

CALIFORNIA

Breast
Cancer
Research
PROGRAM

Compendium of Awards

**Cycle 31
2024-2025**

Introduction

The mission of the CBCRP is to prevent and eliminate breast cancer by leading innovation in research, communication, and collaboration in the California scientific and lay communities.

The [California Breast Cancer Research Program](#) (CBCRP) is pleased to announce the **funding of 18 new research projects** that will advance our knowledge about the community impact, prevention, etiology, detection, and treatment of breast cancer. With these new awards we are **investing \$10,522,789 for research projects being performed at 24 institutions and community organizations across the state.**

CBCRP supports breast cancer research in California from funds obtained through:

- A portion of a **2¢ per pack State cigarette tax**
- Contributions from individuals using the **State's income tax check-off** option
- **Donations** from concerned community members dedicated to defeating breast cancer

CBCRP is administered by the University of California, Office of the President, in Oakland. Our overall objectives, strategies, and priorities are developed with the assistance of a volunteer California Breast Cancer Research Council (BCRC), which sets program priorities and recommends the grants to be funded. The BCRC consists of 16 members: five are representatives of breast cancer survivor/advocacy groups; five are scientists/clinicians; two are members from nonprofit health organizations, one is a practicing breast cancer medical specialist, two are members from private industry, and one is an *ex officio* member from the California Department of Health Services breast cancer early detection program, "Every Woman Counts."

CBCRP research funding is organized through several sub-program units including:

- **Community initiatives** supports research grants that incorporate both academic researchers and community group investigators to study a problem specific to a community, but with wider dissemination potential.
- **Core funding** focuses on investigator-initiated traditional grants to support smaller, innovative projects, policy awards and conferences.
- **Program Directed Initiatives** support California Breast Cancer Prevention Initiative and Preventing Breast Cancer: Community, Population, and Environmental Approaches projects. These are one-time initiatives that are designed to identify and eliminate environmental causes of breast cancer; identify and eliminate disparities/inequities in the burden of breast cancer in California; develop population-level interventions (including policy research) on known or suspected breast cancer risk factors and protective measures; and develop target interventions for high-risk individuals, including new methods for identifying or assessing risk.

The full abstracts of these newly funded grants, as well as those from previous CBCRP funding cycles, can be found on our [Funded Research Database](#).

Overview of CBCRP Priority Areas

- **The Community Impact of Breast Cancer: The Social Context** explores the factors that contribute to the unequal burden of breast cancer among diverse communities and the policy alternatives that would contribute to reducing disparities in access to prevention, risk reduction, detection, treatment, support, and/or survivorship services for California's underserved populations. Subtopics of this priority area include:
 - Health Policy
 - Health Services
 - Sociocultural, Behavioral and Psychological Issues Relevant to Breast Cancer: The Human Side
 - Disparities: Eliminating the Unequal Burden of Breast Cancer
- **Etiology and Prevention: Finding the Underlying Causes** investigates the causes of breast cancer and the strategies that can be used to prevent it. We are interested in learning about the environmental and biological factors that interact to increase the risk of developing breast cancer and the approaches that can be used to reduce or eliminate breast cancer risk. Subtopics of this priority area include:
 - Etiology: The Role of Environment and Lifestyle
 - Prevention and Risk Reduction: Ending the Danger of Breast Cancer
- **Biology of the Breast Cell: The Basic Science of the Disease** supports research that addresses the critical need to understand the pre-neoplastic, causative events of breast cancer at the tissue level, including the stroma. These studies investigate genetic changes in stem cells and normal tissue as well as disease progression and the tumor heterogeneity at the basic science level. Subtopics of this priority area include:
 - Biology of the Normal Breast: The Starting Point
 - Pathogenesis: Understanding the Disease
- **Detection, Prognosis and Treatment: Delivering Clinical Solutions** supports projects with aims that are on the critical path for translation. They develop novel imaging technologies, new biomarkers, and genomic/proteomic approaches for more accurate diagnosis and prognosis. They are also researching less toxic and more individualized therapies, mechanisms of drug resistance, and studies to evaluate alternative medicines and natural products. Subtopics of this priority area include:
 - Imaging, Biomarkers, and Molecular Pathology: Improving Detection and Diagnosis
 - Innovative Treatment Modalities: Searching for a Cure.

