

The Sister Study
Internal and External Consultation, Formal Reviews, and Advisory Groups

The Sister Study began development in October 1997. The study concept, drafts of the protocol, and various components of the study received extensive formal and informal review. Some reviews were mandated to meet specific administrative milestones; others were designed to better inform the study design or seek advice on “best practices” for a specific aspect of the proposed work. Most recently, the study and its progress received an outstanding evaluation by the NIEHS Division of Intramural Research Board of Scientific Counselors during the review of the Epidemiology Branch in April 2005. Key milestones in the development and review process are summarized below.

November 1997 — Concept reviewed by Interagency Steering Committee for proposed NCI/NIEHS/CDC Collaborative Study of Gene-Environment Interaction in the Etiology of Breast Cancer. Non-NIEHS Steering Committee Members were from CDC, DHHS, NIOSH, and NCI.

1998-1999 — Protocol development and consultation with various experts and consumer groups, e.g., National Breast Cancer Coalition and informal focus groups of different racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds.

June 1, 1999 — NIEHS Epidemiology Branch Concept Review

1999-2001 — Consultation and external peer review during protocol development from experts at CDC, USEPA, NCI, NIA, DHHS/OWH, and extramural institutions

February 2001 — Reviewed by NIEHS Board of Scientific Counselors and special ad hoc reviewers

December 2001 — Presented for discussion with NIEHS Breast Cancer Interest Group

May 2002 — Presented for discussion at NIEHS Leadership Retreat with NIEHS upper management and senior scientists, National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council, and invited outside experts.

June 2002 — Epidemiology Branch Protocol Review and Questionnaire Review

August 2002 — Reviewed for Certificate of Confidentiality

October 2002 — Initial review by NIEHS Institutional Review Board Initial Review

October 2002 through July 2003 — Office of Management and Budget Review

November 2002 — Final External Peer Review

January 2003 — Presented for discussion with National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council

January 2003 — Sister Study Minority Recruitment Strategy Meeting with leaders in breast cancer advocacy for minority populations, and experts in recruitment of minority populations for research.

February and July 2003 — NIEHS Division of Intramural Research Contract Review

NIEHS Board of Scientific Counselors June 2009

Dr. Jack Keene, BSC Chair
James B. Duke Professor
Duke University
414 Jones Building
PO Box 3020, Research Dr., DUMC
Durham, NC 27710
Phone: 919/684-5138
Fax: 919/684-8735
E-mail: keene001@mc.duke.edu

Dr. Steven A. Belinsky
Director, Lung Cancer Program
Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute
2425 Ridgecrest Drive, SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108-5127
Phone: 505/348-9465
Fax: 505/348-4990
E-mail: sbelinsk@LRRRI.org

Dr. Samuel M. Cohen
Professor, Dept. of Pathology and Microbiology
University of Nebraska Medical Center
983135 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-3135
Phone: 402/559-6388
Fax: 402/559-9297
E-mail: scohen@unmc.edu

Dr. Jay I. Goodman
Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology
Michigan State University
B-440 Life Sciences Building
East Lansing, MI 48824
Phone: 517/353-9346
Fax: 517/353-8915
E-mail: Goodman3@msu.edu

Dr. Andrew H. Liu
Associate Professor, Pediatric Allergy & Immunology
National Jewish Medical & Research Center
1400 Jackson Street (K1023)
Denver, CO 80206
Phone: 303/398-1143 (office/voicemail)
Fax: 303/398-1225
E-mail: liua@njhealth.org

Dr. Thomas A. Louis
Professor, Department of Biostatistics
Johns-Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
615 North Wolfe Street, E3545
Baltimore, MD 21205-2179
Phone: 410/614-7838
Fax: 410/955-0958
E-mail: tlouis@jhsph.edu

Dr. Roberta B. Ness (Effective November 2008)
Dean, The University of Texas School of Public Health
1200 Herman Pressler, Suite W114
Houston, TX 77030
Phn: 713/500-9052
Fax: 713/500-9020
E-mail: Roberta.B.Ness@uth.tmc.edu

Dr. Jeffrey L. Thorne
Professor of Genetics and Statistics
Bioinformatics Research Center
North Carolina State University
Campus Box 7566
Raleigh, NC 27695-7566
Phone: 919/515-1946
Fax: 919/515-7315
E-mail: thorne@statgen.ncsu.edu

Ex-Officio BSC Member
Dr. Joan P. Schwartz
Assistant Director
Office of Intramural Research, OD, NIH
Building 1 – Room 152
Bethesda, MD 20892-0151
Phone: 301/496-1248
Fax: 301/402-0027
E-mail: jps@helix.nih.gov

