



*For Immediate Release March 26, 2007*

## **SCIENTIFIC PEER REVIEW OF BREAST CANCER RESEARCH PROPOSALS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

Breast cancer advocate **Martha Kaley** recently participated in the evaluation of research proposals submitted to the Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) sponsored by the Department of Defense. Kaley was nominated for participation in the program by **Friends For An Earlier Breast Cancer Test based in Greensboro, NC ([www.earlier.org](http://www.earlier.org))**. As a consumer reviewer, she was a full voting member, along with prominent scientists, at meetings to determine how the remainder of Congress' FY06 appropriation of \$127.5 million will be spent on future breast cancer research.

Consumer reviewers are asked to represent the collective view of breast cancer survivors and patients, family members, and persons at risk for the disease, when they prepare comments on the impact of the research on issues such as disease prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, and quality of life after treatment. Martha Kaley was one of thirty-four consumer advocates who participated in the March 18 – 20, 2007 peer review meetings and provided comments and scores for nearly 600 research proposals. Commenting on her role as a consumer reviewer, Martha said that “This was a most interesting, challenging, and rewarding experience. It totally confirmed and validated the focus and work of Friends For An Earlier Breast Cancer Test.”

Consumer advocates and scientists have worked together in this unique partnership to evaluate the scientific merit of breast cancer research proposals since 1995. To date, 977 consumer reviewers have served on breast cancer panels alongside scientists in the review process. Colonel Janet R Harris, Director of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, expressed her appreciation for the consumer advocates' perspective in the scientific review sessions. “They have provided valuable insight into funding decisions and helped the scientists understand the consumers' perspective of innovative research. Likewise, the consumer advocates have been enriched by learning more about breast cancer through discussing proposed research with scientists and seeing the future hopes of successful research.”

Over 1800 breast cancer research proposals have been reviewed over the past two months. Scientists applying propose to conduct innovative multidisciplinary breast cancer research aimed at the elimination of breast cancer. Proposals were solicited across all disciplines, including basic, clinical, social, and psychosocial sciences, as well as public health, economics, quality of life,

alternative therapies, occupational health, nursing research, and environmental concerns.

More information about the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program is available at the Website: <http://cdmrp.army.mil>.

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Attached is a recent digital photograph provided by Friends For An Earlier Breast Cancer Test (336.286.6620, [kmcburney@earlier.org](mailto:kmcburney@earlier.org)) that may be used in conjunction with this press release.

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