

August 2010

Dr. Richard Pazdur
Director, Office of Oncology Drug Products
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
Food and Drug Administration
5901-B Ammendale Road
Beltsville, MD 20705-1266

Dear Dr. Pazdur,

We are breast cancer patients and advocates who are writing to urge the FDA to follow the ODAC recommendation and revoke approval of Avastin® (bevacizumab) for the first line treatment of metastatic breast cancer in combination with chemotherapy. Accelerated approval was granted in 2008 with the expectation that follow-up studies would show a clinically meaningful improvement for patients. It is now clear that Avastin is not providing a meaningful improvement to patients, and is exposing them to a greater risk of serious toxicities.

We urge the FDA to reverse course on Avastin approval and restore the highest standards for drug approval. No meaningful benefit has been established for Avastin in breast cancer but we have seen evidence of significant harm. We must put patients needs and their trust above all else – patients must trust that the drugs they are given can be expected to give them benefit and not expose them to greater harm.

Sincerely,

Organizational Signatories:

Christine Norton
Minnesota Breast Cancer Coalition

Michele Rakoff
Breast Cancer Care & Research Fund

Marlene McCarthy
Rhode Island Breast Cancer Coalition

Cindy Pearson
National Women's Health Network

Sylvia Rickard
Utah Breast Cancer Network

Mary D.G. Barker
North Carolina Breast Cancer Advocacy
Network

Susan Love, MD
Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation

Ann Fonfa
Annie Appleseed Project

Laura Nikolaidis
National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC)

Christine Brunswick
Metropolitan Washington, DC Chapter of NBCC

Vicky Tashman
Pink-Link

Kathy Zeitz
Bosom Buddies, Inc.

Ruth Eldredge
Georgia Breast Cancer Coalition Fund

Dale Eastman
Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation

Carol Matyka
CARE Advocates

Laurel Bezanson
Maine Breast Cancer Coalition

Kathleen Harris
Wisconsin Breast Cancer Coalition

Vicky Cooke
Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition

Shirley Brown
Women of Color Breast Cancer Survivors'
Support Project

Sandy Walsh
California Breast Cancer Organizations

Carolyn DeArmond
African-American Women in Touch

Donna Duncan
Linda Creed Breast Cancer Foundation

Bonnie Anderson
Women and Men Supporting Each Other
African American Support Group

Gail Allen
Breast Cancer Coalition of Nevada

Angela A. Lawrence
Virginia Breast Cancer Coalition

Loretta Mikulski
South Jersey Breast Cancer Coalition

Individual Signatories:

Jean Albert
Narragansett, RI

Kathleen M. Ball
Cincinnati, OH

Amy Bonoff
New York, NY

Vernal Branch
Richmond, VA

Larisa Caicedo
Alexandria, VA

Phyllis Connelly
Webster, NY

Sandra Dave
Metairie, LA

Kathy Durham
Davie, FL

Gloria Elliott
Washington, D.C.

Sherry Goldman
Los Angeles, CA

Pat Haugen
Sioux Falls, SD

Ann Hernick
Cincinnati, OH

Judi Hirshfield-Bartek
Boston, Massachusetts

Sue Holmes
Hollis, NH

Marie Kaplan
Highland Mills, NY

Jim Konschnik
Hallandale, FL

Karen Lewkowitz
Paradise Valley, AZ

Debra Madden
Newtown, CT

Nancy Ryan
Lee, NH

Joy Simha, Co-founder
Young Survival Coalition
Glen Cove, NJ

Vicky Tosher
Englewood, CO

Mary Jo Vazquez
Silver Spring, MD

Dottie Waddell
Oregon City, OR

Maria Wetzel
Baldwin, MI

Liz Wohl
New York, NY