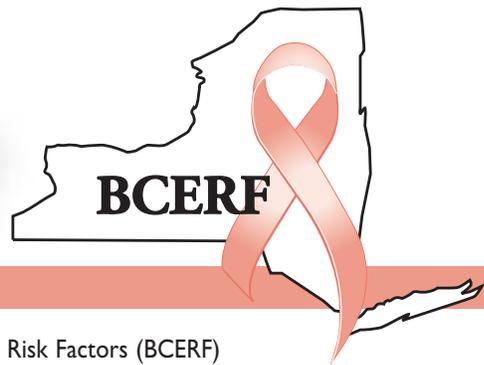


# The Ribbon



Volume 9 • Number 3 • Summer 2004

A Newsletter of the Cornell University Program on Breast Cancer and Environmental Risk Factors (BCERF)

## A Note from Dr. Rod Dietert

It has been a complete delight to see the BCERF Program integrated both programmatically and physically into the Cancer and Environment Division of the new Sprecher Institute for Comparative Cancer Research (Department of Clinical Sciences at Cornell). This fulfills one of my dreams of seeing the program administered and housed within a superstructure supporting Cornell's premier cancer research activities. The new setting for the program means that BCERF will be able to apply its highly successful model of integrated environment-cancer research and risk reduction education to an even broader landscape of issues. One aspect the program will never lose is the capacity to learn from its constituents even as it works to share the latest scientifically based information on cancer risk reduction.

As the program approaches a decade of operation, it serves as a testimony to the ideals vested in our statutory universities: namely being positioned to meet the needs of consumers, taxpayers, communities, families and individuals. Since its formation in 1995, under the leadership of Professor June Fessenden McDonald, BCERF was never an old-school, one-discipline program in search of continued funding. Rather it was a multi-disciplinary problem-oriented program created almost overnight in response to and at the specific request of New York State's elected leaders. It has also evolved as the needs of its constituents have changed. The program exists because the information it generates has value, utility and reliability. BCERF is able to serve as a neutral arbiter of the information, since it is generated within the safe haven of academic freedom. As a result, it fills an important niche and complements information that is available from various governmental and private-sector sources. That task of filling information gaps to facilitate informed public

and personal decisions is a role BCERF and other state university programs can and should continue to perform.

By the time this issue of *The Ribbon* appears, I will have completed a highly gratifying four-year term as the second Director of BCERF. One added benefit of the new Sprecher Institute structure for BCERF is we have achieved better efficiency in program administration. Since 1995, when I was directing the Toxicology Institute that housed

BCERF during its early years, I have had the pleasure of following and supporting BCERF's operation from its inception. In my nearly three decades at Cornell, I have never seen a program that touched so many lives in such a positive way. The aim of reducing the incidence of breast cancer and related diseases for future generations is a goal that has driven everyone involved in this program.

As Director, I have been blessed with the opportunity to work with a remarkably talented group of scholars and

educators. Visitors to the program are always amazed at the sheer volume of information that has been generated by so few. But that is part of the energy vested in the program and certainly a result of the tremendous encouragement and support we have received from our state, national and community partners. I look forward to supporting this program and its efforts from my faculty position at Cornell and want to express my deep appreciation to our funders and supporters for the opportunity to have been a part of this public service endeavor. 



*Dr. Suzanne Snedeker, BCERF Associate Director of Translational Research, presenting Dr. Rodney Dietert with a plaque recognizing his service to BCERF, with Dr. Rodney Page, Director of the Sprecher Institute for Comparative Cancer Research, looking on.*

### index

A 2003-2004 Education Collaboration: BCERF and the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN) • 2

The BCERF EnviroChem and Cancer Database (ECCD) • 4

Cancer and Environment Forum held at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine • 6

# A 2003-2004 Education Collaboration: *BCERF and the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN)*

AN IMPORTANT MISSION OF THE BCERF PROGRAM HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO ENGAGE IN COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS THAT BRING AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE EMERGING SCIENCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS FOR BREAST CANCER TO DIVERSE AUDIENCES. THIS YEAR BCERF HAS BEEN FORTUNATE TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH NURSES (AAOHN) TO FURTHER THAT MISSION.

The AAOHN is a 10,000 member professional organization dedicated to advancing the health, safety and productivity of the domestic and global workforces by providing education, research, public policy and practice resources for occupational and environmental health nurses.

