide. “Our doctors and nurses have a deep understanding of immunotherapy and gene therapy. And our world-class team of scientists is full of experts in BRCA biology. Genetic susceptibility to cancer presents us with a huge challenge and, with the resources of the Basser Center, we’re in the fortunate primary position to solve it.”

Principal Investigator:
Robert H. Vonderheide, MD, DPhil

Principal Investigators:
Andrea Facciabene, PhD
Katherine Nathanson, MD
Daniel Powell, PhD
Ben Stanger, MD, PhD
David Weiner, PhD
E. John Wherry, PhD

GIVING THE PINK SLIP TO CANCER’S REPAIR TEAM

Overcoming PARP inhibitor (PARPi) resistance by targeting the ATR-CHK1 pathway in BRCA1-deficient ovarian and pancreatic cancers.

Among the most promising classes of drugs in fighting BRCA-related cancers are PARP inhibitors, which can stop cancerous cells from repairing themselves and continuing to survive, grow, and reproduce. Cancer cells that have been damaged—but unfortunately not destroyed—by chemotherapy or other means can potentially be targeted by this “second round punch” of PARP inhibitors, thereby killing the cancer cells. But most BRCA-related cancers eventually develop resistance to these targeted therapies.

Drs. Eric Brown and Fiona Simpkins are looking for new targets that, combined with PARP inhibitors, could overcome this resistance. Using mouse models that mimic patients with BRCA-related ovarian cancer, the team has identified two promising targets that helped the PARP inhibitor cause tumor regression. In fact, these new targets may be effective in non-BRCA-related cancers as well. The team’s next step includes further exploration of how cancer genes and proteins are affected by these drugs so that patients may be effectively identified as candidates for new combination therapies.

The work has attracted funding from the Department of Defense and National Institutes of Health. As a result, the team will be launching a Phase I clinical trial in 2017. In combination with PARP inhibitors, the trial will test therapeutic cocktails in 60 patients with recurrent BRCA-related ovarian cancer.

“As a gynecologic oncologist, I see so many young women and mothers with ovarian cancer. We urgently need new treatment options to extend and improve their lives, and the Basser Center has accelerated this process,” says Dr. Simpkins. “At Penn, I’m surrounded by the brightest minds who share a common goal: how can we beat ovarian cancer? I know I’m at the right place to realize this goal.”

Principal Investigators:
Eric Brown, PhD
Fiona Simpkins, MD

Co-Investigators:
Mark Morgan, MD
Katherine Nathanson, MD
Ben Stanger, MD, PhD
Rugang Zhang, PhD
TALK, TEXT, OR TWEET: OUTREACH BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY
Optimizing Precision Risk Assessment and Access to Genetic Services for BRCA1/2 Mutation Carriers: “The Telegenetics Study”

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Genetic counseling is the first step in developing a plan for effectively identifying those with a BRCA mutation. Dr. Angela Bradbury seeks to understand if remote genetic counseling—where patients at medical centers without genetic counselors receive genetic counseling by phone or videoconference—will result in more at-risk patients and families getting the genetic services and information they need to make critical health decisions.

Since the project was originally launched, Dr. Bradbury has added three new community partners, and has enrolled more than 80 patients. Her team has found that while many patients in underserved communities historically have been hesitant to seek care at, or are not able to travel to, large institutions, they have actually been receptive to telegenetic outreach.

This study has had a powerful impact across the nation. The Penn telegenetics program and the study have been publicized through LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, and Penn Medicine’s blog. This study is the model that is also being utilized for other patients without access to genetic services. Dr. Bradbury and the program lead two similar NIH-funded studies utilizing remote genetic counseling in a national Alzheimer’s disease prevention trial and for patients with potential inherited cancer risk in the national NCI match precision medicine study. The Penn telegenetics program now offers genetic services collectively to patients at more than 60 medical sites across the country.

