

## SYMPOSIUM

# Inherited susceptibility of breast cancer – from genetic discovery to practical translations

Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ),  
Communication Center, Lecture Hall



**Douglas Easton**

*Centre for Cancer Genetic  
Epidemiology, University of  
Cambridge, UK*



**Montserrat Garcia-Closas**

*Institute for Cancer Research  
London, UK*



**Marjanka Schmidt**

*The Netherlands Cancer  
Institute Leiden University  
Medical Center, NL*



**Per Hall**

*Karolinska Institute,  
Stockholm, SE*

**Contact:** Petra Rössler, phone: 06221 42-2202, e-mail: [p.roessler@dkfz.de](mailto:p.roessler@dkfz.de)

Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum | Im Neuenheimer Feld 280 | 69120 Heidelberg

## SPEAKERS

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### Professor Douglas Easton

Douglas F. Easton, Professor of Genetic Epidemiology and Director of the Centre for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology at the University of Cambridge, is internationally renowned for his work on the genetic susceptibility to hormone-related cancers. He coordinates the international Breast Cancer Association Consortium (BCAC), which has formed the basis for the identification of single-nucleotide polymorphisms that increase the risk of human breast cancer and for numerous publications in very high-ranking journals.

In recognition of his work on the genetics of breast cancer, the American Association for Cancer Research chose him in 2008 to receive its inaugural Outstanding Investigator Award in Breast Cancer Research. In 2019, the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Medicine.

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### Professor Marjanka Schmidt

Marjanka Schmidt is an epidemiologist with expertise in genetics of breast cancer. She leads a research group at the Netherlands Cancer Institute. She also holds a chair in genetic epidemiology, especially breast cancer, at Leiden University Medical Center.

Her research line focuses on the effects of genetic variants on risk of breast cancer subtypes, prognosis and long-term outcomes, combining the areas of epidemiological and molecular research. Within the BCAC consortium, Professor Schmidt's leads the international BCAST (Breast CAncer Stratification) project, which aims to contribute to the genome-based applications in health care practice by elucidating the roles of, both, germline variants and somatic mutations in breast cancer risk and prognosis by molecular and genetic epidemiological studies.

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### Professor Montserrat Garcia-Closas

Montserrat García-Closas is physician epidemiologist expert in genetic susceptibility, etiologic heterogeneity, and risk prediction for breast cancer. She co-leads the Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention Unit, a joint initiative of the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) and the Imperial College London, UK. From 2015 till 2023 she served as Deputy Director of the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics of the US national Cancer Institute. Professor Garcia-Closas's research focuses on the genetic susceptibility, etiologic heterogeneity, and risk prediction for breast cancer.

She is the lead PI of the international CONFLUENCE consortium, which combines data from BCAC and four additional consortium studies, with the aim to identify further genetic susceptibility loci, and to develop polygenic risk scores for the prediction of breast cancer risk.

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### Professor Per Hall

Per Hall is Professor of Epidemiology at the Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Karolinska Institute and Chief Physician at Södersjukhuset. He is research leader of the much-publicized Karma Project, which has the goal to reduce breast cancer incidence, to find more effective treatments and thus give thousands of women the opportunity to avoid and survive breast cancer. He is internationally recognized for his broad research on how breast cancer can be prevented and detected early with refined and individual methods.

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## PROGRAM

- 11:00 am **Prof. Rudolf KAAKS**, German Cancer Research Center, Germany  
*Introduction*
- 11:05 am **Prof. Doug EASTON**, University of Cambridge, UK  
*Inherited susceptibility to breast cancer – from familial linkage to genome-wide association studies*
- 12:00 pm **Prof. Marjanka SCHMIDT**, The Netherlands Cancer Institute, NL  
*Genetic germline variants in relation to risk of contralateral breast cancer and patient survival*
- 01:00 pm *Lunch Break (individual)\**
- 02:00 pm *Laudatio* by Professor Rudolf KAAKS
- 02:20 pm **Prof. Montserrat GARCIA-CLOSAS**, Institute of Cancer Research, UK  
*Current evidence for etiologic heterogeneity of breast cancer*
- 03:20 pm **Prof. Per HALL**, Karolinska Institute, SE  
*Use of risk models for personalized screening and prevention*

\* No meals included except for invited guests (DKFZ employees may use their casino cards).



## Jenny Chang-Claude

*This symposium will be an occasion to honor the work and lifetime career of Professor Jenny Chang-Claude.*

*Jenny Chang-Claude has been affiliated for more than 40 years with the DKFZ, as a senior epidemiologist, leader of the Genetic Epidemiology group in the Division of Cancer Epidemiology, and Deputy Division Head. Since 2004 she has been a professor of epidemiology at the University of Heidelberg.*

*Professor Chang-Claude has had a long-standing research focus on the genetic epidemiology of breast cancer in Germany with national and international collaborations. She has conducted multicenter case-control studies and cohort follow-up studies in Germany, among which the large-scale MARIE study was conducted in and around Heidelberg and Hamburg. Other research includes studies on cancer survival and radiation sensitivity.*

*Within the international BCAC and BCAST consortia, Professor Chang-Claude has been amongst the leading investigators of studies to identify both life-style-related and gene-environment interactions as possible determinants of breast cancer risk and prognosis. In addition, she has contributed to research on gene-environment interactions international consortia on ovarian and colorectal cancer.*

*Professor Chang-Claude is a member of international scientific advisory boards, committees and editorial boards, and has (co-) authored more than 900 scientific papers in international journals.*

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