The goal of this partnership is to explore the ways emerging information on mammary gland carcinogens and breast cancer risk reduction strategies could be shared with a population of health professionals working in an occupational setting. Occupational health nurses are uniquely situated to have an impact on both the individuals they serve and the environments in which they work.

Very little is known about occupational cancer among women. In their 2003 review article, "Occupational Cancer Among Women: Where Have We Been and Where Are We Going?" (1) Zahm and Blair point out the interrelated facts that challenge our ability to understand the extent of the problem. First, there are vastly increasing numbers of women participating

in the workforce: from 34% in 1950 to 60% in 1997. Couple this with the fact that the overwhelming majority of occupational cancer studies have been done on men – a survey of 1,233 of these studies revealed that 14% included white women and only 2% included nonwhite women – and the result is very little gender-specific information on occupational cancers.

Despite this paucity of needed information, there are several educational actions that can be taken, and these are the avenues that BCERF has pursued with the AAOHN this year. We have focused on professional education to provide current information on what is known with regard to environmental chemicals and breast cancer risk, and ways to reduce risk. A complete tutorial for nurses is available in a web-based presentation, "Environmental Chemicals and Breast Cancer Risk, Why is There Concern?" provided by Suzanne M. Snedeker, Ph.D., BCERF's Associate Director of Translational Research. This program can be viewed in streaming video at the BCERF website ([\[cancer.cornell.edu\]\(http://cancer.cornell.edu\)\) for viewing by individuals at their own computers, and will also be available in text form on the web from the AAOHN for nurses who wish to achieve accredited continuing education contact hours at \[www.aaohn.org\]\(http://www.aaohn.org\).](http://enviro-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

In addition to use of distance learning technology, BCERF was fortunate to be invited by AAOHN to facilitate an in-depth interactive workshop on these topics as part of the American Occupational Health Conference (AOHC) in May 2004. Approximately 40 participants were able to explore the science and epidemiology of breast cancer risk factors, and discuss risk reduction strategies.

This unique program drew upon the strengths of all involved. The BCERF researchers brought information on mammary gland carcinogens, and the occupational health nurses shared their workplace experiences with chemical exposures in a wide variety of industrial and medical settings. BCERF staff presented the new EnviroChem & Cancer Database, (ECCD, see accompanying article) which can be searched for many chemicals that have ongoing occupational usages. Interactive activities and discussion engaged the participants in thinking through and sharing knowledge of actual occupational chemical usage – providing a window of information not available in the published literature – and helped to strategize on risk reduction opportunities. In addition, presenters and participants explored non-chemical ways by which a particular occupation might be associated with breast cancer risk. For example, BCERF shared information on the California

Teachers Study, which has demonstrated that teachers have elevated rates of breast and other female cancers, and is exploring hypotheses – from reproductive to dietary to pesticide exposure – as to why this occupational group shares this risk. Issues and challenges inherent in communicating breast cancer risk were also discussed.

Feedback from evaluations of this program was excellent. 100% of the 31 participants who returned evaluations indicated that they are better able to understand the research about how environmental chemicals may be related to breast cancer risk and an increased understanding of other risk factors associated with breast cancer. In addition, respondents reported more knowledge about chemicals that are endocrine disruptors, and those that have been identified as mammary carcinogens in lab animals. Participants indicated they plan to share what they learned with clients or co-workers, and that they feel increased capacity to identify and facilitate collective strategies to reduce cancer risk in the workplace or with populations they serve.

It through this type of learning and collaboration that together we can change the environment to reduce breast cancer risk for all. 

## Reference

1. Zahm, SH, Blair, A. Occupational Cancer Among Women: Where Have We Been and Where are We Going? *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*. 2003; (44) 565-575.

## A conversation with Marcia Noble, MN, RN, AAOHN Director of Professional Practice

**BCERF:** *Why does the partnership between the Cornell Program on Breast Cancer and Environmental Risk Factors and the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses make sense now?*

**MN:** I think it is a very natural blending of resources and goals. AAOHN works to empower occupational and environmental health nurses in assisting employees to achieve healthy and safe lifestyles – which means they not only work with workplace related injuries and illness, but with non-work related situations as well. Occupational and environmental health nurses (OHN) interact directly with female workers, and also interact with male workers who may be impacted by the illness of a family member or significant other.

**BCERF:** *How is this partnership linked to other AAOHN efforts, such as the Core Curriculum in Environmental Health?*

**MN:** For the past five years, AAOHN has been working, through a co-operative grant with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, to develop and present the “Core Curriculum in Environmental Health” to occupational and environmental nurses nationwide. Based on the success of that workshop, we have moved forward to make this information available through on-line continuing educational opportunities, and the Cornell Program provides a wonderful expansion of knowledge in this specific area.

