

CASCADE

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2020

Dear all

We hope that our annual newsletter finds you in good physical and mental health, and wish you strength to overcome challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that the pandemic did not affect your health or the health of your family members.

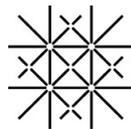
We are happy to send you our annual CASCADE newsletter about the state of the study and the new members who joined our team!

We also take the opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support. We would like to welcome those who are newly enrolled in the study, and thank those that have already completed the follow-up survey.

As a token of appreciation for your time and effort, we will conduct a lottery in January 2021 and one lucky participant code will win a gift card of CHF 300. Results will be announced on our website (swisscascade.ch) and in our next newsletter.

Your CASCADE study team
swisscascade-nursing@unibas.ch

We thank the participating doctors and test centres for their support:



University
of Basel



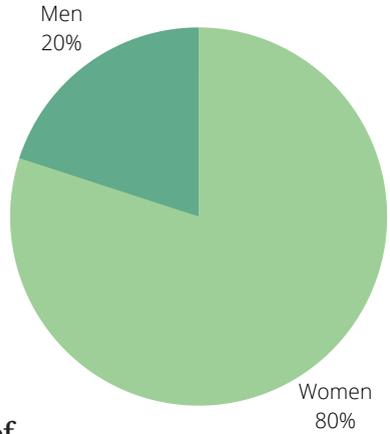
STATE OF THE PROJECT AND NEXT STEPS



We continue our recruitment efforts in the cantons of **Basel, Berne, Geneva, Jura and Ticino.**

Until now, **299 participants** have completed the first survey, **80%** of which are **women.**

We hope that soon we will be able to recruit participants from additional clinics in **St. Gallen** and **Winterthur.**



In the first survey we asked you how you would like your healthcare provider to assist with family **communication about genetic test results.** Out of 10 options, the most popular alternative chosen by **61% of HBOC participants** and **58% of Lynch participants** was:

 "through a credible **website**"

Based on your answers the team is developing an interactive website about genetic testing results for families with breast and ovarian cancer and Lynch syndrome.

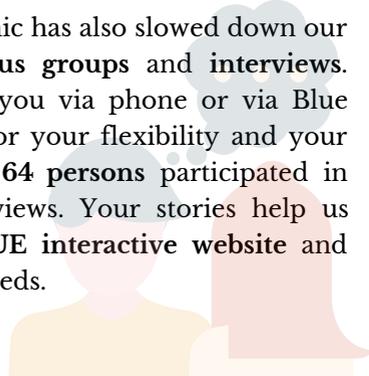
The **Swiss National Science Foundation** is supporting the development and testing of the **DIALOGUE website.** We are looking forward to your feedback when we finalize the prototype!



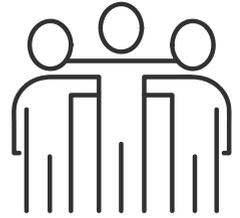
Although the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down our activities, we are pleased that we were able to send you the **second survey.** Thank you to all that have already completed it!

"I want a website that is designed for me. I don't want to have to go through tons of irrelevant information, just to find what I am looking for."

The COVID-19 pandemic has also slowed down our ability to conduct **focus groups** and **interviews.** Instead, we contacted you via phone or via Blue Jeans. We thank you for your flexibility and your openness. Up to date, **64 persons** participated in focus groups or interviews. Your stories help us develop the **DIALOGUE** interactive website and address your various needs.



NEW TEAM MEMBERS



Mahesh Sarki is responsible for examining information from the first survey to discover reasons for requesting or not requesting a genetic consultation with an expert. He has a Master's in Public Health and he pursues his PhD studies with the guidance of the CASCADE Consortium.



Dr. Monica Aceti is responsible for conducting interviews and focus groups in French. She contacts participants in Geneva, Jura and Berne. She has a PhD in social anthropology and has taken part in Citizens' Forums in Geneva, a project that examined perceptions for genetics among the general public.



Vasiliki Baroutsou is responsible for the information that will be provided on the DIALOGUE website. For this reason she collaborates closely with other members of the team. She is a nurse and she pursues her PhD studies with the guidance of members of the CASCADE Consortium.



K-CASCADE

K-CASCADE is a collaboration with Switzerland and South Korea. It will be based on our CASCADE study and will help us compare information across two different healthcare systems and different cultures. Funding for this collaboration has been provided by the **Swiss National Science Foundation**.

We hope that this collaboration will create a strong infrastructure that will fuel scientific discoveries about genetic mutations connected to cancer.

RESULTS

Our team has made progress in understanding issues that are relevant to mutation carriers and cancer survivors in general. We had the opportunity to present and discuss these issues at the **5th Annual Meeting of the Basel Breast Consortium (BBC)**, which took place on November 12 -13, 2020. BBC is an interdisciplinary organization committed to the development of basic, clinical and translational research by supporting communication and mutual education in Switzerland and neighbouring cities. We will share these findings in our website once they are published in scientific journals.



Our team made overall 8 presentations:

“Towards a digital solution to support coping and family communication about hereditary cancer risks in Switzerland” - Dr. Monica Aceti

“Effect of genetic consultation on genetic literacy: a 15 year investigation in two countries” - PhD candidate Ms. Carla Pedrazzani MSN.

“Inequities, barriers and facilitators of access to genetic services among hereditary breast/and ovarian cancer and Lynch syndrome patients and their blood relatives in Switzerland” - PhD candidate Mr. Mahesh Sarki, MSc.

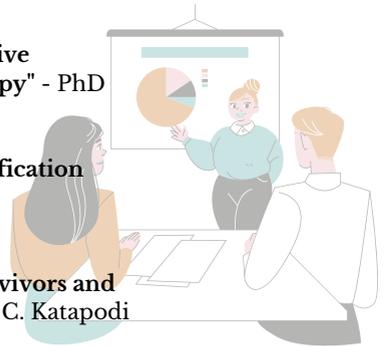
“Cost-effectiveness analysis of Lynch Syndrome cascade genetic testing for patients with colorectal cancer in Switzerland” - PhD candidate Mr. Islam Salikhanov, MD.

“Family-focused interventions facilitating cancer predisposition cascade genetic screening and communication of cancer risk: a systematic review” - PhD candidate Ms. Vasiliki Baroutsou, MSc.

“Efficacy of acupuncture on reducing cancer-related cognitive impairment in breast cancer patients during radiation therapy” - PhD candidate Ms. Yu-Yin Allemann-Su, MSc.

“Machine learning-based lifetime breast cancer risk reclassification compared with the BOADICEA model: impact on screening recommendations” - Dr. Chang Ming

“Genetic testing and surveillance of young breast cancer survivors and blood relatives: A cluster randomized trial” - Prof. Dr. Maria C. Katapodi



We would like to thank the following donors for their support of the CASCADE study:



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