Overview of CBCRP Award Types

CBCRP funded new research projects using a variety of award types:

- **Community Research Collaboration (CRC)** awards bring community organizations—such as breast cancer advocates, community clinics, or organizations serving under-represented women—together with experienced academic scientists to investigate breast cancer problems that are important to that community, using culturally-appropriate research methods. This year CRC Planning (12-months) and Pilot (18-months) awards were available.
- **Innovative Developmental and Exploratory Awards (IDEAs)** are 12- to 18-month grants for targeted high-risk/high-reward projects. CBCRP incorporates the “critical path” concept, which requires applicants to place their project on a research continuum leading to practical applications. IDEAs were offered to both new and established investigators.
- **Policy Initiative Awards** support rapid turnaround research into pressing breast cancer relevant issues that inform and drive policies in California
- **Conference Awards** support a conference, symposium, retreat, or other meeting to link breast cancer researchers, non-breast cancer investigators, and community members for the purpose of stimulating new ideas and collaborations.

- **Program Directed Initiatives** support **Requests for Proposals (RFPs)** that competitively fund investigator-initiated research responding to the California Breast Cancer Prevention Initiative and Preventing Breast Cancer Initiative topics, **Request for Qualifications (RFQs)** that fund grants based on the qualifications of the investigator to undertake CBCRP-defined research projects in close collaboration with CBCRP and **Program Directed Awards (PDAs)** to fund crucial projects identified during the strategy development proposed by the Steering Committee and approved by the CBCRP Council.

LOI and Application Submissions and Review

IDEA applications must pass through a letter of intent (LOI) screening process conducted by our Council to select projects that best meet our award type and programmatic criteria. We view this as a benefit to both the applicants and Program in terms of reducing the effort to prepare full applications and CBCRP's corresponding peer review costs.

Table 1. LOI submission and approval results

Award Type	LOIs submitted	LOIs approved	Percent approved
IDEA	13	12	92%

After the LOI process, the full application data is shown in the table below.

Table 2. 2025 full application submissions by award type and priority issue

Award Type ↓	CBCRP Priority Issue				Award Type Totals
	Etiology & Prevention	Community Impact	Detection, Prognosis & Treatment	Biology of the Breast Cell	
Innovative, Developmental & Exploratory (IDEA)	1	1	8	2	13
Community Research Collaboration Planning	0	4	0	0	4
Community Research Collaboration (CRC) Pilot	1	5	0	0	6
CBCRP Conference	0	0	1	0	1
Policy Initiatives	0	2	0	0	2
Program Directed Initiatives	9	0	0	0	9
Priority Totals	11	12	9	2	34

Funding Highlights

Table 3. 2025 grant distribution by award type



Award Type	Number of Applications	Grants Funded (Success Rate)	Amount Awarded	Percentage of Total Funding
IDEA	12	3 (25%)	\$871,998	8.3%
Community Research Collaboration (CRC) – Planning	4	3 (75%)	\$55,043	0.5%
Community Research Collaboration (CRC) - Pilot	6	4 (67%)	\$1,122,013	10.7%
CBCRP Conference	1	1 (100%)	\$25,000	0.2%
Policy Initiative	2	1 (50%)	\$229,611	2.2%
Program Directed Initiatives	9	6 (67%)	\$8,219,124	78.1%
Total	34	18 (53%)	\$10,522,789	100%

Table 4. 2025 grant distribution by priority issue

Award Type	Number of Applications	Grants Funded (Success Rate)	Amount Awarded	Percentage of Total Funding
Etiology & Prevention	11	7 (64%)	\$8,447,479	80.3%
Community Impact	12	7 (58%)	\$1,178,312	11.2%
Detection, Prognosis & Treatment	9	4 (44%)	\$896,998	8.5%
Biology of the Breast Cell	2	0 (0%)	\$0	0%
Total	34	18 (53%)	\$10,522,789	100%

