

Parliamentary Pro-Life Caucus



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Breast surgeon raises key women's health concern Biological basis for abortion / breast cancer link presented at press conference

"Breast Cancer is the most common cancer among Canadian women, according to the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS), yet that organization is not telling women about a well-documented preventable risk-factor," said MP Maurice Vellacott, Conservative Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Pro-Life Caucus.

Since 1957, evidence linking induced abortion to breast cancer has been observed in over 40 studies worldwide. A 1996 meta-analysis conducted by Dr. Joel Brind, professor of endocrinology at Baruch College, City University of New York, established abortion as a significant independent risk factor for developing breast cancer. (See Dr. Brind's Dec. 2005 critical review of all the recent studies over the last 9 years at <http://www.jpands.org/vol10no4/brind.pdf>)

"The link between abortion and breast cancer is simply the result of a woman's biology," says breast surgeon Dr. Angela Lanfranchi, Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey and co-founder of the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute.

The biological basis for the link between abortion and breast cancer will be explained by Dr. Lanfranchi at the multi-party PPLC's press conference being held Thursday, May 11 (10 a.m., 130-S Centre Block) Dr. Lanfranchi will stand with pro-life Canadians to bear witness to the damage abortion inflicts on women, children, families, and society.

"This is an important women's health issue," said MP Paul Steckle, Liberal Co-Chair of the PPLC. "We are doing women a disservice by ignoring the epidemiological and biological evidence that shows women who have had abortions are at an increased risk for developing breast cancer," he said. Vellacott added, "Women have a right to be told about this increased risk."

According to the Canadian Cancer Society, 102 Canadian women will die of breast cancer every week. "Withholding from women information about this preventable risk factor could literally be a matter of life and death," said Steckle.

For additional comment, please contact one or both of the PPLC co-chairs:

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