Steering Committee Members

Fatima Cardoso, MD  
Portugal

Marc Beishon  
United Kingdom

Maria João Cardoso, MD  
Portugal

Dian Corneliussen-James  
United States

Julie Gralow, MD  
United States

Shirley Mertz  
United States

Musa Mayer  
United States

Diego Paonessa  
Argentina

Evi Papadopoulos  
Cyprus

Fedro Alessandro Peccatori, MD  
Italy

Kimberly Sabelko, PhD  
United States

Naomi SAKurai  
Japan

Danielle Spence  
Australia

Chairperson

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Steering Committee Members

Fatima Cardoso, MD
Dr. Cardoso is the Director of the Breast Unit at Champalimaud Clinical Center, Lisbon, Portugal. Her medical degree is from University of Porto, Portugal, with fellowships at Jules Bordet Institute (JIB), Brussels and MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston. She completed 10 years as Assistant Professor at JIB and was a scientific director of TRANSBIG (EU Framework VI). Currently, she is a member of the ESMO Board of Directors & Chair of National Representatives Committee, part of the EORTC Board of Directors & Chair of EORTC-Breast Group, ESO Breast Cancer Program Coordinator and Chair of the Advanced Breast Cancer International Consensus Guidelines, ASCO International Affairs and Breast Cancer Guideline Committees. Her research interests include biology of breast cancer, prognostic and predictive markers, and new anticancer agents.

Marc Beishon
Marc Beishon is a freelance health, science and technology writer. He has worked for the European School of Oncology’s Cancer World magazine since 2004 and is a member of the advocacy committee at the 2015 Advanced Breast Cancer conference in Lisbon.

Maria Joao Cardoso, MD
Maria João Cardoso was appointed as Head Breast Surgeon at the Champalimaud Breast Unit in 2011. Her undergraduate and postgraduate studies were undertaken at the Porto Faculty of Medicine. She has dedicated her career to breast surgery and started her training in oncoplastic surgery at the Institut Gustave Roussy in France. From 2007 to 2010 she was Clinical Director of the S. João Hospital Breast Unit in Porto and from 2004-2010 she was a member of the Ethics Committee at the same hospital. She holds a PhD in Medicine from University of Porto with the topic of objective evaluation of aesthetic results in breast cancer conservative treatment. From 2006 to 2011 she was Assistant Professor of the Department of Surgery of the Porto Faculty of Medicine. Dr MJ Cardoso is co-coordinator of the Breast Research group at INESC Porto with Professor Jaime Cardoso. As of 2012, she has published more than 30 papers in international journals as first author and has also co-authored more than 80 full communications in major international conferences. She is a member of the editorial board of The Breast journal and a reviewer of several international journals. One of her main interests is quality of life of breast cancer patients and she is the president of Mama Help a Support Centre for Breast Cancer Patients. She is a member of the board of the Portuguese Society of Senology.
Dian Corneliussen-James

Following graduate school, "CJ" (Dian) Corneliussen-James joined the United States Air Force and over the next 24 years served in a host of military intelligence positions around the world. Retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel, CJ began a second career at the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, where she was a senior analyst working to resolve the cases of Americans who remained unaccounted-for from past conflicts and wars. She left that position after her previous breast cancer (2004) metastasized to her lung in 2006. Shocked to learn how little support and scientific research existed for stage IV cancer, in 2007 CJ established a regional metastatic breast cancer (MBC) support program. It grew rapidly and just fourteen months later CJ banded together with three other women to found METAvivor Research and Support - the only USA organization exclusively awarding MBC research grants through a scientific peer review process. To date METAvivor has awarded $1.8 million in MBC research grants.

