

# The DUET Study

## WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Fred Hutch IRB  
Approved  
2/12/2024

**Dr. Christopher Li** and the DUET study staff would like to thank all participants of the DUET Study. The research being done would not be possible without you. We appreciate your generosity in donating your time, blood, and bone marrow samples in order to advance scientific discovery.

*Thank you all!*

### Jill Biden Visits Fred Hutch!

First Lady Jill Biden visited Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center on Friday, September 22nd to discuss the Biden Cancer Moonshot with **Director Tom Lynch, Jr., MD**, and other scientists. While on campus, Dr. Biden toured the lab of **Dr. Cyrus Ghajar, PhD.**, who is a co-investigator with the DUET study and founding director for Fred Hutch's new Center for Metastasis Research Excellence, or MET-X. Dr. Ghajar's lab team had the opportunity to discuss the research being done for the DUET study and what goes on behind the scenes in the lab.



Please follow this link for a video of the visit!

<https://rb.gy/ebf9ih>

"Researchers here are working to prevent breast cancer from coming back and metastasizing in survivors, and clinicians are supporting survivors with quality care designed to meet their unique needs."

-Dr. Jill Biden

[First Lady Jill Biden: 'Your work will change and save lives' | Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center](#)

Available on Hutch News at [fredhutch.org](http://fredhutch.org)

### Participating Sites

The DUET study is also enrolling patients at the Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah and the Siteman Cancer Institute at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

**To find out more about the DUET study, you can now visit our study webpage!**

<<insert link>>

## Debbie Laxague: DUET Patient Advocate



I became involved in breast cancer research advocacy in 2003 after making my way through my own 2001 diagnosis of stage 3 ER-HER2+ breast cancer. That included enrolling in one of the most influential treatment trials ever (adjuvant Herceptin). I was randomized to the control group so did not receive Herceptin. Although that was a hard blow initially, over time I took comfort in knowing that my participation had made a small contribution to life-saving research. As I began to pay attention to the bigger picture (not just my own situation), it became clear to me that if we were going to save more lives, research would be how we would do that. As a research advocate, I learned to think critically about how research projects are conducted and to appreciate the ones that truly have the potential to make a difference to people diagnosed with breast cancer. The DUET study has that potential. This research could help lead to the development of new treatments that are more effective and less-toxic, and it is also possible that it could help identify patients who could be spared the toxicity of more-intense treatments.

Thank you to those of you who have already enrolled. If you haven't yet, I hope you will consider enrolling in the DUET study. The initial days after a diagnosis are often the hardest times for most people. We understand that to be asked to enroll in DUET on top of everything else can seem like a big ask right now. But this timing, asking you to enroll so soon after diagnosis, is of vital importance to the success of this important research. Thank you for taking the time to consider joining the DUET study – together we can make a difference.

### Why does the Department of Defense fund breast cancer research?

The DUET Study is funded by the Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP), one of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) funded by the Defense Health Program of the United States Department of Defense.

The CDMRP was created in 1992 from a grassroots effort led by the breast cancer advocacy community that resulted in a congressional appropriation of funds for breast cancer research. This initiated a unique partnership among the public, Congress, and the military. Since then, the CDMRP has grown to encompass multiple targeted programs and has managed over \$19.4 billion since its inception through fiscal year 2022.

The outcomes of BCRP funded research ultimately benefits military Service members, Veterans, military beneficiaries, and the general public.

For more information, please visit the CDMRP website:  
[About Us, Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs \(health.mil\)](https://www.health.mil)

### Your Feedback is Valued!

If you participated in the DUET Study, we are inviting you to share your experience with us. Please contact us through our phone or email address listed below. We will use this information going forward to ensure that all future participants have the best experience possible.

If you are willing to share your personal experience in a future newsletter, please let us know.



#### Contact the DUET Study

Phone: (206) 667-5009 Email: [duet@fredhutch.org](mailto:duet@fredhutch.org)

1100 Fairview Ave N  
PO Box 19024 M4-C308  
Seattle, WA 98109