



January 31, 2011

To Whom It May Concern;

Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered, (FORCE) represents the estimated 750,000 people living with a BRCA mutation, hereditary cancer, or hereditary cancer risk. The FORCE community includes women with advanced breast and ovarian cancer. Many of these women have received and benefited from the drug Avastin.

Recently the FDA began the process to remove metastatic breast cancer from the list of indications for Avastin. FORCE is concerned that this label change will restrict access to the medication for women who are currently on and benefiting from the drug. We are concerned that this change will restrict access for women who are newly diagnosed with metastatic breast and ovarian cancer who might benefit from the medication but will not be presented with it as a treatment option. Further, we are concerned that insurance companies may use the FDA decision to restrict reimbursement even in those women who are currently on and responding to the medication.

FORCE agrees that further research is needed to better determine which portion of breast cancer patients most benefit from Avastin. In order to truly realize the potential of personalized medicine, we need to move beyond a one-size-fits-all approach to cancer treatment. In the meantime, women with advanced breast cancer have limited treatment options. We believe that the decision of whether or not a woman with stage IV breast cancer should have access to Avastin should be made with full informed consent and after discussion and consideration of benefits vs. risks with her health care team. We encourage the FDA to allow Genentech a hearing to present information and consider the possibility of continued labeling of Avastin for metastatic breast cancer.

Sincerely yours,

Sue Friedman, DVM
Executive Director