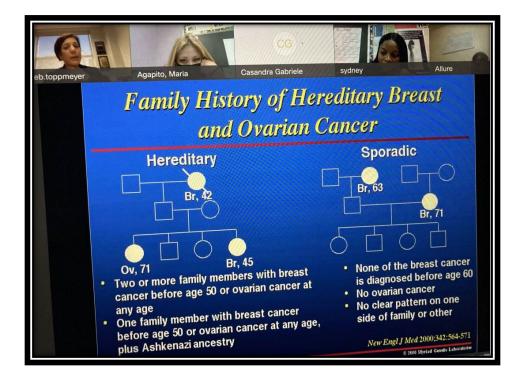
Breast Cancer Awareness Month at Bard High School Early College Maria Agapito Bard High School Early College – Newark

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.



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