“By taking a risk and making this innovative research a priority, the Basser Center has helped us identify many BRCA carriers, whom otherwise might not have known their risk. These individuals represent just one person within entire families that have now been BRCA-identified,” says Dr. Bradbury.

Principal Investigator:
Angela R. Bradbury, MD

EXTERNAL GRANTS PROGRAM
SHARING RESOURCES. PUSHING THE LIMITS.

The Basser Center has pushed the boundaries and changed the rules of traditional academic research by funding research outside of Penn. Our external grants are the best way to help the brightest scientific minds around the world work together to develop more advanced care and find a cure for BRCA-related cancers. This cross-team collaboration keeps the entire research community focused on creating a better future for people affected by a BRCA mutation. That’s team science.

2016 FUNDED GRANTS

Four one-year Basser Innovation Awards were given in 2016. These projects represent high-risk, high-reward ideas that have the potential to change the course of BRCA-related research. Research for ideas of this type often go unfunded by traditional mechanisms. As a result of Basser Center funding, several past Innovation Award winners have gone on to receive additional grants for their Basser Center projects through organizations like the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Tony Huang, PhD
New York University School of Medicine
Determine the Role of Dormant Origin Firing in Modulating BRCA1 Haploinsufficiency

Jeffrey Parvin, MD, PhD
Ohio State University School of Medicine
Analysis of BRCA1 Missense Variants in DNA Repair

Richard T. Pomerantz, PhD
Temple University Lewis Katz School of Medicine
Targeting DNA Polymerase δ for Precision Medicine in BRCA Deficient Cancers

Patrick Sung, DPhil
Yale School of Medicine
Roles of BRCA1 in RAD51-mediated Homologous Recombination and Tumor Suppression
THE BASSER GLOBAL PRIZE

The Basser Global Prize honors a visionary scientist who has advanced the research of BRCA1/2-related cancer that has led to improvements in clinical care. But it is more than an honor – it is a unique research grant. Traditional funding mechanisms encourage small iterative steps. In contrast, the Basser Global Prize is completely unrestricted and is intended to encourage innovative and bold BRCA1/2-related research efforts.

The Basser Global Prize was established and endowed by Shari Basser Potter and Len Potter and is awarded annually at the Basser Scientific Symposium, an event that attracts researchers and clinicians from around the world. Nominees for the prize include some of the world’s most accomplished basic, translational, and clinical researchers working in the field. The goal of the prize is to further support their work in an effort to eliminate the devastating impact of these genetic mutations on patients and their families.

2015 – David Livingston, MD Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center Boston, Massachusetts

2014 – Mary-Claire King, PhD University of Washington Seattle, Washington

2013 – Alan Ashworth, PhD, FRS Institute for Cancer Research London, England

PAST RECIPIENTS:

The Basser Global Prize is a unique research grant. Traditional funding mechanisms encourage small iterative steps. In contrast, the Basser Global Prize is completely unrestricted and is intended to encourage innovative and bold BRCA1/2-related research efforts.

PAST RECIPIENTS:

2016 BASSER GLOBAL PRIZE RECIPIENT

Steven Narod, MD, FRCPC, FRSC

Two decades ago, Dr. Steven Narod helped identify the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes. Since then, he has become the world’s most-cited breast cancer scientist, having published more than 800 peer-reviewed papers. As director of the Familial Breast Cancer Research Unit and a senior scientist at the Women’s College Hospital in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Dr. Narod continues to make significant contributions to the assessment of cancer risk and how to reduce its mortality in BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutation carriers. Throughout his research career, he has accumulated a database of more than 15,000 women with mutations from 30 countries, which facilitates understanding, research, and treatment of breast and ovarian cancers worldwide.

“We are all partners in this collective mission to fight these destructive BRCA gene mutations and provide today’s generation, and all those that follow, with better choices for detection, risk mitigation, and treatment.”