Grants Funded in Cycle 31 2024-2025

Community Initiatives Grants

Grant	Grantee(s)	Total Award
Community Driven Intervention Development for Young Black Women who have experienced cancer Award type: Community Research Collaboration Award - Planning Priority Issue: Community Impact of Breast Cancer	Anamara Ritt-Olson UC Irvine \$10,117 Ernesta Wright The G.R.E.E.N. Foundation \$7,813	\$17,930
Planning for Community Partnership on Breast Cancer Narratives and Improving Provider Education Award type: Community Research Collaboration Award - Planning Priority Issue: Community Impact of Breast Cancer	Dalia Magana UC Merced \$10,125 Candice Adam-Medefind Healthy House within a Match Coalition \$9,375	\$19,500
UCLA CHPR CRC Planning Grant Award type: Community Research Collaboration Award - Planning Priority Issue: Community Impact of Breast Cancer	Susan Babey UC Los Angeles \$10,113 Yolanda Origel Cancer Kinship \$7,500	\$17,613
 A Pilot Air Quality Intervention in California Nail Salons Award type: Community Research Collaboration Award - Pilot Priority Issue: Community Impact of Breast Cancer	Paula Johnson Public Health Institute \$185,920 Mary Nguyen Center for Empowered Politics Education Fund \$42,435	\$228,355
 Culturally-Tailored Food is Medicine for Black/African American Breast Cancer Patients and Survivors Award type: Community Research Collaboration Award - Pilot Priority Issue: Community Impact of Breast Cancer	Lisa Goldman Rosas Stanford University \$164,970 Starla Gay Roots Community Health Center \$116,096	\$281,066
Enhancing Linguistic/Cultural Competency in Latina BC Care: UC Medical Education Initiative in SJV Award type: Community Research Collaboration Award - Pilot Priority Issue: Community Impact of Breast Cancer	Dalia Magana UC Merced \$145,000 Candice Adam-Medefind Healthy House within a Match Coalition \$125,000	\$270,000




**Lost in Transition: Primary Care
Access and Continuity for Long-Term
Breast Cancer Survivors**
Award type: Community Research
Collaboration Award - Pilot
Priority Issue: Community Impact of Breast
Cancer

Cody Ramin
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
\$229,199

Jennifer Henry
Links for Life, Inc.
\$113,393

\$342,592

Single Investigator Grants

Grant	Grantee(s)	Total Award
Breast cancer Risk Evaluation and AssesSmenT at California Department of Pesticide Award type: Policy Initiative Priority Issue: Community Impact of Breast Cancer	Tracey Woodruff UC San Francisco	\$229,611
RISE UP for Breast Cancer Award type: CBCRP Conference Award Priority Issue: Detection, Prognosis and Treatment	Laura Esserman UC San Francisco	\$25,000
Exploring the impact of post-viral lung damage on breast cancer metastasis Award type: IDEA Award Priority Issue: Detection, Prognosis and Treatment	Shaheen Sikandar UC Santa Cruz	\$296,998
 Intranasal Delivery of NEO212 to Radio-Sensitize and Eliminate Brain Metastases of Breast Cancer Award type: IDEA Award Priority Issue: Detection, Prognosis and Treatment	Axel Schonthal Stanford University	\$332,000
Targeting post-transcriptional gene regulation in Triple-negative breast cancer Award type: IDEA Award Priority Issue: Detection, Prognosis and Treatment	Dinesh Rao UC Los Angeles	\$270,000

Program-Directed Research

Grant	Grantee(s)	Total Award
Addressing Well Water Contaminants via Novel Testing and Exposure Reduction Interventions Award type: Program Directed Initiative – CLASP-BC Phase 2 Full Priority Issue: Community Impact of Breast Cancer	Rainbow Rubin Breast Cancer Prevention Partners \$961,810 Lauren Chew Community Water Center \$593,750	\$1,555,560

