

Participation Spotlight

AVON volunteer Donna Johnson joins trial

Donna Johnson had participated in Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in Denver for several years, and for the July 2005 walk she signed on as Team Leader for the Wellness Village, meaning she was in charge of the all-volunteer crew for the overnight "camp" for participants. When she solicited a coworker for fundraising, her colleague wanted to learn about who received the money the Avon Foundation was raising. Donna looked on the Avon Foundation website to find specific examples of projects supported by the Avon Foundation. While doing so, she read about the ACRIN study Screening Breast Ultrasound in High-Risk Women and realized she might be eligible to participate. That night, she did further research about the study.

Donna, whose mother passed away from breast cancer, had known she was at high risk for breast cancer ever since she was a teenager. She discovered that the Sally Jobe Breast Center, where she had gone in the past for her mammograms, was one of 21 centers participating in the trial. Donna says, "I would never have found out about the study if I hadn't been fundraising. You give, and you don't know when you're going to get back. I got back really quickly."

When Donna went to the Sally Jobe Center for her imaging, the radiologist was impressed when he learned that she had been working with Avon, and he told her how important the Avon Foundation's support had been to the trial.



Donna describes her study experience as "absolutely incredible." The ultrasound detected a lump that the mammogram had missed, but fortunately the biopsy came back negative for cancer. Donna says of the Sally Jobe staff, "I cannot believe how caring they were throughout the entire process."

This past July, Donna was one of the evening speakers at the Avon Breast Cancer Walk, and she talked about her experiences on the study. Afterwards, people came up to her and expressed interest in participating. She says, "I've shared my story with quite a few people. If I'm talking to someone and I know they're high-risk, I tell them about this study right here in town." Donna is looking forward to completing the follow-up, and she's glad she found out about this study. She says with a laugh, "It was meant to be."



Avon Foundation Message

The Avon Foundation, in partnership with the National Cancer Center, is proud to fund the ACRIN clinical trial Screening Breast Ultrasound in High-Risk Women. We commend all the women who have participated in this important research.

This year, the Avon Foundation celebrates half a century committed to improving the lives of women. Since 1955, we have exceeded \$450 million raised and awarded for women's empowerment and health. The mission of the Avon Foundation Breast Cancer Crusade is to support access to care and find a cure for breast cancer, with a focus on the medically underserved. This ACRIN clinical trial helps achieve our mission by improving the quality and length of life for cancer patients, while bringing us closer to our shared dream: the eradication of breast cancer.

Carol Kurzig
Executive Director
Avon Foundation



Screening Breast Ultrasound Study Reaches Enrollment Goal

The American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN) is pleased to announce more than 2800 women at high risk for breast cancer volunteered to participate in the Screening Breast Ultrasound trial. Reaching this enrollment goal is a major milestone toward the overall study goal of determining if screening breast ultrasound – in combination with mammography – can discover small breast cancers that mammography alone may miss.

"We truly appreciate the commitment of all study volunteers who are participating in this vital research that may help us detect cancers at an earlier and more treatable stage" said Wendie Berg, MD, PhD, the trial's principal investigator. The continued follow-up of volunteers throughout the 24 months of study and future clinical follow-up is of vital importance, and we recognize and thank each participant for the commitment of time and energy this represents.



About ACRIN

The American College of Radiology Imaging Network, known as ACRIN, is a national cancer research organization funded by the National Cancer Institute. It is made up of investigators at over 100 leading medical facilities located in North America and abroad.



The goal of ACRIN is to conduct studies in medical imaging that will result in the earlier diagnosis of cancer and increase the longevity and improve the quality of life of cancer patients. To learn more about ACRIN visit www.acrin.org.



The study is funded by a unique partnership between the National Cancer Institute and the Avon Foundation. Learn more about NCI's programs at www.cancer.gov and about the Avon Foundation's philanthropy at www.avonfoundation.org.

*Your Participation
Makes All the
Difference*