SHARI AND LEN POTTER
Founders, Basser Global Prize
INFORMING COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE

Helping individuals and families around the world understand what is known about BRCA mutations is one of our primary tasks. Since people can share information more easily than ever before, we can be creative in how we reach the communities affected by BRCA mutations. Whether it’s through a webinar, a live seminar, a sharable message or a virtual event, our efforts are putting information about BRCA mutations out there for people worldwide.

IN 2016:

746,000 Facebook posts and shares
440,000 reached on Facebook and Twitter
12 outreach events

OUTREACH

INFORMING OUR COMMUNITIES

Our efforts to reach out to the individuals and affected communities with information about testing, resources, and available options can help every person with a BRCA mutation make more informed choices.
Screened *Pink & Blue: Colors of Hereditary Cancer*, a documentary featuring Executive Director Susan Domchek, MD, with HIS Breast Cancer Awareness

Co-sponsored more than 130 *Sharsheret Teal/Pink Shabbat* educational programs across the country throughout 2016

Launched @BasserBRCA Twitter account

Held Elizabeth Prostic Memorial Webinar about BRCA mutations in men

Launched Fourth Annual *Protect Your Girls* fundraiser, sponsored by *Glamour Magazine*, was held in New York City

Hosted fourth annual Basser Scientific Symposium

Hosted second annual Breakthroughs & Discoveries Panel event, featuring an international panel of experts

Launched Basser Young Leadership Council

Hosted Elizabeth Prostic Memorial Webinar about understanding cancer risk

#PrevivorTakeover on Basser social media with Young Leadership Council member Katrina Wells

Philly.com hosted a live webchat on genetic cancer risk with the Basser Center

La Petite Robe fundraiser held at Saks Fifth Avenue flagship store in Manhattan

Veronica Beard’s #VBGIVESBACK campaign featured Mindy Gray & Shari Potter

J.P. Morgan Private Bank hosted an educational forum, Empowerment Through Knowledge, with speakers from the Basser Center and Bright Pink in Chicago

Basser Young Leadership Council hosted “In Our Genes: An Evening of Storytelling” in New York City

Partnered with *Sharsheret* for a Germantown Jewish Centre outreach event

Orthodox Jewish community outreach event held at Lower Merion Synagogue

Fourth Annual *Protect Your Girls* fundraiser, sponsored by *Glamour Magazine*, was held in New York City

Hosted fourth annual Basser Scientific Symposium

Hosted second annual Breakthroughs & Discoveries Panel event, featuring an international panel of experts

Fifth Annual Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Fundraiser in Connecticut featuring guest speaker Hoda Kotb supports Basser and FORCE

Fundraiser for the upcoming documentary *Dear Cancer, Love Stacy*, featuring Stacy Muddelman, a BRCA-related breast cancer survivor

J.P. Morgan Private Bank hosted an educational forum, Empowerment Through Knowledge, with speakers from the Basser Center and Bright Pink in Chicago

Basser Young Leadership Council hosted “In Our Genes: An Evening of Storytelling” in New York City

Partnered with *Sharsheret* for a Germantown Jewish Centre outreach event

Orthodox Jewish community outreach event held at Lower Merion Synagogue

Fifth Annual Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Fundraiser in Connecticut featuring guest speaker Hoda Kotb supports Basser and FORCE

Fundraiser for the upcoming documentary *Dear Cancer, Love Stacy*, featuring Stacy Muddelman, a BRCA-related breast cancer survivor

Veronica Beard’s #VBGIVESBACK campaign featured Mindy Gray & Shari Potter

J.P. Morgan Private Bank hosted an educational forum, Empowerment Through Knowledge, with speakers from the Basser Center and Bright Pink in Chicago

Basser Young Leadership Council hosted “In Our Genes: An Evening of Storytelling” in New York City

Partnered with *Sharsheret* for a Germantown Jewish Centre outreach event

Orthodox Jewish community outreach event held at Lower Merion Synagogue
Each donation we receive, large and small, strengthens our collective impact on improving the odds and options for so many people affected by BRCA1/2 mutations.