**BCERF:** *What collaborative and educational role do OHNs play in helping to reduce health risks in the workplace?*

**MN:** In a recent needs assessment of 1500 OHNs, education related to worksite health promotion and wellness was identified as the number one area of practice concern, by a ranking of 71.8 percent. The OHN has a unique opportunity to work with health care consumers, while they are well, to maintain their health. OHNs also play an important role in the identification, assessment, management and evaluation of hazards in the workplace.

**BCERF:** *Why is this kind of professional continuing education important for occupational health nurses now?*

**MN:** Statistics show that over 61% of women over the age of 16 are in the workforce, and that all workers today are working longer hours, leaving less time for health maintenance activities and visits to the health care provider. For that reason, the OHN is in a unique position to deliver educational information and prevention tips to the people who need to hear it the most. A strong knowledge base also enables the OHN to work with employees for early recognition and intervention for affected workers.

**BCERF:** *How is the new computer-based technology an important part of your ongoing continuing education efforts?*

**MN:** It makes it possible for OHNs to not only go online for education that suits their needs and their schedule, but to also achieve ANCC accredited contact hours that are useful toward relicensure and recertification. Nurses are always looking for ways to increase their knowledge base and enhance their practice, and we intend to help them to meet these goals.

# The BCERF EnviroChem and Cancer Database (ECCD) <http://envirocancer.cornell.edu/ECCD/>

**BCERF created its Fact Sheet #45 in response to requests to provide an overview of the question: why is there concern about environmental chemicals and breast cancer risk?**

Since then, BCERF has widely communicated this fundamental background in print as well as other formats – using, for example, in-person presentations and distance learning opportunities. A list of chemicals that the National Toxicology Program (NTP) identified as causing breast tumors in laboratory animals constitutes a central aspect of the concern about environmental chemicals and breast cancer risk. These 42 chemicals – known as mammary carcinogens – concern BCERF and other researchers because of the questions they raise about the potential of these chemicals to affect breast cancer risk in humans. When human data is not available, laboratory animal studies provide important information in identifying hazardous chemicals. Most of the NTP mammary carcinogens remain in the manufacturing stream, and yet little is known about any relationship to breast cancer risk in a human population. With the help of a Cornell undergraduate, Michael Goldman, working with Associate Director of Translational Research Dr. Suzanne Snedeker, BCERF has added a unique on-line resource as an addendum to Fact Sheet #45: the EnviroChem and Cancer Database (ECCD). In this way, we are able to move beyond simply providing the list of mammary carcinogens, to offering this resource containing more information necessary for public and professional decision-making.

The EnviroChem and Cancer Database is a searchable, interactive spreadsheet of information on these 42 mammary carcinogens. At any point, it represents a “snapshot” of information on these chemicals; as scientific and policy information increases and changes, so will the entries. Goldman used a variety of sources to track down the following information on each chemical:

- major uses
- cancer classification according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)
- whether the chemical is currently produced or when it was taken off the market
- use in manufacturing and consumer products
- exposures of concern
- an overview of workplace regulations and advisories by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

some of the chemicals are environmentally persistent pollutants.

One can search the database by the chemical name, the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) number, or by using a pull-down list of major uses. Some examples of uses include: several pharmaceutical drugs; chemical solvents and flame retardants; a variety of chemicals used in the manufacturing of dyes, rubber, vinyl and polyurethane foams; a sterilizing agent for medical instruments; a food additive; several fumigants and pesticides; a metal used in microelectronics; a mycotoxin produced by molds; and a gasoline additive.

The accompanying “screen grab” shows the results page when one searches “methylene chloride.” This is one of the chemicals that was found to be ubiquitous in both industrial settings and household products. Household products con-

*Goldman says that “from the beginning I hoped that this product would help people make more educated decisions with respect to the products they buy; I also hope it will be used by workers to gain awareness of the health hazards that many chemicals used across industries can present. I am happy to see the ECCD at the public’s fingertips.”*

The result is an easy-to-use resource for community members and professionals concerned about any or all of these chemicals. The ongoing results of this project indicate that occupational exposures are of utmost concern in each case. But household and general population exposures are also a possibility with many of the chemicals, and

taining methylene chloride include automotive degreasing and part cleaning products, paint strippers, and adhesive and spray paint removing products. For entries such as this one, the ECCD user is also directed to the Household Products Database of the National Library of Medicine at <http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/> This database

chemsearch.process:BCERF Database Process for...