Ad Hoc Reviewers

Dr. Amy Borenstein
Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics
College of Public Health, MDC-56
University of South Florida
13201 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard
Tampa, FL 33612-3805
Phone: 813/974-6670
Fax: 813/974-4719
E-mail: aborenst@health.usf.edu

Dr. Phyllis C. Leppert
Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Vice Chair, Office of Research Support in the Dept of
Obstetrics & Gynecology
Duke University Medical Center
Baker House, Trent Drive, Room 213
Box 3279
Durham, NC 27710
Phone: 919/668-0296
Fax: 919/688-0295
E-mail: phyllis.leppert@duke.edu

Dr. Jorn Olsen
Professor and Chair
Department of Epidemiology
School of Public Health, UCLA
650 Charles E. Young Drive, South
Room 71-264
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1772
Phone: 310/825-3516
Fax: 310/206-6039
E-mail: jo@ucla.edu

Dr. Westley H. Reeves
Professor and Chair
Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology
Box 100221
Gainesville, FL 32610
Phone: 352/273-5340
Fax: 352/392-8483
E-mail: westley.reeves@medicine.ufl.edu

Dr. David A. Savitz
Charles W. Bluhorn Professor of Community & Preventive
Medicine
Director, Disease Prevention & Public Health Institute
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
17 E. 102nd Street, West, D3-135
New York, NY 10029-6574
Phone: 212/824-7025
Fax: 212/966-0407
E-mail: david.savitz@mssm.edu

Dr. John E. Vena
University of Georgia Foundation Professor in Public Health
Head, Dept of Epidemiology & Biostatistics
College of Public Health Georgia Cancer Coalition
Distinguished Scholar - University of Georgia
132 A Paul D. Coverdell Center
Athens, GA 30602-7396
Phone: 706/583-8202
Fax: 706/583-0695
E-mail: jvena@uga.edu

Dr. Qingyi Wei
Professor of Epidemiology
Department of Epidemiology
The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
1155 Pressler – Unit 1365
Houston, TX 77030
Phone: 713/745-2481
Fax: 713/563-0999
E-mail: qwei@mdanderson.org

Sister Study Steering Committee

Advisory to the Sister Study investigators in regular monthly meetings

NIEHS senior staff

Address: PO Box 12233, MD# A3-05
Research Triangle Park NC 27709

Honglei Chen, Investigator, Epidemiology Branch (919-541-3782)

Lisa DeRoo PhD, Staff Scientist, Epidemiology Branch (919-541-0799)

Jane Hoppin ScD, Staff Scientist, Epidemiology Branch (919-541-7622)

Stephanie London MD DrPH, Senior Investigator, Epidemiology Branch (919-541-5772)

Jack Taylor MD PhD, Senior Investigator, Epidemiology Branch (919-541-4631)

External Advisors

Address: PO Box 12233, MD# A3-05
Research Triangle Park NC 27709

Christine Parks PhD, NIOSH epidemiologist detailed to NIEHS (919-541-2577)

SSS senior staff

Address: 1009 Slater Road, Suite 120
Durham NC 27703

Polly Armsby, Operations Manager (919-287-4509)

Deborah Bittner, Project Director (919-287-4320)

Cynthia Kleeberger, Laboratory Manager (919-287-4577)

Sister Study Scientific Advisory Board

Sister Study National Partners

Rebecca Cowens-Alvarado, MPH
American Cancer Society
Director, Breast Cancer Strategy
National Home Office
250 Williams Street NW, Suite 600
Atlanta, GA 30303
ph: 404-329-7563
Rebecca.Cowens@cancer.org

Karen E Jackson

Sisters Network, Inc.
Founder & President
8787 Woodway Drive, Suite 4206
Houston, TX 77063
ph: 713-781-0255
fx: 713-780-8998
kejackson@sistersnetworkinc.org

Lisa A Newman MD MPH FACS

Intercultural Cancer Council Liaison to the Sister Study
Director, Breast Care Center & Assoc. Professor of Surgery
University of Michigan Division of Surgical Oncology
3308 Cancer Center, 1500 E. Medical Center Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0932
ph: 734-936-8771
fx: 734-647-9647
Lanewman@umich.edu

Joyce A Hunter PhD

National Center on Minority Health & Health Disparities
Deputy Director
6707 Democracy Boulevard, Suite 800
Bethesda, MD 20892-5465
ph: 301-402-1366
fx: 301-402-7040
hunterj@mail.nih.gov

Gabriella Pehanich

Breast Cancer Network of Strength
Government Relations Associate
212 West Van Buren Street, Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60607
ph: 312-294-8529
fx: 312-294-8597
gpehanich@networkofstrength.org

Stacy Sevier

American Cancer Society
National Program Manager, Making Strides Against Breast
Cancer
1710 Webster Street
Oakland, CA 94612
ph: 510-464-8187
fx: 510-874-1304
stacy.sevier@cancer.org