**IN 2016:**

- **$3.3M** RESEARCH SUPPORT PROVIDED
- **$5.2M** DONATIONS RECEIVED
- **1,018** GIFTS RECEIVED
- **$1.9M** CORE PLATFORMS AND EDUCATION EFFORTS SUPPORTED
We’re no strangers to intense competition. In a spectacular six-week campaign throughout September and October of 2016, the Basser Center for BRCA competed with more than 160 women’s health organizations for the $1,000,000 grand prize in the Revlon LOVE IS ON Million Dollar Challenge.

A powerful display of collective effort
Basser wins second place! Thanks to our many generous supporters, with an incredible matching gift by Mindy and Jon Gray, and Revlon’s additional $100,000 prize awarded to the 2nd place winner, we raised more than $1.2 million for the Basser Center.

We truly felt the LOVE. Thank you, Revlon!
THE BASSER CENTER YOUNG LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (YLC)

The next generation of leadership

The Young Leadership Council (YLC) of the Basser Center for BRCA is a group of men and women who serve as the next generation of leadership volunteers and supporters of the Basser Center for BRCA. The YLC is a forum for young adults to become more engaged with the mission of the Center, stay informed about the latest advances in BRCA-related cancer research, help with philanthropic support and awareness, as well as provide counsel within their areas of expertise.

All funds raised support the work of junior investigators at the Basser Center, and YLC members play an active role in awarding these critical resources.

If you have questions about the YLC or would like to join us, please contact Kelly Baldwin Heid at kbheid@upenn.edu or 215.746.8799.

Co-Chairs
Rachel L. Presser
Erika Stallings

Event Committee Chair
Suzanne Zuppello

Council Members
Jodi Berger
Maureen Boesen
Kathryn Buckley
Jamie Burak
Cherie H. Calingasan
Katherine DiLullo
Lisa Donnelly
Elizabeth Drake
Peri Edelstein
Dorie Eisenstein
Galia Farber
Denise H. Frederickson
Lindsay Goldblatt
Shannon Pulaski Hennessey
Raven A. Holzer
Lindsay Jacobson
Michele Kaplan
Carlette Knox
Eliberty Lopez
Jamie Ludwig, PhD
Sara Lustgarten
Stephanie Marton
Carolyn McAnlis
Dani Nodelman
Calle Norman
Laura J. Reinke
Hillary Rieger
Ilana Katz Sand, MD
Michael E. Sand
Kelly Scheib
Bridget Stillwell
Katrina A. Wells
Vanessa Woodman

In Our Genes: An Evening of Storytelling
Our 2016 inaugural event, In Our Genes: An Evening of Storytelling, was a huge success, drawing more than 130 attendees and raising $33,000. The October 5th event event at Hudson Terrace in New York City featured stories from three individuals affected by BRCA: public speaker and comedian Caitlin Brodnick; acclaimed author, television writer, and women’s health advocate Jessica Queller; and Cheddar founder and CEO Jon Steinberg.
2016 brought together an impressive group of partners and collaborators who have helped us continue to spread knowledge and work toward our shared mission of educating at-risk individuals.

IN THE NEWS
Promoting the conversation

Press coverage about our work and partnerships with like-minded organizations continues to share our message with high-risk individuals, improving understanding, and highlighting access to genetic counseling and testing. Researchers and clinicians supported by the Basser Center for BRCA were included in more than 100 news articles, a few of which are highlighted below:

Cancer Immunotherapy and Beyond
Robert H. Vonderheide, MD, DPhil, shares insights on progress in the field of cancer immunotherapy and how embracing an even broader view of cancer biology and therapy will continue to strengthen efforts. “In the future, we want to understand the whole problem: genetics, metabolism, immunology, vascular biology – everything at once. Technology is making this multidisciplinary strategy possible,” Dr. Vonderheide said.

