

In order to facilitate the solicitation of nominations from within your organization, the following documents have been included: a one-page description of the nomination process and checklist (Enclosure 2) and several one-page flyers to distribute to members of your organization or post in the location of your support group meetings (Enclosure 3).

Key highlights of BCRP history and processes, as well as the significant commitment and responsibilities required for successful participation of consumers are bulleted below:

- The BCRP has responded to issues voiced by breast cancer advocates, both by emphasizing outcomes in the research vision and by involving consumers (breast cancer survivors and advocates) in programmatic decision making.
- The BCRP has provided more than \$850M for basic and clinical breast cancer research from fiscal year (FY) 1992 through FY99.
- A two-tiered process is utilized in the BCRP to identify the best research proposals. In the first tier, research proposals are reviewed for scientific merit through a process known as peer review. In the second tier, proposals identified as having the greatest scientific merit during peer review are further evaluated for programmatic merit during a process called programmatic review. Consumers have been involved at both review levels, bringing the voice of the breast cancer community to the decision-making process.
- For FY00, Congress has appropriated \$175M to continue the BCRP. Scientifically sound, programmatically relevant proposals will be recommended for funding by November 2000.
- Currently, nominations are being sought for consumers to serve in scientific peer review. There will be about 45 panels, each consisting of approximately 20 scientists and 2 consumer members.
- Approximately 4 weeks prior to the peer review meeting, every scientist and consumer member will be given scientific proposals to review. Consumers will serve on both basic and clinical science committees and review scientifically detailed research proposals.
- Both prior to and during the review sessions, each new consumer reviewer will be paired with an experienced consumer reviewer.
- Significant efforts are made to orient both consumers and scientists to consumer participation in the peer review meetings.
- Scientist reviewers are required to develop detailed written comments on each assigned proposal's feasibility, innovation, impact, etc. Consumer reviewers are directed to focus their written reviews on the relevance and significance of the proposed work as it relates to improved medical care, enhanced quality of life, and increased survival. Preparation time is estimated to be at least 5 days.