

## Letter: Breast cancer requires not just studies, but concrete action

Oct 16, 2024

**R**egarding “**More young women are getting breast cancer, but survival rates continue to rise**” (Oct. 2): I am a surgeon whose practice has had a longstanding breast health focus, and the founder of a nonprofit organization whose mission is assuring that women can survive breast cancer (**Gateway to Hope**). While the American Cancer Society study referenced in the article presents important data, it is frustrating to read the organization’s statement, “These are things we are watching to try to understand.”

Women are dying from a completely treatable disease — and most of these women lack insurance or are underinsured. Studies are always important but now is the time for a call to action.

The issue is not whether medical advancements are critically important. They are. The issue is that many do not have access to them, because of cost and other systemic barriers. But with the support of Gateway to Hope, they are four times less likely to skip life-saving appointments and treatments compared to those who don’t receive our help.

While I am supportive of research, I am concerned by the magnitude of dollars spent on research compared to the dollars spent on action. I urge those who care about women’s health to consider that both are necessary, but the investment in both must be proportionate to the response required to save lives today. Studies without action equals lives lost.

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