Sprecher Institute for Comparative Cancer Research

## Cancer and Environment

[BCERF Home](#)  
[Site Search](#)  
[About BCERF](#)  
[Email BCERF](#)  
[Response Page](#)

**Navigate by Resource**

[ERF Bibliographic Database](#)  
[Bibliographies by Topics](#)  
[Critical Evaluations](#)  
[Fact Sheets](#)  
[Newsletters](#)  
[Presentations](#)  
[Publications](#)  
[BC Statistical Maps](#)  
[Conferences & Workshops](#)  
[Hyperlinks](#)  
[Tip Sheets](#)  
[Tool Kit](#)

**Navigate by Topic**

[Pesticides](#)  
[Diet & Lifestyle](#)  
[Endocrine Disruption](#)  
[General Information](#)  
[BC Rates & Statistics](#)  
[Scientific Literature](#)

ce = Critical Evaluation  
 fs = Fact Sheet  
 bib = Bibliography  
 nl = Newsletter  
 map = Statistical map  
 lk = List of Hyperlinks

Cornell University  
**Program on Breast Cancer  
 and Environmental Risk Factors  
 (BCERF)**

### EnviroChem and Cancer Database (ECCD)

[Alphabetical List](#) | [Abbreviations](#) | [Key References](#) | [Full Bibliography](#) (coming soon)

The user should refer to the [Material Safety Data Sheets](#) for information on the toxicology and precautions to be used when handling these chemicals or products that contain these chemicals.

**Found 1 Entries**

**Methylene chloride (Dichloromethane)  
(75-09-2)**

<b>Chemical's major use</b>	Chemical solvent
<b>Cancer Classification</b> DHHS/NTP RoC (NTP TR no.)	Reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen (DHHS)
<b>Cancer classification IARC</b>	Group 2B: Possibly carcinogenic to humans
<b>Currently produced or used in the U.S.</b>	Yes
<b>Year taken off the market</b>	-
<b>Was chemical used in manufacturing?</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Which consumer products is/was chemical found in?</b>	Found in automotive degreasing and part cleaning products, paint strippers, and in adhesive and spray paint removing products. [see NLM Household Products Database, at <a href="http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/ingredients.htm">http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/ingredients.htm</a> for a full listing of over 20 household products that contain methylene chloride]
<b>Location of most prominent exposure</b> O=Occupation, H=Households, GP=General Public	O, H, GP: Anyone working with these products.
<b>Are there any OSHA regulations/advisories?</b>	Yes, they declare a permissible exposure limit. Also, CPSC6 requires labeling and wearing a mask when working with these products.

Content developed by Michael Goldman as a part of an undergraduate independent study project under the supervision of Dr. Suzanne Snedeker. Web page developed by Sean Gardner, consultant. Funding for this project provided by the New York State Departments of Health and Environment Conservation.

If you have any problems or have any questions with your search please send an e-mail to: [breastcancer@cornell.edu](mailto:breastcancer@cornell.edu)

[BCERF Home](#)   [BCERF Site Search](#)  
[About BCERF](#)   [Email BCERF](#)   [Response Page](#)


 Program on Breast Cancer and Environmental Risk Factors  
 Cornell University (BCERF)  
 © 1998-2004 Cornell University.  
 E-mail: [breastcancer@cornell.edu](mailto:breastcancer@cornell.edu)


 We subscribe to the HONcode principles. [Verify here.](#)

provides a list of specific products containing the chemical in question.

In addition to the searchable, interactive database, the user also has the option of downloading a print version of the database and a coversheet explaining its purpose, a list of abbreviations, and key references. A link to the full on-line bibliography for the ECCD is also

available.

Many questions remain about human breast cancer risk and the NTP-identified mammary carcinogens. As we move closer to the goal of understanding the relationship of specific chemicals to breast cancer risk, we hope that the ECCD will provide a useful research tool to those seeking risk reduction

opportunities through chemical substitution in the occupational setting, in the community, or at home. Comments welcome! Contact Suzanne Snedeker at [sms31@cornell.edu](mailto:sms31@cornell.edu) 

---

# Cancer and Environment Forum held at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine

On June 4, 2004 BCERF held its Spring Cancer and Environment Forum on the Cornell campus in Ithaca, in its new home in the College of Veterinary Medicine. The agenda carried the diverse but interrelated themes of how nutrition, body type characteristics, and genetic-environment interaction affect breast cancer risk. At least 65 people from academia, NYS agencies, county health departments, breast clinics, members of the Ithaca Breast Cancer Alliance, and other individuals participated in the day. Evaluation results suggest that the Forum offered participants new (and sometimes challenging!) material to add to their knowledge of the emerging science of breast cancer risk factors.