Jay Silver

Intercultural Cancer Council
Executive Director
1709 Dryden Rd. Suite 1025
Houston, TX 77030
ph: 713-798-1069
jsilver@bcm.tmc.edu

Kay Wissman BS

Breast Cancer Network of Strength
Government Relations Manager
212 West Van Buren Street, Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60607
ph: 312-294-8553
fx: 312-294-8597
kwissmann@networkofstrength.org

none currently appointed

Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation
5005 LBJ Freeway, Suite 250
Dallas, TX 75244

Sister Study Scientific Advisory Board

Leslie Bernstein PhD (SIS SAB Chair)

Professor & Director, Department of Cancer Etiology,
Division of Population Sciences &
Dean, Faculty Development
City of Hope National Medical Center & Beckman Research
Institute
1500 E Duarte Road, Bldg 173
Duarte, CA 91010
ph: 626-471-7315
fx: 626-471-7308
LBernstein@coh.org

Eugenia E Calle PhD (deceased)

Director, Analytic Epidemiology
American Cancer Society
250 Williams Street, 6D-226
Atlanta, GA 30303-1002
ph: 404-329-5741
fx: 404-327-6450
jcalleg@cancer.org

Lisa Carey MD

Medical Director, UNC Breast Center
Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of North Carolina School of Medicine
3009 Old Clinic Building, CB 7305
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
ph: 919-843-7719
fx: 919-966-6735
lisa_carey@med.unc.edu

Montserrat Garcia-Closas MD DrPH

Investigator, Hormonal & Reproductive Epidemiology Branch
Division of Cancer Epidemiology & Genetics
National Cancer Institute, NIH
Executive Plaza South, Rm 5014
Rockville, MD 20852
ph: 301-435-3981
fx: 301-402-0916
garciaacm@mail.nih.gov

Patricia Hartge MA ScD

Deputy Director, Epidemiology & Biostatistics Program
Division of Cancer Epidemiology & Genetics
National Cancer Institute, NIH
6130 Executive Boulevard, Rm 6142
Rockville, MD 20852
ph: 301-435-3914
fx: 301-594-6787
hartgep@mail.nih.gov

Kirsten Moysich PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Cancer Prevention &
Control
Roswell Park Cancer Institute
Elm & Carlton Streets
Buffalo, NY 14263
ph: 716-845-8004
fx: 716-845-1126
kirsten.moysich@roswellpark.org

Anna M Nápoles-Springer PhD

Assistant Professor of Medicine
University of California, San Francisco
3333 California Street Suite 335, Box 0856
San Francisco, CA 94143-0856
ph: 415-476-6290
fx: 415-502-8291
anna.napoles-springer@ucsf.edu

Julie R Palmer ScD

Professor & Senior Epidemiologist
Slone Epidemiology Center
Boston University School of Public Health
1010 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
ph: 617-734-6006
fx: 617-738-4119
Jpalmer@slone.bu.edu

Peggy Reynolds PhD

Senior Research Scientist
Northern California Cancer Center
2001 Center Street, Suite 700
Berkeley, CA 94704
ph: 510-608-5180
fx: 510-666-0693
preynold@nccc.org

Kent Thomas BSPH

Office of Research & Development
National Exposure Research Laboratory
US Environmental Protection Agency
4930 Page Road, MD E205-04
Durham, NC 27703
ph: 919-541-7939
fx: 919-541-0905
thomas.kent@epa.gov

Sandra Millon Underwood PhD RN FAAN

Professor
University of Wisconsin Milwaukee College of Nursing
1921 East Hartford
Milwaukee, WI 53211
ph: 414-229-6076
fx: 414-229-6474
underwoo@uwm.edu

Sholom Wacholder PhD

Senior Investigator, Biostatistics Branch
Division of Cancer Epidemiology & Genetics
National Cancer Institute, NIH
Executive Plaza South, Rm 8046
Rockville, MD 20852
ph: 301-496-3358
fx: 301-402-0081
wacholds@mail.nih.gov

Evaon C Wong-Kim LCSW MPH PhD (absent)

Associate Professor
Department of Social Work
California State University, East Bay
25800 Carlos Bee Boulevard
Hayward, CA 94542
ph: 510-885-2148
fx: 510-885-7580
evaon@csueastbay.edu

Sister Study Community Liaisons

Wish Martin MEd

Founder
Sisters Surviving, Inc.
2919 Silver Hill Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21207
ph: 410-448-0651
fx: 410-227-4097
wishmartin@hotmail.com

Rica Supnet RNC MSN ARNP

Nurse Practitioner
Bethesda Women's Health Center
10301 Hagen Ranch Road, Suite 920
Boynton Beach, FL 33437
ph: 561-374-5473
fx: 561-374-5310
rica.supnet@bethesdahealthcare.com
5302