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Avon Foundation Issues Call for Applications for Global Breast Cancer Scholar Program

*Program Will Bring 20 Breast Cancer Physicians to U.S.
to Learn Advanced Skills and Techniques to Help Women in Home Countries*

~~City, Country~~ Athens, Greece - (~~July XX~~ August 12, 2015) –The Avon Foundation for Women ~~today~~ announced a call for applicants for the third class of the [Avon Global Breast Cancer Clinical Scholars Program](#), which will train breast cancer specialists living outside the United States at 10 leading Avon Foundation-funded U.S. breast cancer centers beginning in April 2016. The goal of the Avon Global Scholars program is to provide advanced training to doctors so they can bring new skills and information to their home countries that will improve the treatment and care of breast cancer patients.

Breast cancer ranks as one of the leading causes of cancer mortality among women globally, in both developed and developing countries. Many developing countries experience lower survival rates because they do not have breast cancer awareness or early detection programs and experience critical shortages in trained breast cancer specialists and services.

The 2016 Avon Global Breast Cancer Scholars Program will bring up to 20 physicians to the United States for a four week intensive training and preceptorship in breast cancer surgery, pathology, breast imaging (radiology), medical oncology, clinical trial design and community and public health at Avon Foundation-funded breast cancer centers in the United States. The [Avon Foundation Scientific Advisory Board](#) and host institution mentors will select the Avon Global Scholars through a rigorous application and review process. To date, the Avon Global Scholars program has hosted 47 scholars from 28 countries.

Dr. Cynthia Villarreal-Garza is a graduate of the second class of Avon Global Scholars, a breast medical oncologist at the Breast Cancer Center at Tecnologico de Monterrey, and a clinical researcher at the Instituto Nacional de Cancerología in Mexico City. “While participating in the Avon Global Breast Cancer Clinical Scholars Program last year in Boston, I worked closely with Dr. Paul Goss and Dr. Ann Partridge of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute,” said Villarreal-Garza. “The experience was invaluable and helped me to refine breast cancer programs in Mexico. Since my preceptorship ended, I’ve begun working on collecting information for a study on young breast cancer patients. We want to look at diagnosis delays, risk factors, specific needs and outcomes. This information will enable us to implement supportive measures and interventions to improve outcomes and quality of life for this group of women.”

The 2016 Avon Global Breast Cancer Clinical Scholars will study at the following 10 Avon Foundation-funded institutions, selected for their excellence and advancements in breast cancer research, treatment and access to care. Each institution will host two Avon Global Scholars:

- Baylor College of Medicine (Houston)
- Boston Medical Center (Boston)
- Cedars Sinai Medical Center (Los Angeles)
- Emory University - Grady Memorial Hospital (Atlanta)
- Houston Methodist Hospital (Houston)
- Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore)
- Massachusetts General Hospital (Boston)
- New York Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia University Medical Center (New York)
- Northwestern University (Chicago)

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- University of California San Francisco – San Francisco General Hospital (San Francisco)

“Our first and second class of Global Scholars are back in their home countries applying new advanced skills to improve both the treatment and care of women facing breast cancer in their countries. We are pleased we will be bringing 20 new physicians to the United States in April of 2016 to receive training from some of the best breast cancer doctors in the United States,” said Carolyn Ricci, program director of the Avon Foundation Breast Cancer Crusade.

Breast cancer specialists living outside the United States can apply [online](#) to the Avon Global Breast Cancer Clinical Scholars Program. The application submission date is September 9, 2015.

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Avon Breast Cancer Crusade

The Avon Breast Cancer Crusade has placed Avon at the forefront of the fight against breast cancer. Today, Avon is the leading corporate supporter of the cause globally. Since Avon launched the Crusade in 1992, Avon breast cancer programs in over 50 countries have contributed more than \$800 million to conduct research and advance access to quality care for all, regardless of a person’s ability to pay. Avon awards funding to beneficiaries ranging from leading cancer centers to community-based grassroots breast health programs to support breast cancer research and access to care. The Crusade has enabled more than 18 million women globally to receive free mammograms and breast cancer screenings, educated more than 145 million women about breast cancer, and funded promising research into the causes of breast cancer and ways to prevent the disease. Avon raises funds for the Crusade through the sale of Avon “Pink Ribbon” products and through fundraising events over 50 countries annually, including the U.S. [AVON 39 The Walk to End Breast Cancer](#) series and the [Avon Walk Around the World for Breast Cancer](#) events.

Avon Global Philanthropy

Avon is a global corporate leader in philanthropy focused on causes that matter most to women. Through 2014, Avon global philanthropy, led by the U.S.-based [Avon Foundation for Women](#), has contributed nearly \$1 billion in over 50 countries. Avon’s funding is focused on breast cancer research and advancing access to quality care through the [Avon Breast Cancer Crusade](#), and efforts to reduce domestic and gender violence through its [Speak Out Against Domestic Violence](#) program. The company’s global markets sell special products to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer and domestic violence, conduct hundreds of events for these causes, and educate women around the world through its global army of six million Avon Representatives.