BCSC Newsletter for February 2015

News & Announcements

BCSC Creates Risk Calculator iPad & iPhone App

In 2013 The Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium (BCSC) developed a BCSC Risk Calculator for health professionals to estimate a woman's five-year risk of developing invasive breast cancer. The BCSC has now created a free iPhone and iPad app. Instructions on how to download the app are posted on the BCSC Risk Calculator site.

Transition to Digital Mammography Costs More but shows Little Evidence of Added Benefit

While there has been a national move transitioning from film to digital mammography, two new BCSC publications in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute question whether it is worth the increased cost. One study, led by Natasha Stout, PhD, found that the transition to digital breast cancer screening in the United States increased total costs but only added a small health benefit. A solicited editorial, led by Karla Kerlikowske, MD, and co-authored by Anna Tosteson, PhD, suggested that increased screening mammography costs, for possibly small or no health gains, results in screening mammography being less cost-efficient than in the past.

Elizabeth Valencia to present at the SBI/ACR Breast Imaging Symposium

BCSC researcher and University of Washington Fellow, Elizabeth Valencia, MD, JD submitted a study abstract, "Performance Benchmarks for Screening Breast MRI in Community Practice," which was accepted as an oral presentation for the Society of Breast Imaging, at the ACR Breast Imaging Symposium on April 25-28, 2015. This BCSC study aims to evaluate the performance of breast MRI screening in community practice and demonstrate achievable outcomes with breast MRI screening in current clinical practice.

Dr. Kerlikowske Discusses Risk-Based Screening and the BCSC at the Society of General Internal Medicine meeting

Karla Kerlikowske, MD, received the Distinguished Professor of Cancer Research award from the Society of General Internal Medicine's (SGIM) at their annual meeting in April 2014. The objective of the Distinguished Professor program is to raise the visibility of cancer-related research and education among SGIM members, particularly junior faculty, fellows, and other trainees, through a series of sponsored educational and other activities during their annual meeting. Dr. Kerlikowske discussed risk-based breast cancer screening and the value of the BCSC as a research resource at the Distinguished Professor Program in Cancer Research session.

BCSC in the News

BCSC Study on Screening Women with Dense Breasts is "The Most Read" News Story by Radiologists

Screening women with dense breasts is a hot topic and is generating legislation across the country. A recently published study, led by BCSC researcher Brian Sprague, modeled what would happen if women with dense breasts routinely received an ultrasound exam after a negative mammogram. The results indicated that this practice would generate high costs, extra tests and little benefit. The study:

- Was designated as the "Most Read News Story by Radiologists" in Medscape Radiology Top 10 News in December 2014.
- Resulted in press coverage by several news outlets, including CBS News, where the BCSC Risk Calculator is mentioned as a tool which uses breast density to assess a woman's risk.
- Highlighted in the Journal of the American Medical Association in its News and Analysis section stating that, "Recent findings may inform breast density notification laws."

Screening and Tomosynthesis Combo is Cost-Effective and Saves Lives
A BCSC study published by Radiology and led by Christoph Lee, MD was featured in several news outlets, including Time Magazine. The authors found it was cost-effective to have women with dense breasts undergo tomosynthesis (3D screening) combined with traditional digital mammography because of the reduction in false-positive tests by screening with tomosynthesis.

BCSC Highlighted in the NIH Applied Research Program Newsletter

The NIH Applied Research Program highlighted the Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium (BCSC) in the October 2014 issue of its newsletter, Spotlight on Applied Research. The issue highlighted 15 years of scientific progress and accomplishments led by ARP and their funded research community.

People News

Christoph Lee, MD, MSHS is beginning his academic research career and has worked on several projects within the BCSC. Most recently, he published a study in Radiology on the comparative effectiveness of combined digital mammography and tomosynthesis screening for women with dense breasts. Dr. Lee is a physician at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance and an assistant professor of radiology and of health services at the University of Washington. Dr. Lee recently received a 5-year Mentored Research Scholar Grant in Applied and Clinical Research from the American Cancer Society (ACS) to support his ongoing work with the BCSC. The award supports investigator development and was sponsored by the BCSC.

