Dispelling Myths about Clinical Trials
A Web Educational Program for Physicians

Kathleen Ciccone, Principal Investigator
Healthcare Association of New York State
Breast Cancer Demonstration Project™
One Empire Drive, Rensselaer, NY 12144
(518) 431-7661  www.hanys.org

December 2003

Supported by the New York State Assembly and
Grant/Cooperative Agreement Number  H75/CCH221302-01
awarded to the Healthcare Association of New York State from the federal
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
© 2003 Healthcare Association of New York State. All rights reserved.
Dispelling Myths about Clinical Trials

By
D. Lawrence Wickerham, M.D.
Associate Chairman
National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project (NSABP)

© 2003 Healthcare Association of New York State. All rights reserved.
2003 Breast Cancer Estimates for Women
American Cancer Society

211,300 NEW CASES

- 3% Melanoma of Skin
- 3% Thyroid
- 32% Breast
- 12% Lung and Bronchus
- 2% Pancreas
- 11% Colon and Rectum
- 4% Ovary
- 6% Uterus
- 2% Urinary
- 4% Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma
- 20% All Other Sites

39,800 DEATHS

- 2% Brain
- 15% Breast
- 25% Lung and Bronchus
- 6% Pancreas
- 11% Colon and Rectum
- 5% Ovary
- 3% Uterus
- 2% Urinary
- 4% Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma
- 4% Leukemia
- 2% Multiple Myeloma
- 23% All Other Sites
Improvements in breast cancer detection and treatment are a direct consequence of:

- Clinical trials
- Women who entered those trials
Less than 5% of women with breast cancer who are eligible for clinical trials choose to enter a trial.

WHY?
Myths and Misconceptions about Clinical Trials
FALSE!
Clinical trials are only conducted at major universities and cancer centers.

FALSE!
Clinical trials are only for patients for whom all other treatment has failed.

FALSE!
Patients in clinical trials are like “guinea pigs.”

FALSE!
Satisfaction levels of patients in clinical trials:

- Good or excellent treatment — 97%
- Patient willing to advocate for the clinical trial — 75%
Why do patients enter clinical trials?

- High quality of care.
- Altruism—the unselfish desire to benefit others.
Where can I find details on a specific clinical trial?

- National Cancer Institute
  - 800-4-CANCER
    (800-422-6237)
  - www.cancer.gov

- www.trialcheck.org

- www.clinicaltrials.com
Barriers for Primary Care Providers

- Minimal experience with clinical trials.
- Fear of:
  - financial liability
  - medical responsibility or liability
- No perceived role.
Possible Solutions

**Short term:**
- streamline the process
- minimize logistical barriers
- improve communication
Possible Solutions

- Longer term
  - national effort to educate the public about clinical trials
  - improved recognition for trial participants
Make clinical trials a *first* choice, not a last resort.
Medical Disclaimer

Terms and Conditions of Use

By accessing, viewing, or using the material available on or through the Healthcare Association of New York State’s Breast Cancer Demonstration Project (HANYS BCDP™) Web site, you, the user, indicate that you understand and intend these terms and conditions to be legal, that you accept such terms and conditions, and that you agree to be legally bound by them.

1. The HANYS BCDP™ Web site is intended for informational purposes only. HANYS BCDP™ makes available certain information provided by third parties related to various professional fields such as medicine. HANYS does not give advice in any such fields and in no way endorses any of the information provided in this manner.

HANYS STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT YOU SEEK ADVICE FROM A COMPETENT PROFESSIONAL REGARDING ISSUES IN ANY PROFESSIONAL FIELD.
2. *Dispelling Myths about Clinical Trials*© was developed for viewing on the HANYS BCDP™ Web site for informational purposes only. Duplication of this presentation is prohibited.

3. *Dispelling Myths about Clinical Trials*© and HANYS BCDP™ Web site are © Copyright 2003 Healthcare Association of New York State. All rights reserved. The Healthcare Association of New York State also owns a copyright in this Web site as a collective work and/or compilation and in the selection, coordination, arrangement, and enhancement of such content. All materials contained on or available through the HANYS BCDP™ Web site, unless otherwise indicated, are protected by law including, but not limited to, United States copyright and trademark law, and other state, national, and international laws and regulations.

4. The development of this presentation, *Dispelling Myths about Clinical Trials*©, was supported by the New York State Assembly and grant/cooperative agreement number H75/CCH221302-01 awarded to the Healthcare Association of New York State from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.