

Summer 2018

## Join us and meet our 2018 PBCC Conference Awardees!

Friday, October 19, 2018 — Hilton Harrisburg



**Kelly Frey**  
Anchor, WTAE



**U.S. Sen.  
Bob Casey**  
Advocate



**Susan Domchek, MD**  
World-renowned researcher



**Rory Ritrievi**  
CEO, Mid Penn Bank

**T**he PA Breast Cancer Coalition is proud to announce its 25th Anniversary Conference Awardees! **Susan Domchek, M.D.** of Penn Medicine will receive the Potamkin Prize for Breast Cancer Research for her breakthrough discovery of the first FDA-approved treatment for advanced breast cancer patients with genetic mutations. Dr. Domchek will present the Conference Opening Session. The 2018 Pink Ribbon Awardees include **U.S. Sen. Bob Casey**, a leader in the fight to save federal health insurance protections for pre-existing conditions, breast cancer survivor and **Pittsburgh's WTAE morning show anchor Kelly Frey**, and **Mid Penn Bank CEO Rory Ritrievi**, community fundraiser extraordinaire. The PBCC presents the Dr. William L. and Marilyn R. Kanenson Shining Light Award to **Pink the Coop** (more on page 4), an outstanding Grassroots Partner founded by a family from Western PA. These awardees are breast cancer champions who share their own personal stories, advocate for women's health issues and support breast cancer research. Look for more details on the 2018 awardees in our PinkLink eNewsletter. Join us in honoring their accomplishments **Friday, October 19, 2018** at the Hilton Harrisburg! Register today for our **\$25** anniversary rate >> [pbcc.me/conf](http://pbcc.me/conf).

**REGISTER  
TODAY**  
for \$25!  
[pbcc.me/conf](http://pbcc.me/conf)

**BREAKING  
NEWS**

According to a new study, nearly **70%** of women diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer may **not** need chemotherapy. Read more from a Pittsburgh researcher who worked on the study on **PAGE 6** >>

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER



## The Fight Continues: Federal Health Insurance Protections for Pre-existing Conditions at Stake *Again*

by Pat Halpin-Murphy, President and Founder

**W**e're in the fight *again*.

Last year, Congress's plans to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act failed, but several aspects of the law did change. Thanks to *your* calls and emails to our U.S. lawmakers, federal health insurance protections for people with pre-existing conditions stayed in place. Unfortunately, now protections are in jeopardy again and this time, the fight is even tougher. We are at an unprecedented crossroads.


### Here's where it stands right now...

Twenty Republican state attorneys general have sued the federal government to overturn what is left of the Affordable Care Act. If they win the case, federal protections requiring insurers to provide health insurance coverage for people with pre-existing conditions like breast

cancer would be eliminated. The U.S. Justice Department has decided NOT to defend the Affordable Care Act. Who will then defend the pre-existing conditions law?

*If* the U.S. Supreme Court strikes down the law, 52 million Americans under the age of 65 with pre-existing

conditions like breast cancer could be hit with unaffordable premiums or denied health insurance altogether. The effects would be devastating. It would be a disaster.

The PA Breast Cancer Coalition will keep you informed every step of the way. Take action. Save lives. 

**5.4 MILLION** people in Pennsylvania have a pre-existing condition.

**Breast cancer** is a pre-existing condition.  
We're in this fight *again*.



**Act NOW.** Contact the U.S. Department of Justice

**Call. Email. Do both.** 5.4 million people including **140,000 breast cancer survivors** in Pennsylvania need you. Tell Attorney General Jeff Sessions and his Justice Department to defend federal health insurance protections for people with pre-existing conditions. Tell him how it would affect **YOU** and your family and breast cancer survivors in Pennsylvania. Lives depend on it.



**PHONE:** 202-353-1555



**EMAIL:** [pbcc.me/DOJ](mailto:pbcc.me/DOJ)



## SURVIVOR SPOTLIGHT

# MEET

# Mary Ann Baran

Dauphin County



### How was your breast cancer found?

**MARY ANN:** That will be 20 years ago this summer. It was with a regular screening mammogram in July 1998. I went every year since I turned 40, and this was when I was 45. I was living in Johnstown and I chose a mastectomy and immediate reconstruction with a trans flap. I had options and I decided right away that this was what I would do. I had a great outcome with no complications but either way, I would have dealt with it. You go with your decision.

### Tell us about the support you had.

**MARY ANN:** I moved to Harrisburg about four years ago. When I went for my first mammogram in the area, I asked where there was a support group. They said, "but it's been 20 years ... why would you need a support group?" I said, "because it's important." I joined Sweet Survivors and I go to meetings faithfully. You make friends for life there. We all have that one thing in common and if something happens, I go to them for that camaraderie. We discuss everything: money, sex, treatment, lymphedema, diet, nutrition, and so many other things.