BLOOM: Breast cancer risk Literacy & Outreach for Organized farmworker Mobilization Award type: Program Directed Initiative – CLASP-BC Phase 2 Full Priority Issue: Community Impact of Breast Cancer	Nyisha Green-Washington Breast Cancer Prevention Partners \$556,286	\$1,407,746
	Yunuen Ibarra Lideres Campesinas \$401,113	
	Adrienn Borsika Rabin UC San Diego \$450,347	
Latina Property Service Workers Advocating to Reduce Breast Cancer Risks from Environmental Toxins Award type: Program Directed Initiative – CLASP-BC Phase 2 Full Priority Issue: Community Impact of Breast Cancer	Michelle Burton Community Health Councils Inc. \$1,193,650	\$1,513,648
	Janet Pregler UC Los Angeles \$319,998	
The Breast Cancer Prevention LATCH Plan: Lactation Accessibility for Thriving Community Health Award type: Program Directed Initiative – CLASP-BC Phase 2 Full Priority Issue: Community Impact of Breast Cancer	Jasmine Pettis Marquez California Breastfeeding Coalition \$1,442,452	\$1,500,474
	Mimi Demissew Our Family Coalition \$58,022	
Addressing Well Water Contaminants via Novel Testing and Exposure Reduction Interventions Award type: Program Directed Initiative – CLASP-BC Phase 2 Full Priority Issue: Community Impact of Breast Cancer	Jimi Huh University of Southern California \$1,006,000	\$1,705,696
	Thu Tran Boat People SOS \$699,696	
The Breast Health and the Environment Among Latinas in Los Angeles: Mapping Disparities and Systems Award type: Program Directed Initiative – Local Level Needs Phase 2 Priority Issue: Community Impact of Breast Cancer	Jill Johnston UC Irvine \$361,000	\$536,000
	Nancy Ibrahim Esperanza Community Housing \$175,000	



Denotes awards that have been supported in part through voluntary contributions from California taxpayers



Denotes Faith Fancher Research Award recipient. [Faith Fancher](#) was a long-time television news anchor and personality with KTVU (Oakland) who waged a very public battle against breast cancer. She also was the founding member of the CBCRP Executive Team, which formed in 2001 to help raise the visibility and fundraising profile of our program. Faith passed away in October 2003 after a six-year struggle with breast cancer. In Faith's honor, and to commemorate all that she did for breast cancer education and research, we have created this annual award. The selected grant reflects the values that Faith held most closely and extends the work that Faith did for all women facing breast cancer.

2025 CBCRP Funding by Institution

The following **24 California research institutions and community organizations were awarded new CBCRP funding in the 2024-2025 grant cycle.** Community Research Collaboration (CRC) and Program Initiative awards fund multiple organizations.

<u>Institution</u>	<u># of Grants</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Boat People SOS	1	\$699,696
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners	2	\$1,518,096
California Breastfeeding Coalition	1	\$1,442,452
Cancer Kinship	1	\$7,500
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	1	\$229,199
Center for Empowered Politics Education Fund	1	\$42,435
Community Health Councils Inc	1	\$1,193,650
Community Water Center	1	\$593,750
Esperanza Community Housing	1	\$175,000
Healthy House within a Match Coalition	2	\$134,375
Lideres Campesinas	1	\$401,113
Links for Life Inc.	1	\$113,393
Our Family Coalition	1	\$58,022
Public Health Institute	1	\$185,920
Roots Community Health Center	1	\$116,096
Stanford University	1	\$164,970
The G.R.E.E.N. Foundation	1	\$7,813
University of California, Irvine	2	\$371,117
University of California, Los Angeles	3	\$600,111
University of California, Merced	2	\$155,125
University of California, San Diego	1	\$450,347
University of California, San Francisco	2	\$254,611
University of California, Santa Cruz	1	\$269,998
University of Southern California	2	\$1,338,000

2025 CBCRP application evaluation process & review committee rosters

CBCRP thanks the participants in our 2025 review committees for their service and dedication to our Program!

In the first phase of the funding process, grant applications were peer reviewed and scored for scientific merit by review committees using a model that follows established practice at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Each committee is composed of scientists and advocates from outside California. The Committee Chair leads the review process and is a senior researcher. Scientific Reviewers have broad expertise in topics associated with individual applications. Breast cancer Advocate Reviewers are women active in breast cancer advocacy organizations, and many of them are also living with the disease. Advocates bring their personal knowledge and commitment to the review process. Each committee also includes a California Advocate Observer, who does not review or vote, but represents California's advocacy community. The observer gains insight into our process and provides feedback to the Program. When additional expertise is needed, an Ad Hoc Member is brought in to review a particular application not covered by the other committee scientist reviewers.

