



Breast Cancer Awareness Conference Announced in Bishkek *Promoting advocacy and early detection to combat breast cancer*

The First Breast Cancer Advocacy Conference in Kyrgyzstan will be held at Slavonic University on November 1, from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm. Presentations will focus on raising public awareness and improving capacities for early detection of treatable breast cancer in Kyrgyzstan.

Scheduled conference presentations include: a situation analysis of breast cancer in Kyrgyzstan; an overview of breast cancer myths vs. facts; a discussion on the need for breast cancer advocacy; the role of non governmental organizations in breast cancer advocacy and awareness for early detection; and the importance of psychological support and healthy life style. Attendees will include breast cancer survivors, activists and health care professionals from Kyrgyzstan, Belarus and the United States.

The World Health Organization has stated that seventy percent of the world's breast cancer cases will occur in developing countries with limited resources. As breast cancer prevalence expands globally, early detection is viewed as the key to minimizing mortality rates and avoiding high treatment costs, both of which are associated with late detection.

Women around the world address the issue of breast cancer cure and early detection in October, recognized globally as breast cancer awareness month. By conducting the First Breast Cancer Advocacy Conference, Kyrgyzstan will officially join the global movement in breast cancer awareness for the first time, speaking openly about breast cancer challenges in detection and treatment in the republic.

The conference has been coordinated by Kyrgyz Public Foundation Ergene and US nonprofit organization Resource and Policy Exchange. Conference leaders participated as delegates in the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Global Advocate Summit, held last month in Budapest, Hungary. Pharmaceutical company Roche has provided support to print educational materials on breast cancer awareness for conference participants.

CONTACT: Dr. Saltanat Abazbekova, MD
Director, Public Foundation Ergene
Tel: 996 312 92-62-09
Email: sabazbekova@mail.ru

Dr. Tanya Soldak, MD
Director of Programs, Resource & Policy Exchange
Email: soldak@rpxi.org