

2016 Conference Celebrates Big News, Outstanding Awardees and *YOU!*



Pink Ribbon Awardee
Peggy Grove

Luncheon Speaker
U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, Jr.

Pink Ribbon Awardee
PA Insurance Commissioner Teresa Miller

What a wonderful 2016 Conference! We hope you left feeling hopeful and inspired! The PA Breast Cancer Coalition has much to celebrate after spending Sunday, October 9 and Monday, October 10 with nearly 1,000 breast cancer survivors, caregivers, researchers, radiologists, nurses, social workers, lawmakers and true difference-makers. The PBCC presented **PA Insurance Commissioner Teresa Miller** with the Pink Ribbon Award for her leadership in working to make Pennsylvania the first state in the nation to cover 3D screening mammograms at no cost for women insured under PA law. Community activist, survivor and philanthropist **Peggy Grove** received the Pink Ribbon honor for her contributions to breast cancer research and advocacy. **Dr. Emily Conant**, of Penn Medicine, was awarded the Potamkin Prize for her cutting-edge research on 3D mammography and improving screening methods for detecting breast cancer.

The Conference luncheon had a special guest - **U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, Jr.** - who is working to increase funding for the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and breast cancer research. "We need to make the investments that lead to a cure," said Sen. Casey.



Potamkin Prize Winner
Emily F. Conant, MD

At the Conference, we made a **big announcement**. The PBCC conducted a survey of all 350+ mammography centers across the state and 89.7 percent of them responded. We found that **39 percent offer 3D screenings!** A list of centers in PA that offer 3D mammography is online at pbcc.me/3D.

Find sites offering 3D
mammography:

pbcc.me/3D

Frontline™

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www.PABreastCancer.org

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President's Corner

Governor Tom Wolf Holds Bill Signing for Oral Chemo Parity Law



When you think **chemotherapy**, you probably picture a patient receiving treatment through an IV. In many cases, that *is* how chemo is administered, but not all. Thousands of Pennsylvanians take **oral chemotherapy** drugs, which can cost tens of thousands of dollars out-of-pocket.

Governor Tom Wolf recently signed the Oral Chemo Parity bill into law which means that oral chemotherapy is covered on the same basis as the IV version on an insurer's medical benefit for cancer patients insured under PA law. Patients will only be required to make a fixed co-payment instead of those out-of-pocket costs.

Here are some points to keep in mind when it comes to the new coverage:

- The legislation applies only if a health insurance policy already includes coverage for IV or injected chemotherapy medications that are FDA-approved.
- Under the law, insurers are prohibited from increasing cost sharing for chemotherapy medications for the purpose of avoiding complying with the law. Cost sharing examples include a co-payment, coinsurance or other out-of-pocket expense a consumer may have as required under their health insurance policy.
- Oral chemotherapy medications may be subject to a health insurance plan's prior authorization requirements. This means that the health insurance plan may require the provider who is treating the patient to get prior approval from the health insurance company before medication is dispensed to the patient. The law allows the health insurance company to consider both the medical necessity and cost of the oral chemotherapy medication in comparison to IV or injected chemotherapy medication when making a prior authorization determination.
- The specific number and type of oral chemotherapy medications that are covered will vary by insurer and type of health plan.

Pennsylvania now joins more than 40 other states in having enacted legislation to control out-of-pocket oral cancer treatment costs for patients. Thanks to the dedication and leadership of **PA Rep. Matt Baker** and **Sen. Tommy Tomlinson** and the **PA Cancer Fairness Coalition**, this law is making a difference in the lives of Pennsylvania men and women facing cancer, including many breast cancer survivors. The PA Breast Cancer Coalition is grateful for the commitment of everyone involved in fighting for this life-changing legislation!

SURVIVOR Spotlight

Jeanne Schmedlen

A Lymphedema Story

It all started following 70 days of radiation to stem the return of my stage III breast cancer. I had spent almost a year in successful treatment, from two courses of chemotherapy, radical surgery and all those medical and emotional experiences in-between. Half way through my chemo, I resigned from a 32-year career that I truly loved, giving me more time and strength to fight the fight of my life.

During my cancer treatment, I was not informed about lymphedema. Perhaps it was mentioned in a follow up appointment with my surgeon, but I don't recall a discussion at all. Suddenly during my recovery my right arm (I had lost my right breast and an estimated 24-26 lymph nodes in that breast and axillary area) became enlarged from my wrist all the way up my armpit and into the trunk area around my right side. My right sleeve was too tight and I realized that something was terribly wrong. I called the radiologist and he told me he would get me into his hospital's occupational therapy program as soon as he could.

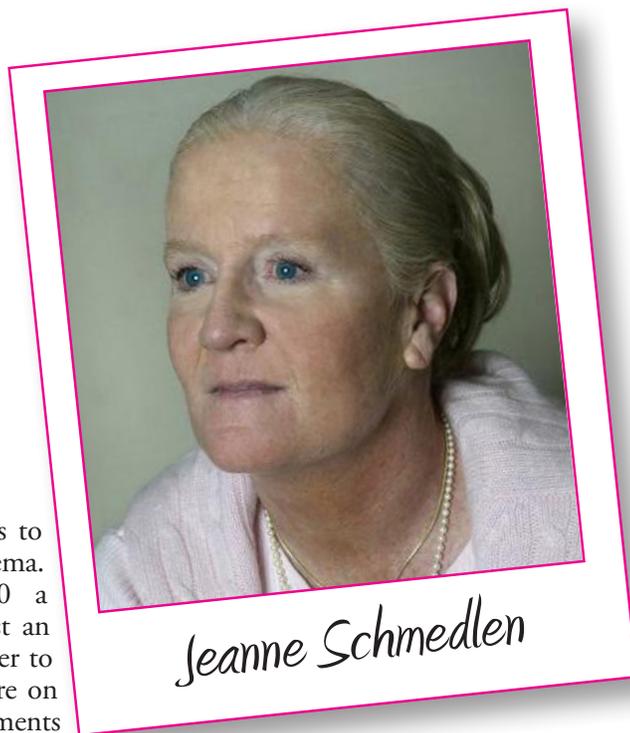
It took weeks and constant follow up calls and I finally started therapy with a remarkable and very capable occupational therapist. I saw her for over two years until she told me that there was nothing more we could do together... that we were wasting time and money and probably would not progress more than we had. Our progress included Medicare's agreement to pay for an arm pump that, used daily for 90 minutes, improved the reduction of protein in the arm. The process to get this covered by Medicare was difficult and time-consuming. My husband had to measure my arm in 12 places two times a day and note the results on a chart every day for 6 weeks. My therapist followed up with a 40-page justification to Medicare and our request was finally granted.

During this time I had to order and pay for

several sleeves and gauntlets to wear daily for the lymphedema. The sleeves averaged \$80 a piece and the gauntlets cost an average of \$60 each. In order to maintain the proper pressure on the arm, several of the garments are required over a year. I average eight sleeves and eight gauntlets a year. That translates to almost \$1,000 annually that I paid out of my pocket. When I was in therapy I was charged for every bandage I was wrapped with (they came itemized on my bill) and I had to pay for each and every one to a tune of several hundred dollars.

In addition, I wear a night sleeve every night that is a specialty garment that must be made to measure (it was a cost just to get measured!). This garment cost \$450 and I am in great need of another new one after a year of daily wear. It's getting frayed and fragile and too loose and should be replaced at least yearly.

My husband and I are both retired, on fixed incomes, so these kinds of expenses are a real shock to the budget. All that I have mentioned are medically recommended for the treatment of lymphedema and should be covered by Medicare. If someone breaks a leg, the cast for the leg is covered; if someone has knee surgery, the cost of wrapping the wound and assistance with walkers, etc. is covered; if someone falls on their head and needs stitches and bandaging to treat the wound, it is covered. Lymphedema is a lousy life-long result of breast cancer. And while I am grateful for the Medicare coverage during my 14 months of treatment that saved my life, I believe that using simple logic, that the compression bandages and treatment garments for lymphedema following breast cancer should be covered as well.



Jeanne Schmedlen

"My husband and I are retired, on fixed incomes, so these kind of expenses (\$1,450 annually) are a real shock to the budget. All that I have mentioned are medically recommended for treatment and should be covered by Medicare."

-Jeanne Schmedlen



2016 Conference Sponsors

Presenting

The Anne M. and Philip H. Glatfelter, III Family Foundation

*Opening Session
Grand Rounds*



*Pink Ribbon
Awards Luncheon*



Registration



Workshop



Print & Pink Party



First Lady's Reception

LESLIE ANNE MILLER, ESQ.

Name Tag



Centerpiece



Pink Ribbon Reception



Totebag



Continental Breakfast



Gold



Silver



Bronze



Media



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Pink Ribbon

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Grassroots Partners

Every year, hundreds of people have fun while raising awareness about breast cancer and supporting the PBCC! We are able to continue to serve women and their families battling breast cancer across the state because of fundraisers like these! Thank you Grassroots Partners!

Mid Penn Bank Golf Outing



Rory Ritrievi
Dawn Spahr
Amy Greene

\$25,000

Carlisle Country Club



Betty Butler

\$15,000

Pink the Coop

Kontor Family

\$9,447



Ride to Help

Bruce Cochran

\$7,000



Bras for a Cause

Allison Gorczyk

\$3,375



Pink Out Motorcycle Ride

Ken Gesselman

\$6,325



Save the Ta-Tas Trail Ride



JoAnn Gilkey

\$11,808

Bowl Down Breast Cancer



Kathie Thomas

\$4,598

Support the PBCC in your community. Become a **Grassroots Partner**. To find out how, visit our website pbcc.me/youcanhelp or call Kristen at 717-769-2301. Send photos from your event to Kristen@PABreastCancer.org.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON OUR WEBSITE AND IN THE SPRING 2017 EDITION!

Touch of Color Flooring

Scott Appel
Gail Hohl

\$1,100



Crossfit 717

Sarah Copley \$3,500



Mad Chef Brewing Co.

Greg Kendig

\$1,533



Field of Screams

Gene & Jim Schopf

Tiana Bollinger
\$6,200



Faulkner Subaru

Doug Jones
Chris Carvell

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Mike Weaver
Johnny Roberts

\$12,562



Atria of Bethlehem

Dorine D'Andria

\$1,415



Northern High School

Megan Michaels
Maddie McCarty

\$3,839



Carlisle YMCA

Jay Catron

\$510



Centric Bank

Jan Hastings
Nicole Cooper

\$310



AT&T Mobility Lancaster

Andres Isaza

\$100



Jazzing Up the Capitol

Senator Bob Mensch
Senator Joe Scarnati
Melissa Hershey

\$6,000



Breaststroke for Breast Cancer

Pam and Jillian
Ruddle

\$16,075



BOB 94.9 / Community Aid

Glenn Chandler
Bob Hauer
Nancy Ryan

\$10,000



67 Women, 67 Counties: Facing Breast Cancer in PA

A traveling photo exhibit celebrating the life, courage, hope and dignity of breast cancer survivors.

Indiana Regional Medical Center



PA Rep. Kristin Phillips-Hill and her mother, a survivor



York County exhibit participant Amber Shaw



PA Rep. Dave Reed



PA Sen. Don White & Pat Halpin-Murphy



York County exhibit participant Beverly Mackereth

York Fair & Expo Center



Indiana County exhibit participant Dorothy Klyap and husband



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FREE WEBINAR



Michelle Farnan
MSN, RN, CHPN, OCN



Palliative Care

Michelle Farnan, MSN, RN, CHPN, OCN
Palliative Care Nurse Coordinator
Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center

January 18 @ 7pm

1 FREE Continuing Education hour for Nurses!

Register at pbcc.me/webinars



Sharla and Leslie

Today, **37** women will be diagnosed
with breast cancer in Pennsylvania.

One day we will have a *cure*.
Help us get there.

pbcc.me/donate

finding a cure *now...*
so our *daughters* won't have to.