Dr. Rodney Dietert facilitated his last Forum as Director of BCERF, as he will be stepping down from this position this summer. BCERF staff and the Sprecher Institute presented Rod with a plaque in honor of his years of service to the program. We were happy to have the following people welcome participants to the Forum: Dean Donald F. Smith, Professor of Surgery and Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell; Dr. Helene Dillard, Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension and Professor of Plant Pathology; Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton representing the 125th Assembly District; and Dr. Rodney Page, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Sprecher Institute for Comparative Cancer Research.

## **Mammographic Density and the Incidence of Breast Cancer: A Modifiable Example of Gene-Environment Interaction**

Dr. Norman Boyd, the Head of the Division of Epidemiology, Statistics and Behavioural Research at the Ontario Cancer in Toronto, joined us to discuss a marker of breast cancer risk, mammographic density (the appearance of dense breast tissue on mammograms). Although this relationship has been documented using less precise methods, Dr. Boyd has worked with a group to develop a quantitative and reproducible method for measuring breast density. Dr. Boyd and his colleagues have generated an abundance of data documenting the positive correlation between increased breast density and increased breast cancer risk. Though this relationship may not be causal, he described the many ways that this correlation tells us more about breast cancer risk than any other method we currently have.

Dr. Boyd posed the question: how is it that a risk factor that gets less common as people age is related to a disease that is more common as people age? He then explained: it is breast tissue age, not chronological age, which most influences changing levels of susceptibility.

Mammographic density parallels breast tissue age. Both breast tissue age and mammographic density act as 'cumulative exposures' and are affected by reproductive events such as the ages at menarche, first child's birth and menopause. He noted that reproductive variables explain 20% of mammographic density in the population. Dr. Boyd then provided fascinating data on where genetics fits into the larger research picture. In a large study of 1000 pairs of female twins in North America and Australia, there was approximately 65% agreement in the level of breast density in identical twins and 28% in non-identical twins. He concludes that genes for mammographic "density-for-age" exist and that: these may be important determinants of age-specific incidence of breast cancer; they may likely explain some proportion of familial breast cancer risk; and failure to take this into account may lead to a misrepresentation of the role of environmental risk factors.

In examining data from Chinese populations, it appears that their much shorter average period of exposure to density (i.e. the population tends to have a higher level of breast dense tissue for a much shorter period) may be related to potentially modifiable factors, such as fat intake. Dr. Boyd cited data showing a low-fat diet over two years reducing the area of breast dense tissue. We look forward to more information as Dr. Boyd's studies continue to yield results.

## **Folate, Cancer, Genetic Variation and the Food Supply**

Another angle on genetics and cancer was provided by Dr. Patrick Stover, an Associate Professor here at Cornell in the Division of Nutritional Sciences. Dr. Stover began his talk describing the effect that the Human Genome Project has on the expectation of change in the worlds of pharmacogenomics and nutritional genomics. In other words, is the way being paved toward personalized medicine and nutrition, according to genotype? Dr. Stover's expertise in the area of the nutrient folate, a water-soluble B-vitamin, and its relationship to birth defects and disease outcome demonstrates that the answer is not simple.

Folate plays a role in two metabolic pathways related to cancer risk: DNA synthesis and cellular methylation. These pathways may explain the relationship between folate deficiency and cancer risk. More widely known is the relationship of impaired folate status and neural tube defects in offspring – the rationale behind the fortification of the food supply with folic acid since 1998. Data describing the rates of neural tube defects, however, also points to a genetic component. Dr. Stover presented



*Dean Donald Smith sharing a portrait of Isidor Sprecher, DVM '39 and Sylvia Sprecher, with Dr. Rodney Page and Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton.*

information on a common polymorphism (variant in gene sequence) which is associated with risk for neural tube defects; however, this polymorphism is also protective against cancer, demonstrating that a genotype can be simultaneously advantageous and disadvantageous for health outcomes.

Epidemiologically, high folate status has been shown to be associated with decreased cancer risk. The Physicians' Health Study showed a seven-fold difference in colon cancer risk between individuals with low folate and high (supplement-level) folate status. Several studies have also shown that folate may mitigate the relationship of high alcohol intake and breast cancer risk.

