Life Sciences Lab

Pictured below is the Life Sciences laboratories at UMASS Amherst located off of Thatcher Road. This is where our offices are located.

TEAM THRIVE

Tool Kit Development

The past couple of months have proven to be quite busy for our study team. Since the toolkit study was unexpectedly featured in the Daily Hampshire Gazette, we have received numerous emails and phone calls from breast cancer survivors in the region of Western Massachusetts and beyond. Principal investigator Dr. Rachel Walker, Dr. Olga Ehlrich and Brenda Mutai have been conducting interviews with many of these persons learning about what worked for them and what didn’t. This information will inform development of a toolkit designed to support activity and wellness. Team member Anna Paskausky has also been conducting interviews with primary care providers in the region, to learn more about the perspectives of the community clinicians providing care to breast cancer survivors. The next phase of the project will involve taking everything we’ve learned from these interviews, presenting it to a multidisciplinary team of clinical and cancer survivorship experts. (including patient advocates on the team!), and developing prototypes of the toolkit for testing in the next phase of the study. The phase is expected to launch by 2018.

MALE BREAST CANCER COALITION

This spring we have been invited to attend the Men’s with Breast Cancer Coalition in Kansas City, Missouri. Breast cancer in men, which represents 1% of all cases of breast cancer is not widely talked. The toolkit study has provided an opportunity to explore what appropriate support could and should look like for these individuals. To learn more about the male breast cancer coalition go to: malebreastcancercoalition.org