Susan Neuhausen, PhD

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Susan Neuhausen, Ph.D., is the Morris and Horowitz Families Professor and Director of the Early Biomarkers of Detection and Prevention Division in the Department of Population Sciences in the Beckman Research Institute of City of Hope. She is also co-leader of the Cancer Control and Population Sciences program within the Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Neuhausen has been conducting NCI-funded research on cancer for more than 20 years. She first worked on breast cancer as part of the collaborative group that found the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes. Since that time, she has continued to work to identify individuals who have inherited mutations that put them at high risk for cancer. Dr. Neuhausen’s major research focus is to identify genetic and environmental stressors and to establish how they interact with each other to cause cancer and its progression. Towards that end, one of her current NCI grants is focused on identifying genes that cause breast cancer in Hispanic women using a combined germline and somatic genomics approach. For a second grant as part of the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Program (BCERP), she and colleagues are using a trans-disciplinary approach to investigate the role of environmental exposures and, specifically, endocrine-disrupting chemicals on the development of breast cancer risk during the menopausal transition. This latter grant also includes a focus involving the public – both to disseminate information on environmental exposures and to delineate issues of greatest importance to our communities. The overall goal of her research program is to identify risk factors for development of cancer that can then be targeted in prevention efforts.