Dr. Stover and colleagues have also done work in both tumors and cancer cells that is defining the specific metabolic pathways which are important to the connection between folate and cancer. We look forward to learning the ongoing results of studies from Dr. Stover's laboratory.

### **Obesity, Environment and Breast Cancer Risk**

Dr. Barbour Warren, Research Associate for BCERF, presented on "Obesity, Environment and Breast Cancer Risk." This provided the scientific premises for a BCERF community intervention and research project, currently in the planning stages. He described the data demonstrating that obesity is an important breast cancer risk factor, and explained that:

- it is consistently associated with about a doubling of breast cancer risk;
- it can be changed, albeit with some difficulty;
- it has adverse effects on breast cancer diagnosis, recurrence and survival.

He defined obesity, and the obesity epidemic, including the fact that genetics are unlikely to explain the recent increases in obesity. He very effectively showed how we are experiencing a "mismatch" of genes and environment, having developed to efficiently store energy and yet being a sedentary society with an abundant food supply (compared to historically requiring a large amount of physical work and having an unpredictable food supply). Dr. Warren's data characterizing our food supply included plenty of examples of the "super-sizing" of soft drink portions and commercial baked goods, a 200% increase in meals and snacks eaten out from 1977 to 1995, and the current relative low-pricing of food as compared to the earlier part of the last century. In describing an environmental approach to addressing obesity, Dr. Warren emphasized that these food environment issues need to be addressed, as well as the design of our community environments and the structure of our leisure time. These issues greatly effect how sedentary our society is on whole. Stay tuned for more information about the BCERF community intervention and research project on this theme.

### **Organizational and programmatic updates**

Due to illness, we were not able to hear from the representative of the Healthy Living Partnership of Tompkins County, and will hope to do so in the future. We were happy to hear from Heather Clark on the Agriculture and Environmental Program Committee for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, Suzanne Snedeker on recent activities within BCERF's

*continued on page 8*

*The Ribbon* is published by the Cornell Program on Breast Cancer and Environmental Risk Factors in New York State. Funding provided by the New York State Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation.

**Editor**

Carmi Orenstein,  
M.P.H., *Assistant  
Director*

**Design**

West Hill Graphics,  
Ithaca, NY

---

**CANCER AND ENVIRONMENT FORUM HELD AT CORNELL** *continued from page 7*

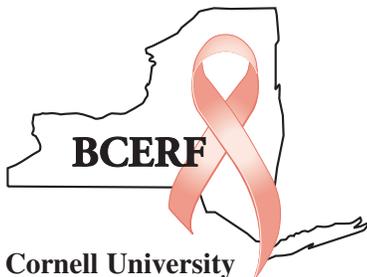
environmental chemicals projects, and Joyce Rodler on the pest management program of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County.

**Breast Cancer Advocacy: History and Context**

Bob Riter, Associate Director of the Ithaca Breast Cancer Alliance (IBCA) and breast cancer survivor, brought the group a completely different perspective on breast cancer: a discussion of the major events and approaches of the breast cancer movement. It was not until the mid-1970s when major public figures, such as Betty Ford, announced openly that they had breast cancer that the disease came fully into public view. This seemed to open the way for the accomplishments that followed, changing the environment within which many women (and men, Bob reminds us) navigated their way through the breast cancer experience. Bob reflected on accomplishments such as the availability and acceptability of peer support and the pursuit of second opinions, quicker turnaround on pathology reports, and acceptance that more aggressive treatment does not always mean better treatment. He also touched on the major accomplishment of the institutional role that advocates play in allocating federal research dollars. Looking toward the future he sees a continued focus on prevention in the breast cancer movement, more attention to the 2.1 million survivors and their needs, access to care issues, and coalition building. Bob ended by sharing with the group the recently produced documentary on the founding of IBCA, which won the National Award in the Documentary Public Awareness category, from the 2004 Hometown Video Festival. This video was produced by Baseema Banoo and Ward Krkuska. 

---

*The next Cancer and Environment Forum is to be held October 29, 2004 at Cornell Cooperative Extension of New York City: more information coming soon.*



**Cornell University**

*Program on Breast Cancer and  
Environmental Risk Factors*

Box 31, College of Veterinary Medicine  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14853-6401

Phone: (607) 254-2893

Email: [breastcancer@cornell.edu](mailto:breastcancer@cornell.edu)