Promising Cancer Drug Exploits BRCA Genetic Mutations
A targeted therapy shown to benefit ovarian cancer patients with a BRCA mutation also elicited responses in previously treated pancreatic cancer patients with the mutation. Susan M. Domchek, MD, said the results “demonstrate the clinical significance of the BRCA cancer genes outside of breast and ovarian cancer, and not just in women.”

Knowing Their Breast Cancer Risk May Empower Teens
Basser Center-led research shows that knowing they have a family history of breast cancer or a high-risk gene mutation doesn’t lead to increased anxiety or depression in teen girls. “These teens may actually have greater self-esteem and a better understanding of cancer risk than their peers,” study author Angela Bradbury, MD, said.

Cancer Risk Genetic Testing Reports Can Vary from Lab to Lab
Testing for gene mutations linked to cancer risk may guide how a patient is treated, but the determination of whether a mutation is dangerous or benign can vary from lab to lab. “As we do testing on more and more genes that we didn’t use to test for there is more uncertainty,” study author Susan M. Domchek, MD, said.
Our Leadership Council is an active group dedicated to enhancing and supporting the Basser Center’s broader mission. The Council is passionate about securing the resources needed to accelerate BRCA-related research, care, and education, as well as generating ideas that can provide hope to every patient and family member affected by a BRCA mutation.

Chair
Mindy Gray

Council Members
Cindy Gavin
Susan Getz
Michael Haas
Lisa Jacobs
Michele Konner
Shari Potter

Jessica Queller
Heidi Rieger
Stacey Sager
Jill Steinberg
Dana Zucker
Anonymous members

“In just five short years the Basser Center has amassed a network of advocates, created a haven for families who need help, and established a sanctuary where researchers can collaborate with the greatest minds and acquire resources to advance their innovative ideas—all of which has been made possible through our community and philanthropic partners.”

J. LARRY JAMESON, MD, PHD
Executive Vice President, University of Pennsylvania for the Health System
Dean, Perelman School of Medicine
DONORS

Gifts listed below are from January 1 through December 31, 2016, and reflect cumulative giving during that time period.

$250,000 and above
Phil and the late Pearl Basner
Mindy and Jon Grey
Shari and Len Potter
Carol Stone and Norman Stone, Esquire

