

# UC Irvine

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### Title

Clinical care assistance: serving underserved women.

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Peer reviewed

**322 Clinical care assistance: serving underserved women.**  
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**Background:** UCI is the only academic medical center serving the 2.8 million residents of Orange County, CA. Despite an annual median household income of \$49,583, 11% of Orange County residents are below poverty and 17% of adult women in Orange County have no health care coverage. The Avon Foundation awarded UCI \$4.2 million over three years to advance breast cancer research, and to assist underserved women in need of breast health care and breast cancer resources.

**Program Description:** The Clinical Care Assistance Program provides assistance to uninsured and underinsured women in Orange County. Through collaboration with state and federal programs, local organizations and other medical facilities, we offer access to breast cancer education, screening, diagnostic work-ups, treatment, support and non-medical resources, such as payment of rent, groceries, utilities, and wigs. The range of services also provides a framework encouraging these women to participate in clinical trials that otherwise might not have been possible.

**Results:** 70 women have been assisted since the program began in June 200. Many of them have incomes too high for state/federal assistance, but not high enough to purchase health insurance. Approximately 5% of the requests for assistance have been for screening, 30% for diagnostic work-ups, 45% for treatment, and 24% for other non-medical services (duplicated numbers as some women request multiple types of assistance). About 55% of the women are over 40. Affiliated programs: Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program, Susan G. Komen Foundation, Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program, Breast Cancer Angels, Breast Cancer Survivors, AvonCares, and pharmaceutical programs. We also have 18 women participating in breast cancer treatment studies, 40 in our MRI breast study, and approximately 150 in our laser breast imaging study.

**Discussion:** UCI would like to share this program with conference participants. Orange County has strong breast cancer education/advocacy support, and because of consistent networking, our patients benefit from extensive community resources. We will provide the history and background of our program, a description explaining how the program works, and statistical results to show the impact on our facility and our community.