CBCRP uses a scientific **merit scoring system** that rates individual components (e.g., approach, innovativeness, impact). This allows our expert reviewers and Council to better differentiate applications that might otherwise appear identical. We use four scientific merit components to comprise the score.

We **triage** some applications that score in the lower range of a committee's portfolio using the preliminary scores of the assigned reviewers. Applications in the upper range of a committee's portfolio all receive full committee discussion, as do any of the lower scoring applications nominated to full review by one reviewer.

Applications that were not triaged were rated by CBCRP's Council for **programmatic responsiveness**. Combinations of the following criteria were used:

- Responsiveness to CBCRP's priority issues and award type or initiative
- Strength of individual scientific merit component scores (innovation for IDEA and community benefit for CRC applications)
- Underfunded topic
- Quality of the lay abstract
- Inclusion of advocates in the funded research
- Addressing the needs of the underserved
- Critical path/translation (IDEA)
- Dissemination and translational potential (CRC and program initiatives)

This two-tiered evaluation and funding process ensures both scientific excellence and relevance of the research to CBCRP's mission and goals.

Community Impact Review Committee

Co-Chairs:

Sherrie Flynt Wallington, PhD

Associate Professor of Nursing and of Prevention
and Community Health
School of Nursing
George Washington University
Washington, DC

Ella Greene-Moton

President, American Public Health Association
Administrator, Community Based Organization
Partners (CBOP)
Community Ethics Review Board (CERB)
Flint, MI

Scientific Reviewers:

Farrah Jacquez, PhD

Professor, Department of Psychology
Assistant VP for Internal Partnerships and
Participation
Co-Director of Community Engagement
Center for Clinical and Translational Science and
Training (CCTST)
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH

Silifat Mustapha, MPH, RN

Adjunct Instructor
Standard School of Nursing
Vice President of Nursing
Unity Health Care
Leesburg, VA

Antonio Tovar, PhD

Senior Policy Associate
National Family Farm Coalition
Washington, DC

Erika Trapl, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Population and
Quantitative Health Sciences, School of Medicine
Director, Prevention Research Center for Healthy
Neighborhoods, School of Medicine
Associate Director for Community Outreach and
Engagement, Case Comprehensive Cancer Center
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, OH

Emma Tsui, MPH, PhD

Associate Professor
Department of Community Health & Social Sciences
CUNY Graduate School of Public Health & Health
Policy
New York, NY

Advocate Reviewer:

Beverly Parker

Living Beyond Breast Cancer
Ardmore, PA

Clinical, Prevention & Biological Sciences Review Committee

Chair:

Peter Kabos, MD

Professor
Department of Medicine - Division of Medical
Oncology University of Colorado Anschutz Medical
Campus Aurora, CO

Scientific Reviewers:

Romi Gupta, PhD

Associate Professor
Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL

Amos Sakwe, PhD, MSCI

Associate Professor
Department of Biomedical Sciences
Meharry Medical College
Nashville, TN

Gina Sizemore, PhD

Associate Professor
Department of Radiation Oncology
The Ohio State University
Columbus, OH

Adetunji Toriola, MD, PhD

Professor of Surgery
Division of Public Health Services, Department of
Surgery
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, MO

Advocate Reviewers:

Jackie Benson

Metastatic Patient Advocate, Advocate Mentor
National Breast Cancer Coalition
Leesburg, VA

Sabrina Wright-Hobart

Young Empowered Survivors
Aurora, CO

Ad Hoc Member:

Shelley Hwang, MD, MPH

Mary and Deryl Hart Distinguished Professor of
Surgery and Professor of Radiology
Vice-Chair of Research in the Department of
Surgery Duke University School of Medicine
Durham, NC

California Advocate Observer:

Deborah Romer

California Breast Cancer Care and
Research Fund
San Francisco, CA

CLASP-BC: Phase 2 Full Awards and Local Level Needs: Phase II Review Committee

Co-Chairs:

Rodney Lyn, PhD

Interim Dean, Professor, Senior Associate Dean
For Academic and Strategic Initiatives
Georgia State University
Atlanta, GA