$100,000 - $249,999

$50,000 - $99,999

$1,000 - $2,499

$499 and below

3534
AquaHab, LP
Susan and Keith Armstrong
Dr. Amy M. Amett
Susan Aron
Sheryl L. Auerbach, Esquire
Barbara and Jonathan Amett
Kathleen Babcock
Christina H. Bailey
Scott Baldwin
Susan and Chuck Baldwin
Laurie Barlev
Lauren Barnardjian
Richard Bean
Elliot Becker
Cori and Seth Berger
Jonathan Berger
Mitchell Berger
Phylis Berk
Martin Benson
Harry Brikennuth
Jared Binkow
Ross Birnbaum
Ronnie Caress
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Caramanna
Lisa Campbell
Amy Caldeira
Fernando Calabria
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Caravenna
Ronnie Carens
Laurie Carlson-Olender and John Olender
Chris Carson
Christopher Carter
Mr. and Mrs. George G. Caruso
Anne Caywood
Jamey Chapeau
Nasser Charles
Joseph T. Charneski
Juliando Deherrera
Jason Chrein
James Christopher
Frank Coakley
John P. Collie, Jr.
Michael E. Collie
Dana Clark
Ruth Closser
James Clive
Jeremy Cohen
Joy and Andrew Cohen
Jude B. Cohen
Linda Cohen
Lisa Cohen
Tara Cohen
Joy Cohen
Nikki Cole
Erica Colton
Michelle Colton-Finis
Derek Conn
Robert Cook
Mary Compton
Elise Cotter and Alan Cotter, Esquire
Susan Lockman Ellenberg
Robin Eisenman
Wendy Eisenberg
Vicki Elker
Emmy Emmerman
Donna Ennis
Yelena Eten
Craig Evans
Lori Evans
Lisa Faden
Steven Falkoff
Carol Fanerog
Robert Farinhas
Valerie A. Feder
Thomas Federman
Ken Fee
Juli Feldstein
Jose Fernandez
Laura and Dan Fernando
Arnette Fensterberg
Andrew Fields
Dina Finch
Heather Freeman
Gina and Andrew Finkenstein
Emily Forcht
Ariela Fleckner
Mark and Judy Fleming
Allison and Brett Fleckinger
Lisa and David Forman
Brian Forst
Karen Fox
Max Frankel
Wynne Frankel
Dana H. Frederickson
Mr. and Mrs. Howard L. Freeman
James Franklin
Jessica Franklin
Denise Funkhouse
Jeffrey Gaff
Tamarine Gallagher
Jenny Gelllussi
Ross Gant
Amanda Gans
Patricia Gardner
Tiffany Gardner
Cara Gelfand
Paul Gilbert
Shelton Glick
Richard Gladstone
Brooke Glaseman
Robert Gerstler
Tamara Goldberg
Mark Goldschmidt
Nancy Goldberg
Bruce Goldstein
Dr. Arlene Goldman
Ellen Goldman
Margaret Goldman
Melanie Goldsmith
David Gonzales
Amy F. Gordon
Helen Green
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard E. Greenberg
Rachel Greenfield
Keni and Russell Greenseid
Larry Greenspan
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard E. Greenberg
Helen Greenspan
Mr. and Mrs. Howard L. Freeman
James Franklin
Jessica Franklin
Denise Funkhouse
Jeffrey Gaff
Tamarine Gallagher
Jenny Gelllussi
Ross Gant
Amanda Gans
Patricia Gardner
Tiffany Gardner
Cara Gelfand
Paul Gilbert
Shelton Glick
Richard Gladstone
Brooke Glaseman
Robert Gerstler
Tamara Goldberg
Mark Goldschmidt
Nancy Goldberg
Bruce Goldstein
Dr. Arlene Goldman
Ellen Goldman
Margaret Goldman
Melanie Goldsmith
David Gonzales
Amy F. Gordon
Helen Green
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard E. Greenberg
Rachel Greenfield
Keni and Russell Greenspan
Green Street Advisors, LLC
Mirja Grider
Lauren Großman and Robert Herzog
Samantha Grin
Andrew L. Guest
Natalie Gubert
Mindy Gura
Susan R. Ham
Elizabeth Hale
Andrea Halperin and Dr. Peter Halperin
Joan and Harvey Hankin
Emily Hartwell
Jill and Lloyd Harris
Mason Harris
Susan S. Hartry
Susan Hatfield and Dr. Jerold Zettels
Jennifer Y. Hatzmann
Lisa Kiger Haywood
Lisa Hedgepeth
Elizabeth Heid
Kelly and Markham Heid
James Heinz
Nina Heisler