### How did you come to know about the PBCC?


**MARY ANN:** I found out about the PBCC when I started going to the support group in Johnstown. The group leader, Carol Harding, was in the medical field. She invited speakers to our support group meetings and introduced us to the PBCC.

### How did the PBCC Conference affect you?

**MARY ANN:** This year I went to the workshop with the plastic surgeon and that was really good. I wanted to see what was new, not so much for myself, but so that I could share the information at the support group. The biggest thing is meeting so many survivors and being with people who've been through what you've been through. Seeing that many women walking around with smiles on their faces is just wonderful.

### Is there anything you'd like women to know?

**MARY ANN:** Ask questions, be informed, and then make your own decision. Only you know what's right for you. Don't let anyone tell you what to do, not a significant other, partner, whatever. It's your body and your life. Follow your gut. Follow your instincts. Remember that what's right for someone else might not be right for you.

If you want to help yourself, think about someone else. Someone asked me at one point if I ever thought "why me?". I said "no, I think why not me." I'm no different. You have to get beyond that and just say OK what do I do now. 

“Don't let anyone tell you what to do; not a significant other, partner, whatever. It's your body and your life.”

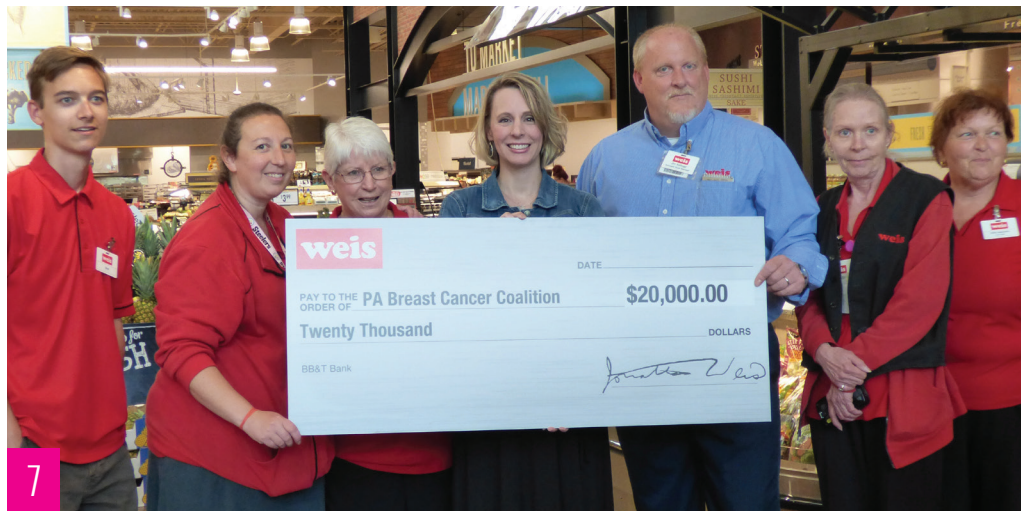


**Mary Ann is also a PBCC Grassroots Partner** - Her Allstate Insurance team recently donated \$1,000 to our cause! Thank you, Mary Ann and Allstate!









- 6. Allstate Insurance - \$1,000**
  - 7. Weis Markets - \$20,000**
  - 8. Brunnerville Hotel Poker Run - \$10,630**
  - 9. Toasting a Cure at the Vineyard - \$22,055**
- more photos @  
**Facebook.com/PABreastCancer**



Toasting a Cure organizers **Laraine Forry** and **Helen Michener** take a break from the action with event emcee **abc27's Alicia Richards**.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Pink Shoe Gala**  
Thursday, August 2  
Pennsylvania Biotech Center, Doylestown  
Register at **[pbcc.me/pinkshoe](http://pbcc.me/pinkshoe)**

**Pretty in Pink Golf Tournament**  
Saturday, August 11  
Tree Top Golf Course, Manheim  
Learn more at **[treetopgolfcourse.com](http://treetopgolfcourse.com)**

Host an event in **your** community! Visit **[pbcc.me/hostevent](http://pbcc.me/hostevent)** to get started!



## Breast Cancer Breakthrough: No Chemo Needed for Many Early-Stage Breast Cancer Patients

**Adam Brufsky, MD, PhD**

*Professor of Medicine*  
University of Pittsburgh



**A**s a practicing medical oncologist with a specialty in breast cancer for the past 22 years, I have been fortunate to see substantial advances in treatment. A majority of women are now diagnosed with early stage disease, and five-year survivals without recurrence for women with estrogen receptor positive stage I and II breast cancer now exceed 85-90%. The question I now deal with is not: "Will I survive this," but rather, "What will it take to get me there?"