Ross Brownson, PhD

Lipstein Distinguished Professor and Director
Washington University
St. Louis, MO

Reviewers:

Traci Bethea, PhD

Assistant Professor
Georgetown University Medical Center
Washington, DC

Cynthia Thomson, PhD, RD

Professor Emeritus,
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ

Tisha Felder, PhD, MSW

Associate Professor
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC

Julia Varshavsky, MPH, PhD

Assistant Professor
Northeastern University
Boston, MA

Grace Sembajwe, ScD, MSc

Professor, Environmental and Occupational
Health
University of Indiana
Bloomington, IN

Melicia Whitt-Glover, MA, PhD, FACSM

President and CEO
Gramercy Research Group
Winston-Salem, NC

Parisa Tehranifar, DrPH

Professor
Columbia University
Assistant Professor
New York, NY

Advocate Reviewers:

Jackie Mattila

Desert Southwest Cancer Support Group
Las Cruces, NM

Amy Wu

National Asian Breast Cancer Initiative
New York, NY

Policy Initiative – Fertility Preservation to Cancer Review Committee

Chair:

Tracy Weitz, PhD, MPA

Professor
American University
Washington, DC

Reviewers:

J. Zoe Beckerman, JD MPH

Teaching Professor, Vice Chair of Academics
Milken Institute School of Public Health
The George Washington University
Washington, DC

Sage Kim, PhD

Professor
School of Public Health
University of Illinois, Chicago
Chicago, IL

Alexandra White, PhD MSPH

Stadtman Investigator
Environment and Cancer Epidemiology
NIEHS
Durham, NC

Advocate Reviewers:

Vernal Branch

Research Patient Advocate
Richmond, VA

Desiree Walker

Patient Advocate and Health Educator
New York, NY

CBCRP Policy Research Advisory Group Review Committee

Advocates

Representatives of breast cancer advocacy organizations

Nancy Buermeyer, MS

Senior Policy Strategist
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
San Francisco, CA

Karren Ganstwig

Los Angeles Breast Cancer Alliance
Toluca Lake, CA

JoAnn Loulan

Breast Cancer Action
Portola Valley, CA

Policy Makers

Current and former legislators, legislative staff, and government officials

Laura Fenster, Ph.D. MPH

Epidemiologist, Division of Environmental and Occupational Health (retired)
California Department of Public Health
Richmond, CA

Rick Kreutzer, MD

Assistant Deputy Director of Environmental and Occupational Health (retired)
California Department of Public Health
Oakland, CA

Policy Professionals

Representatives of organizations involved in health policy

Adara Citron, MPH

Principal Analyst, California Health Benefits Review Program
University of California Berkeley
Berkeley, CA

Georgette Lewis

Senior Advisor for Policy and Strategy
University of California Health
Oakland, CA

Pagan Morris

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University of California Health
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Usha Ranji, MS

Associate Director, Women's Health Policy
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CBCRP Council Policy Committee Members

Erika Bell, PhD

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Thomas Jascur, PhD

Invitae

Svetlana Popova, MD, MPH

Every Women Counts Program

Hisashi Tanaka, PhD

Cedar-Sinai Medical Center

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Advocates

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Bay Area Cancer Connections

Christopher Conway

Tower Cancer Research Foundation

Lori Petitti, MBA

Breast Cancer Care and Research Fund

Wendy Shurelds

Many Shades of Pink

Nonprofit Health Organization

Representatives

Argelia Flores, BA

California Health Collaborative

Barbara Perry, MHS

San Diego Black Health Associates

Medical Specialist

Lesley Taylor MD

City of Hope National Medical Center

Industry Representatives

Maura Dickler, MD

Genentech, Inc.

Thomas Jascur, PhD

Invitae

Scientist/Clinicians

Bryan Goldman, DO

Kaiser Baldwin Park Medical Center

Svasti Haricharan

San Diego State University

Sharon Pitteri, PhD

Stanford University

Salma Shariff- Marco

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Hisashi Tanaka, PhD

Cedar-Sinai Medical Center

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Svetlana Popova, MD, MPH

Every Women Counts Program

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