Dr. Deborah Hemel
Judy Henry
Jeffrey L. Herlihy
Laura Heron
Jill Hess
Kathleen P. Hartkorn
Craig S. Hey
Kathy R. Hays
Scott S. Heyman
Kathleen M. Higgins
Jennifer and Howard Hoffman
Julia Hochstetler
Jay Hirschson
Jill Hoffstein
Dr. Jennifer Hogan
Adam Hollander
Angela Sheen
Tami Sheena
Jill Adler Shein
Andrei Sholomon
Julian Shipkorn
Bar R. Siegel
Lauren Siegel
Mr. and Mrs. Evan Silverman
Linda Silverstein and Dr. Peter Silverstein
Lauren Simmons
Jessica Singer
Randi Singer
Erika Stoeckly
Jade Slater
Craig Smith
Mike Smith
Peter Smith
Andrew Snell
Barbara Solit and Dr. Brian Solit
Lisa Sommer-Balog
Jenifer and Andrew Sossen
Jules and Christopher Spaeth
Richard Spano
Neal Spinney
Vern T. Spurlock
Suzanne and Brian M. Stadler
Erika Stallings
Bonnie Stanfield
Phyllis Stearns
Beth Stearman and Mitchell Bark
Remie and Richard Steinberg
Lisa B. Stearn
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. Stern
Katherine Stnons
Joyce C. Stone
John Stuppi
Daren Sukonick
Emmy Sunshine
KJ Surkan
Melissa Sutton
Heather Syrecek
Brian Syzmanski
Rebecca Syzmanska
Margot Talian
Denise and Mitchell Tanoman
Rob Tappenden
J. Tauter
Hillary Thomas
Kevin Thomas
Mitch Tivas
Laura Tigel
Trinity Lutheran Nursery School
Trinity School
Patricia Tustin
Larry Uffer
Dr. Julia Uffner
Barbara S. Varbalow and
Michael D. Varbalow, Esquire
Ann Varga
Elizabeth Vaynerchuk
Christine Villari
Anthony Voin
Carulla and Mark Vanderheide
Michael Vorhees
Victoria Voytk and Robert Fogelson
Jane A. Wagner
Pamela and Harlan Wakoff
Dr. Susan Domchek
Ronnie Dwyer
Edith Echols
Irene Edelstein
Thelma Feden
Edith and Jonathan Faisbinder
Laura Feministo
Ed Field
Dr. Kevin Fox
Henry Freeman
Franklin Gabel
Shirley Gardner
Heidi Malkin Gartenberg
Tori Gavin
Thomas Germanovich, Sr.
Randee Gerson
Alicia Weinstein
Sara A. Weiss
Bob Wells
Kerina A. Wells
Susan and Richard Wieman
Marie Wiener
Matthew Wessendorf
Rachel Weiss
Karen and Thomas White
Matt White
Ronald Whitleck
Stacey Wilcox
Amanda J. Wolf
Elizabeth Wolford
Dana Wolinsky
Wolters Kluwer Health and Eliot Becker
Amy Wood
Chris Woodard
Vanessa Woodward
Blakie F. Worth
Deborah Yassar
John Yorio
Mindy Zakarin
Dr. Angela Bradbury
Kathryn Cade
Nancy Clarke
Marjorie Cohen
Evelyn Cotler
Helen D’Andrea
Irène Darty
Jack Zobble
Nora Zucker
Sue Ganz and
Robert Ganz
Sara A. Weiss
Bob Wells
Kerina A. Wells
Susan and Richard Wieman
Marie Wiener
Matthew Wessendorf
Rachel Weiss
Karen and Thomas White
Matt White
Ronald Whitleck
Stacey Wilcox
Amanda J. Wolf
Elizabeth Wolford
Dana Wolinsky
Wolters Kluwer Health and Eliot Becker
Amy Wood
Chris Woodard
Vanessa Woodward
Blakie F. Worth
Deborah Yassar
John Yorio
Mindy Zakarin
Dr. Angela Bradbury
Kathryn Cade
Nancy Clarke
Marjorie Cohen
Evelyn Cotler
Helen D’Andrea
Irène Darty
Jack Zobble
Nora Zucker
Sue Ganz and
Robert Ganz
2016 BASSER CENTER TRIBUTES
The Basser Center for BRCA has received many generous and thoughtful gifts in honor, memory, and celebration of the following people and organizations:
THANK YOU

On behalf of all our patients, families, researchers, caregivers, and staff — thank you, from the bottom of our hearts. You make our work possible.

Learn more about the Basser Center for BRCA by visiting basser.org or calling 215.662.2748.

For more information about supporting the Basser Center for BRCA, please contact Laura Ferraiolo at 215.746.2948 or lferr@upenn.edu.