



UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY  
State University of New York

July 6, 2012

To all participants of *A Sister's Hope* events:

I am a cancer researcher whose laboratory studies how dietary changes alter the risk of breast cancer development, and how diet may influence the progression of the disease in women living with cancer. For the last several years, I have been very fortunate to receive funding for this research from *A Sister's Hope*. With this funding, our lab team has begun to unravel the many ways in which vitamin D alters the behavior of breast cancer cells. Vitamin D is an important factor that keeps cells from becoming cancerous and also increases disease-free survival time in women living with breast cancer. We are working towards understanding how much dietary vitamin D is necessary to optimize these beneficial effects on breast cancer. With this information we hope to be better able to advise women on dietary approaches that reduce their risk of dying from breast cancer.

I would like to sincerely thank all of you for participating in *A Sister's Hope* fundraisers which enable support for research projects that aim to reduce morbidity and mortality from breast cancer. Your participation really does make a difference!!

Thanks again for your support,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "JoEllen Welsh".

JoEllen Welsh, PhD  
Empire Innovations Professor  
University at Albany Cancer Research Center  
Albany, NY