

8<sup>th</sup> March 2006

Dear Editor,

## **WE NEED WOMEN TO HELP IN FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER**

On International Women's Day, Cancer Research UK researchers invite women at high risk of breast cancer to come forward and take part in an important breast cancer prevention study called IBIS-2\*.

International Women's Day is a time to celebrate women's achievements and reflect on the important issues that affect their lives around the world. Today we ask women at high risk of breast cancer to help us in the fight against the disease by finding out how they could take part in our research.

Breast cancer touches all of us in some way or another. It is by far the most common cancer for women with more than 40,000 new cases in the UK in 2000. We are looking into many ways of reducing the risk of cancer<sup>†</sup> but for high risk women a preventive treatment, like many already take for heart disease, is their greatest hope. It is therefore important that we all work together to find the best choice for women at increased risk.

IBIS-2 is the first worldwide trial to investigate whether a breast cancer treatment drug called anastrozole can prevent the disease in postmenopausal women who are at higher risk of breast cancer. Previous research on the drug as a treatment for early stage breast cancer showed that it reduced the risk of developing cancer in the opposite breast by over 50 per cent but to confirm its role in prevention, we need to conduct a trial with 6,000 women.

So far 1,500 women worldwide have joined the trial but we are looking for another 4,500 to join. The study is open to women aged 40-70 years old, who have passed the menopause, have a family history of breast cancer or who have been told by their doctors they have other risk factors. This includes women whose mother or sister had breast cancer or ovarian cancer at the age of 50 or under.

To find out whether you are eligible and to find your nearest study centre in your area, please visit [www.ibis-trials.org](http://www.ibis-trials.org). You can also order a leaflet which gives you more information about the study by calling the IBIS-2 leaflet request answerphone line on 020 7014 0251. For more information about the study and breast cancer, contact the Cancer Research UK information nurses on 020 7061 8355 (lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

I would like to thank all those women already taking part and look forward to many more women joining us in researching this important approach to breast cancer prevention.

Professor Jack Cuzick  
IBIS-2 Chairman  
Cancer Research UK

\* International Breast cancer Intervention Study II

† If you want to know more about ways to reduce your risk of cancer, please visit our Reduce the Risk campaign website [www.reduceyourrisk.org.uk](http://www.reduceyourrisk.org.uk)