

CASCADE

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023

Dear All,

We hope that our annual newsletter finds you in good health.
We are pleased to send you our 6th annual CASCADE
newsletter.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

In the next weeks you will receive an invitation for a workshop
that we are organizing for participants of the CASCADE study.
We will provide information about important scientific news and
detailed updates about our findings.

Your CASCADE study team
swisscascade-nursing@unibas.ch

We thank the following clinical sites for their support:

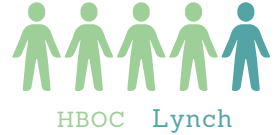


STATE OF THE PROJECT AND NEXT STEPS



In Switzerland, we continue our recruitment in the cantons of Basel-Stadt, Bern, Geneva, Jura, Ticino, Fribourg, Vaud and Zürich.

A total of 681 individuals from 486 families have participated in the study. Among them, 376 families are concerned with hereditary breast and ovarian cancer (HBOC) and 110 families are concerned with Lynch Syndrome.



It is very important that you provide the study with long-term information about your health.

Currently 324 individuals have completed Follow-up 1 survey and 149 individuals have completed Follow-up 2 survey.

Thank you!



Based on your feedback the team developed a digital platform that provides information about genetics, testing, risk management, and the impact of cancer on the individual and the family.

Some of you already provided feedback for creating the prototype of the digital platform. Thank you!



The next step is to test the platform in a randomized trial. This will take place in the following months with new participants.

The 4th annual lottery will take place in January 2024. One lucky participant will win a gift card of CHF 300. The winning canton will be announced on our website (swisscascade.ch) and our next newsletter.

In 2023 the lucky participant was from Bern.

NEW COLLABORATORS



Dr. med. Sandra Schmid is working as a Senior Physician in the Department of Medicine, Division of Oncology, at the Hospital of Lucerne. Ms. Schmid will be supporting the CASCADE and DIALOGUE studies as a new co-investigator.

Dr. med. Ursula Hasler-Straub is Deputy Head Physician for Oncology/ Hematology at the Cantonal Hospital Graubünden. Ms. Hasler-Straub will be supporting the CASCADE and DIALOGUE studies as a new co-investigator.



NEW TEAM MEMBERS



Dr. Sarah Jayne Liptrott is a nurse researcher at Ente Ospedaliero Cantonale (EOC) in Ticino at the Division of Hematology. She operates as a site recruiter for the CASCADE and DIALOGUE studies at the canton of Ticino.

Dr. sc. nat Murat Aykut has obtained his PhD in Cancer Biology at the University of Zurich and is currently a Clinical Research Coordinator at the Kantonsspital Winterthur, Department of Medical Oncology. Mr. Aykut is supporting the CASCADE and DIALOGUE studies with recruitment at the canton of Zurich.



MSc Lisa Schiess completed her Master's degree in Clinical Psychology and Neuroscience at the University of Basel this spring and is now a PhD student in the CASCADE and DIALOGUE team.



INTERNSHIP WITH THE CASCADE CONSORTIUM

Krystal Fernandez and Sam Anderson are studying for their Master's degree in Genetic Counselling at Northwestern University. They spent six weeks with us in Basel and this is their experience: "I learned so much from the CASCADE study. I am looking forward to the next projects of the team", "I have learned so much about clinical genetics from the CASCADE project. I will use this knowledge in my future career. We had an unforgettable experience and learned so much during our internship"



Papers published

Barnoy, S.; Dagan, E.; Kim, S.; Caiata-Zufferey, M.; Katapodi, M. C.; the CASCADE and K-CASCADE Consortia. Privacy and utility of genetic testing in families with hereditary cancer syndromes living in three countries: the international cascade genetic screening experience. *Frontiers in Genetics* 2023, 14:1109431. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fgene.2023.1109431>



Baroutsou, V.; Pena, C. G.; Schweighoffer, R.; Caiata-Zufferey, M.; Kim, S.; Hesse-Biber, S.; Ciorba, F. M.; Lauer, G.; Katapodi, M. C.; CASCADE Consortium. Predicting Openness of Communication in Families With Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Syndrome: Natural Language Processing Analysis. *JMIR Form Res* 2023, 19(7): e38399. <https://doi.org/10.2196/38399>

Baroutsou, V.; Duong, V.; Signiorini, A.; Saccilotto, R.; Ciorba, F. M.; Bürki, N.; Caiata-Zufferey, M.; Ryu, J. M.; Kim, S. W.; Lim, M. C.; Monnerat, C.; Zürcher-Härdi, U.; Kim, J.; Heinemann, K.; Graffeo, R.; Park, J. S.; Rabaglio, M.; Chappuis, P. O.; Kim, S.; Katapodi, M. C.; the CASCADE and K-CASCADE Consortia. Acceptability and Usability of the Family Gene Toolkit for Swiss and Korean Families Harboring BRCA1/BRCA2 Pathogenic Variants: A Web-Based Platform for Cascade Genetic Testing. *Cancers* 2023, 15(8), 4485. <https://doi.org/10.3390/cancers15184485>

Park, S.; Kim, Y.; Kim, S.; Katapodi, M. C. Informational needs of individuals from BRCA-harboring families: a systematic review and content analysis. *Genetics in Medicine* 2022, 25(4), 100001. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gim.2022.100001>

Sarki, M.; Ming, C.; Aceti, M.; Fink, G.; Aissaoui, S.; Bürki, N.; Graffeo, R.; Heinemann, K.; Caiata Zufferey, M.; Monnerat, C.; et al. Relatives from Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer and Lynch Syndrome Families Forgoing Genetic Testing: Findings from the Swiss CASCADE Cohort. *J. Pers. Med.* 2022, 12, 1740. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jpm12101740>

Conference presentations

 <p>GBCC 2023 April 20th - 21st, 2023, Seoul, Korea</p>	<p>Making the right choice. How unaffected women carrying BRCA1/BRCA2 germline pathogenic variants decide for prophylactic mastectomy to reduce cancer risk, [Poster] GBCC 2023. Presented by Reka Schweighoffer</p> <p>Factors influencing the intention to inform in hereditary breast and ovarian cancer syndrome: the K-CASCADE cohort, [Poster] GBCC 2023. Presented by Yeeun Kim</p> <p>The influence of coping on the decision to pursue genetic testing among individuals from families with hereditary breast and ovarian cancer syndrome, [Poster] GBCC 2023. Presented by Emina Ricciardi</p>
 <p>ESHG The European Society of Human Genetics</p>	<p>Does Cancer Diagnosis Alter the Lifestyle of Individuals with HBOC and Lynch Syndrome? Results from the Swiss CASCADE Cohort, [online Poster] ESHG 2023. Presented by Mahesh Sarki</p>

We thank the following organizations for their support to the CASCADE study:

