

Breast Cancer Awareness Month at Bard High School Early College
Maria Agapito
Bard High School Early College – Newark

Maria Agapito, PhD, is a Decoding Cancer Trained Teacher and Rutgers Youth Enjoy Science (RUYES) participant. In recognition of October 2021's Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Dr. Agapito planned a series of fun, educational, and meaningful events for her students at Bard High School Early College in Newark, NJ. The first event was a webinar entitled, "Breast Cancer-It's Personal: Personalizing Breast Oncologic Treatments." This virtual program was designed to introduce students to the concepts of clinical oncology research. "Genetic Counseling and Breast Cancer – A Career Journey" was another virtual event that brought Sandra D'Elia, MS, CGC and Brianna McDaniels, MMSc, CGC, from the LIFE Center at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey to introduce students to genetic counseling as a career. On Movie Day, students watched the award-winning film *Life Interrupted*. In hearing first-hand stories from breast cancer survivors, students learned how individual and cultural factors can change lives and family balance. The culminating event was, "Cancer 0 to 60" with Deborah Toppmeyer, MD, Chief Medical Officer and Director of the Stacy Goldstein Breast Cancer Center; Director of the LIFE Center at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey; and Chief of Medical Oncology at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Dr. Toppmeyer helped the students develop a clinical and scientific understanding about breast cancer and new treatments that are available. In addition to these educational events, Dr. Agapito also helped students organize a bake sale, juice bar, and additional fundraisers with proceeds to benefit Rutgers Cancer Institute.

Family History of Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer

Hereditary	Sporadic
<p>Diagram: A pedigree chart showing a family with a mother (yellow circle) diagnosed with breast cancer (Br, 42). She has three children: a daughter (yellow circle) with ovarian cancer (Ov, 71), a son (white square), and a daughter (white circle). The son has a daughter (yellow circle) with breast cancer (Br, 45).</p>	<p>Diagram: A pedigree chart showing a family with a mother (yellow circle) diagnosed with breast cancer (Br, 63). She has three children: a daughter (white circle), a son (white square), and a daughter (white circle). The son has a daughter (yellow circle) with breast cancer (Br, 71).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two or more family members with breast cancer before age 50 or ovarian cancer at any age• One family member with breast cancer before age 50 or ovarian cancer at any age, plus Ashkenazi ancestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None of the breast cancer is diagnosed before age 60• No ovarian cancer• No clear pattern on one side of family or other

New Engl J Med 2000;342:564-571
© 2000 Myriad Genetic Laboratories

The RUYES program is funded by the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute grant 1R25CA247785.