Quarterly Spotlight

The Carolina Mammography Registry

The Carolina Mammography Registry (CMR) is a founding member of the national Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium and is led by Louise Henderson, PhD. The registry was funded in 1994 by the Department of Defense to create the infrastructure for a population-based mammography registry, and to serve as a resource for researchers interested in outcomes of community-based breast cancer screening in North Carolina. Recently Dr. Henderson led a study using the CMR data combined with a survey to mammography technologists across the state to examine the influence of mammographic technologists on radiologists' ability to interpret screening mammograms in community practice (NCI funded R01CA155342). The study found that the interpretive performance of radiologists in screening mammography varies substantially by the technologist performing the examination.

Stat-Bite

Traditionally, the BI-RADS definition of a positive mammogram for assessing screening mammography performance considered all BI-RADS 3 (probably benign) assessments to be negative. The BCSC has considered BI-RADS 3 assessments with a recommendation for immediate work-up to be positive, because this recommendation coincides with a BI-RADS 0 (needs additional evaluation) assessment and all other BI-RADS 3 assessments to be negative. However, the new BI-RADS definition (from the 5th edition) considers all BI-RADS 3 assessments on screening exams to be positive. We compared these three definitions (see figure) and found the new BI-RADS definition very slightly increases sensitivity and very slightly decreases specificity and PPV1 compared to the old BI-RADS and BCSC definitions. The BCSC will adopt the new BI-RADS definitions for future publications.

Recent BCSC Publications


Recent BCSC Grant & Contract Awards

BCSC Researcher wins Mentored Research Scholar Grant

Christoph Lee, MD, MSHS received a 5-year Mentored Research Scholar Grant in Applied and Clinical Research award from the American Cancer Society. Dr. Lee was sponsored by the BCSC. The ACS Mentored Research Scholar Award provides support for mentored research and training to full-time junior faculty, typically within the initial four years of their first independent appointment. The goal is for these beginning investigators to become independent researchers as either clinician scientists or cancer control and prevention researchers. BCSC researchers, Connie Lehman, MD, PhD, Diana Miglioretti, PhD and Tracy Onega, PhD will serve as co-mentors for this award.

American Cancer Society awards grant to the BCSC

The American Cancer Society awarded a grant to the Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium (BCSC) to update a prior BCSC analysis that compared annual vs. biennial screeners using narrower windows for those definitions. This research will help fill a gap in knowledge due to few head-to-head randomized trials comparing annual vs. biennial screening.

BCSC Researcher wins RSNA Research Resident Grant

Amie Y. Lee, MD, a University of Washington radiology resident and BCSC researcher, was awarded a Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) Research Resident Grant, which will fund her work on a BCSC study to evaluate the utilization patterns of MRI BI-RADS assessments and management recommendations in clinical practice. The RSNA Research Resident Grant provides trainees who are not yet professionally established in the radiologic sciences an opportunity to gain further insight into scientific investigation and to develop competence in research techniques and methods.
The Controlling Cancer Summit
London, UK
May 12-14, 2015
Abstract Submission Deadline: February 10, 2015

Upcoming Conferences

HMO Research Network (HMORN)
Long Beach, CA
March 11-13, 2015

American Society of Preventive Oncology (ASPO) Annual Meeting
University of Alabama, Birmingham
March 14-17, 2015

AACR Annual Meeting
Philadelphia, PA
April 18-22, 2015

ARRS Annual Meeting
Toronto, CA
April 19-24, 2015

Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM) Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions
San Antonio, Texas
April 22-25, 2015

Society of Breast Imaging/American College of Radiology Breast Imaging Symposium
Orlando, FL
April 25, 2015

ACOG Annual Clinical Meeting
San Francisco, CA
May 2-6, 2015

The Controlling Cancer Summit
London, UK
May 12-14, 2015

American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting
Chicago, IL
May 29 - June 2, 2015

International Cancer Screening Network (ICSN)
Rotterdam, The Netherlands
June 2-4, 2015

7th Annual Breast Density and Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Workshop
San Francisco, California
June 10-12, 2015

Academy Health Annual Research Meeting
Minneapolis, MN
June 14-16, 2015