When I started 22 years ago, many women with early stage breast cancer received chemotherapy in addition to anti-hormonal therapies such as tamoxifen or anastrozole. We would make an educated guess as to the need for chemotherapy based on the size of the cancer, presence and number of involved axillary lymph nodes, and how aggressive the tumor looked under the microscope. Chemotherapy can be very toxic, and around 15-20 years ago some of us were curious as to whether we could come up with a test to identify those women with early stage breast cancer who could avoid chemotherapy altogether, take an anti-hormonal therapy alone, and still have an excellent long-term outcome.

Genomic tests were developed in the early 2000s to address this problem.

These tests looked at the expression of various genes in the cancer itself, which not only could tell us whether a woman with early stage estrogen receptor positive breast cancer would recur in 10 years, but also which women would benefit from chemotherapy. The biology of the disease could therefore individualize treatment, leading to excellent outcomes with less toxicity for the 50-60% of women who would now not need chemotherapy. Currently 4-5 of these tests are available, with Oncotype Dx® (21 genes) and Mammaprint® (70 genes) being the most popular.

“

*The question I now deal with is not,*

**"Will I survive this?,"** *but rather,*

**"What will it take to get me there?"** ”


The TAILOR-Rx trial, recently published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, is one of the first trials to demonstrate that a genomic test (Oncotype Dx®) in early-stage, estrogen-receptor-positive breast cancer can be used to avoid chemotherapy with outcomes identical to those experienced by women who undergo chemotherapy.

In this trial, over 11,000 women with estrogen-receptor-positive, node-negative, early-stage breast cancer had an Oncotype Dx® test of their

breast cancer. Those with a low score (less than 11, about 20% of women) received hormonal therapy alone, and had an excellent 9-year distant-recurrence-free survival (over 97% of women). Those with a high score (greater than 25, about 14% of women) received chemotherapy, hormonal therapy and also had an excellent 9-year distant-recurrence-free survival of about 87%. Women with an intermediate score (11-25, about 65% of women) all received hormonal therapy, but half received chemotherapy. These women showed no benefit from chemotherapy, and both arms of this intermediate

group had a 9-year distant-recurrence-free survival in excess of 95%. The trial could not rule out some chemotherapy benefit in women younger than 50 with recurrence

scores of 15-25, but benefit in these cases was likely small (perhaps 2% fewer distant recurrences at 9 years).

With genomic tests such as Oncotype Dx® or Mammaprint®, close to 60-70% of women with node-negative, estrogen-receptor-positive breast cancer can now avoid the toxicity of chemotherapy with excellent outcomes. This represents a major advance, as many women with early stage breast cancer can now reach the ultimate goal of living a life free from breast cancer recurrence without the side effects of chemotherapy. 



# OUT&ABOUT

with the PA Breast Cancer Coalition

Cue the confetti! So incredibly grateful for the support of Mid Penn Bank, the NFL Alumni Association, sponsors and golfers! Thank you!



What we did... what we are doing... together is fighting a dreaded disease *so that our daughters don't have to.* Those are the words of the PBCC and they are now the rallying cry for this quest we are on together. Thank you!

- **Rory Ritrievi, CEO**  
Mid Penn Bank  
PBCC Pink Ribbon Awardee

PBCC President and Founder **Pat Halpin-Murphy** accepts a \$60,000 contribution from the Mid Penn Bank Celebrity Golf Tournament for Charity. **Mid Penn Bank CEO Rory Ritrievi**, breast cancer survivor and Tournament Honorary Chair **Liz Jaworski**, and members of the NFL Alumni Association presented the donation in June at Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course. Thank you to Mid Penn Bank, the NFL Alumni, sponsors, golfers, and supporters. Your dedication will help us continue to move forward in our fight against breast cancer.



For the first time in its history, the PA Breast Cancer Coalition's Photo Exhibit, **67 Women, 67 Counties: Facing Breast Cancer in Pennsylvania**, traveled to Juniata County in June. The Juniata Valley Bank in Mifflintown held a ribbon cutting and invited customers and friends to experience the display, learning the real stories of real women facing breast cancer in our state.

Want to host the exhibit in your community? Visit [pbcc.me/hostexhibit](http://pbcc.me/hostexhibit)







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PABreastCancer.org

*It's our birthday!*

*Celebrate*

**25<sup>th</sup>**

**ANNIVERSARY  
CONFERENCE**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19**  
HILTON HARRISBURG



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