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Breast-Cancer Group Ducks Challenge To Debate Link With Abortion

By Dexter Duggan

A national coalition to educate the public about the link between abortion and breast cancer said a breast-cancer organization that mocked them has ducked a challenge to debate.

Karen Malec, president of the Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer (ABC), said her group was mocked with a “Golden Boob Award” from the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC). “We are shocked by the name of this award because it trivializes a devastating disease,” Malec said.

The dictionary says boob is a “slang, sometimes vulgar” reference to the female breast.

“This publicity stunt distracts people from the truth about scientific evidence that emerged decades ago and linked breast cancer with abortion and the use of steroidal hormones (oral contraceptives and hormone replacement therapy),” the ABC coalition said in introducing an article it released December 22.

After the NBCC nominated the ABC coalition for the award, ABC said, “...we challenged its leaders to debate scientific evidence that supports an abortion-breast cancer ... link. Thus far, its officials have avoided any debate.

“If, as they claim, the truth is on their side,” the ABC article asked, “then why won’t they jump at the chance to make us look foolish in public by proving us wrong instead of relying on a cheap publicity stunt? We view their ‘award’ as a measure of our effectiveness in educating the public about this risk.”

In an e-mail to *The Wanderer*, Malec said, “The NBCC is angry with us for revealing to the public the presence of a former Colorado organizer for [the National Abortion Rights Action League] on its board of directors -- Cynthia Pearson. Pearson once directed a California clinic, WomanCare, and now heads the National Women’s Health Network, which advances ‘reproductive rights.’”

The ABC article continued, “Their publicity stunt distracts people from scientific evidence that emerged decades ago. Breast cancer was first linked with abortion in a 1957 study on Japanese women. By the mid-1980s there was sufficient biological, epidemiological, and experimental evidence to show that abortion is a risk factor for the disease. In 1986 government scientists wrote a letter to the British [medical] journal *Lancet* and acknowledged that abortion raises breast-cancer risk.”

Abortion activists and former Planned Parenthood workers on board with breast-cancer organizations call into question the credibility of such groups, the ABC coalition said.

“The NBCC’s publicity stunt also distracts people from the fact the abortion and the cancer-fund-raising industries have interlocking directorates,” ABC said. “If executives from either the tobacco or asbestos industries sat on the board of directors for the American Lung Cancer Association, would it not compromise the professional judgment of the organization’s leaders in determining the risks of smoking and asbestos exposure?”

“Similarly, the presence of abortion activists and former employees of Planned Parenthood and the National Abortion Rights Action League in the cancer-fund-raising industry compromises both the credibility and the professional judgment of cancer-fund-raising groups like the NBCC, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and Breast Cancer Action,” ABC said.

In a November 2 editorial, the biweekly newspaper of the Diocese of Phoenix, *The Catholic Sun*, had called attention to the Komen Foundation providing funding for Planned Parenthood.

“Tragically ironic ... are the ongoing scientific discoveries linking abortion and breast cancer,” the *Sun* editorialized in calling for Catholics to urge the Komen Foundation to end its support for Planned Parenthood.

“So by giving money to Planned Parenthood, Komen is in essence shooting itself in the foot -- then trying to race [for the cure] with only one good foot to raise additional funds to stop the bleeding,” the *Sun* said. “But the blood, both literally and figuratively, won’t stop until the grants to Planned Parenthood end.”

Because the Komen Foundation and its organizers do so much good to raise awareness of breast cancer, the *Sun* said, “their support for Planned Parenthood remains truly regrettable.”

The ABC coalition article pointed to big-money foundations backing breast-cancer groups that don’t publicize the link to abortion.

“The NBCC receives funding from wealthy foundations, like the Barbra Streisand Foundation,” the ABC article said. “By contrast, we depend on the widow’s mite just to meet our expenses. Streisand’s foundation is an organization that advances the abortion industry’s interests.”

Regarding scientific study of the abortion link, the ABC article said, in part, “Eight medical groups recognize that an abortion increases a woman’s risk for breast cancer by leaving her breasts with an increase in cancer-vulnerable breast lobules. This is only the first of two breast-cancer risks associated with abortion. Known as the ‘independent link,’ it is the only risk that scientists continue to debate...

“During the last half-century, 70 epidemiological studies on the independent link between abortion and breast cancer have been conducted,” the ABC article said. “About 80% of these studies show a correlation between abortion and increased risk for the disease. Experimental research in 1980 showed that more aborted rats (77.7%) develop breast cancer after being exposed to a carcinogen than do virgin rats (66.7%) and rats with pups (0%).”

The article explained, “The breasts do not mature into cancer-resistant Type 3 lobules until the last eight weeks of a full-term pregnancy.”

Malec has spoken and written on the abortion-breast cancer issue to medical and non-medical audiences.

The Web site for the Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer is www.abortionbreastcancer.com.