Julie Gralow, MD

Dr. Gralow is the Jill Bennett Endowed Professor of Breast Medical Oncology and Professor of Global Health at the University of Washington School of Medicine and a Member of the Clinical Research Division at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. She is Director of Breast Medical Oncology at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. She is actively involved in clinical care, education, and research, and is the PI on numerous local and national clinical trials related to breast cancer treatment, prevention, and survivorship. Her area of research specialization is the relationship between breast cancer and the bone. Dr. Gralow is SWOG Executive Officer for Breast and Lung Cancer. She is currently a member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology's (ASCO) International Affairs Committee, the ASCO Global Oncology Task Force, and the ASCO Breast Cancer Advisory Guideline Group. She received an ASCO Statesman Award in 2008, was elected a Fellow of the American College of Physicians in 2008, and received the Seattle Business Magazine Leaders in Healthcare Achievement in Community Outreach Award in 2014. Dr. Gralow is committed to improving the quality of life for breast cancer patients through education, exercise and diet, and to promoting breast cancer awareness in the community. She is Medical Director and Team Physician for Team Survivor Northwest, aimed at helping female cancer survivors improve their health through fitness and exercise. She is also founder of the Women's Empowerment Cancer Advocacy Network (WE CAN), a group dedicated to empowering women cancer patient advocates in low and middle income countries.
Shirley Mertz

In 2005, Shirley Mertz began advocating on behalf of others living with metastatic breast cancer through the Metastatic Breast Cancer Network (MBCN), a non-profit, patient-led organization that organizes an annual metastatic breast cancer conference for patients and their caregivers. In 2009, Shirley successfully led a group of patients to Washington D.C. to lobby the U.S. Congress to pass a resolution declaring October 13 as National Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day. As President of MBCN, Shirley calls for more public understanding of the disease, focused research and helpful information for patients. Shirley is a member of the Executive Committee of the Metastatic Breast Cancer Alliance, the Board of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, and the patient advocate group of the Translational Breast Cancer Research Consortium. A graduate of Project LEAD and a Komen Advocate in Science, Shirley reviews research grants for the DOD Breast Cancer Research Program and Komen. In 2011 the White House honored Shirley as a Champion of Change in Breast Cancer. She has served on the advisory committee for breast cancer patient advocacy for both ABC2 and ABC3.

Musa Mayer

Musa Mayer is a 26-year survivor, advocate and author of three books on breast cancer. Known for her advocacy on behalf of people living with metastatic disease and their families, her articles on breast cancer and advocacy have appeared in magazines, newsletters, websites and scientific journals. As a research advocate, she serves on steering and data monitoring committees for clinical trials and patient registries, and on a Department of Defense funded Center of Excellence studying brain metastasis, for which she co-developed BrainMetsBC.org, the only resource of its kind. Her patient surveys have been widely used to improve services. She is a founding member of the Metastatic Breast Cancer Alliance, a broad collaboration of support, research and advocacy organizations and industry partners. Drawing from over a decade of work as a patient representative with the Food and Drug Administration, she broadened her commitment to advocacy education by adding a module on the FDA to her online course: “Understanding Evidence-Based Healthcare: A Foundation for Action,” co-developed with epidemiologist Kay Dickersin, Director of the U.S. Cochrane Center at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Accessible through US.Cochrane.org, this free course has been completed by thousands of advocates and healthcare workers around the world. Musa’s web resource for women with metastatic breast cancer can be found at AdvancedBC.org.
Diego Paonessa

Diego Paonessa is a communications and marketing expert in the corporate and NGO sectors. He is CEO of the Argentina League Against Cancer, as well as an experienced professional with over eighteen years being the communications, including the management of the National Department of Social Development for 2 years, 3 years as a director of Communication in SES Foundation and co-founding ADVERTERE advertising agency, where he was the account director for twelve years. He currently collaborates with main international networks in support of health and cancer prevention and care in the world: ALICC, ULACCAM and MOLACAP.

Evi Papadopoulos

Evi Papadopoulos is the President of Europa Donna Cyprus and Vice President of Europa Donna the European Coalition since January 2015. She is a member of the board as well as marketing director of Kean Soft Drinks, ltd. She has received a BSc in Economics from Brunel University, Uxbridge, UK. She has participated in conferences around the globe, including The World Conference on Breast Cancer by the American Breast Cancer Coalition Brussels 1997, the Annual Advocacy Training in Milan 2003, All Pan European Europa Donna Conferences, most EBCC conferences, and ABC2 Lisbon 2013. She has participated or organized the European Parliament Brussels 2004 and pink lighting and poster exhibition, lobbying on a national level for National Screening program in Cyprus, informing women of the program and follow up, lobbying for Breast units in Cyprus (press conferences, MME presentations, TV programme appearances, lobbying Ministers and presentations in the Parliament), lobbying for local radiotherapy units, and public speeches to organised groups of women or communities for screening, prevention, their patients’ rights, medical liability and the demand for specialised care.
Fedro Alessandro Peccatori, MD

Fedro Peccatori is a medical and gynecologic oncologist whose clinical activities mainly include diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer, gynecological malignancies and tumors of young adults. He is Director of the Fertility and Procreation Unit within the Division of Gynecologic Oncology in the Department of Gynecology at the European Institute of Oncology, Milan Italy. His main research projects deal with fertility preservation and counselling in young oncological patients, pharmacological protection of ovarian function during chemotherapy, clinical and molecular characterization of pregnancy associated cancers and research protocols for the treatment of breast and gynaecological malignancies. He has acted as lecturer in a number of international meetings, and in the last 5 years has taught at Varese, Pavia and Milan University. He has been considered eligible within the 2012 Italian call for Associate Professor in Oncology and in Obstetrics and Gynecology. He is Deputy Scientific Director at the European School of Oncology (ESO). As past president of PROFERT he has contributed to build up the Italian network of fertility preservation for cancer patients. In 2012 he has received research grants from the Ministry of Health for a project on cancer and infertility (CCM program) He has acted as referee for European Journal of Chemoprevention, Annals of Oncology, The Breast, International Journal of Gynecologic Cancer, PLOS, Lancet Oncology, Eancermedicalscience. He’s in the editorial committee of Eancermedicalscience and Cancerworld.

Kimberly Sabelko, PhD

As managing director, strategic partnerships & programs, at Susan G. Komen®, Kimberly Sabelko, PhD, works closely with Komen's Scientific Advisory Board, Komen Scholars and Advocates in Science to translate scientific strategy into programs that will have an impact on the lives of breast cancer patients. She is responsible for Komen's strategic partnerships with other non-profit organizations, particularly professional and advocacy organizations focused on breast cancer and/or biomedical research, as well as government agencies such as NCI and FDA and pharmaceutical and biotech companies. She also oversees a portfolio of special grants that respond to unique opportunities to leverage resources across organizations, address critical challenges and cross-cutting issues in research, clinical practice and public health, and/or facilitate the development of infrastructure and tools that will accelerate the translation of scientific discoveries into advances in breast cancer prevention and care. Kim received her PhD in Immunology at Washington University in Saint Louis. Prior to joining Komen in 2010, she was Assistant Director for Special Programs at the American Association for Cancer Research.
Naomi Sakurai

Naomi Sakurai is the Chief Director of the HOPE project, a non-profit organization established in 2006. She was diagnosed with cancer in the summer of 2004, in her 30's. At that point, she learned to utilize her personal experience with cancer and her social skills to start a support group. This group is currently focusing its efforts on enlightening people and spreading awareness about survivorship. This group appeals to the independent livelihood and self-supporting lifestyles for patients living with the disease and their families. She has presented at the Annual meeting of Japan Society of Clinical Oncology from 2009-2012 and the 72nd Annual Congress of Japan Surgical Association. She has participated in many conferences, including the National Breast Cancer Coalition: Annual Advocacy Training Conference from 2009-2011, being a Project-Lead International in 2009, the 23rd International Breast Cancer Symposium 2010, ASCO Annual Meeting 2010-2012, SABCS 2010-2011, American Association for Cancer Research 2012, and the Survivor and Patient Advocacy Program part of the American Association for Cancer Research 2013. Her breast cancer advocacy engagement includes being a member of The Wellness Community in Japan, Chief Director of the HOPE Project, and member of Cancer Patients Support Organization. She has honors from the Junior Chamber International Japan Director’s special award (2007), Avon Products’ HELLO TOMORROW Award (2008), Chosen as the Best Survey by Healthcare and Social Policy Program of Tokyo University (2009), and a grant from The Takagi Fund for Citizen Science. She is also a Councilor for the Tokyo Metropolitan Government’s City of Welfare project and a member of the National Cancer Center’s “Patient/Citizen Panel.” She has been a breast cancer survivor since 2004.

Danielle Spence

Danielle has over twenty five years’ experience working in the health care industry across a range of organizations including public, private and not-for-profit agencies. She has a background in oncology nursing and has managed a number of supportive care projects for women with breast cancer working collaboratively with government, health professionals, consumers and other cancer care stakeholders. She has served on numerous cancer advisory groups and worked in senior policy and advocacy positions in leading cancer organizations. Her current role involves managing a national program to improve information and support for women living with secondary breast cancer.