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MEDIA ADVISORY

August 20, 2019

National Experts to Showcase “From Awareness to Action: Rethink the Pink”

WHAT:

Karuna Jaggar (Breast Cancer Action, Executive Director) and Dr. Yamini Ranchod (Breast Cancer Action, Board Member) will be featured speakers for Alaska Community Action on Toxics’ (ACAT) annual lecture series focusing on the latest science concerning the link between environmental contaminants, breast cancer prevention, and what you can do to protect your health. The event series is free and open to the public.

WHY: Researchers are establishing definitively that exposure to synthetic chemicals in consumer products and certain pollutants in the environment play a role in the development of breast cancer. Karuna Jaggar and Dr. Yamini Ranchod will present the latest science on environmental contributors to breast cancer and identify common environmental pollutants and consumer product chemicals that may interfere with normal hormone function. We will discuss ways that we can work together to support and improve the lives of women at risk of and living with breast cancer as well as reducing the burden of breast cancer.

WHO:

Dr. Yamini Ranchod is an epidemiologist interested in the social determinants of health. She received her Ph.D. in Epidemiology from the University of Michigan, her M.S. in Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health, and her B.S. in Economics and Biology. Dr. Ranchod completed her post-doctoral training at UC Berkeley. At the age of 31 and while completing her Ph.D., Dr. Ranchod was diagnosed with breast cancer. After navigating the challenges of a breast cancer diagnosis and treatment at a young age, Dr. Ranchod connected with individuals and organizations who shared her drive to support and improve the lives of women at risk of and living with breast cancer. She is committed to working with organizations focused on reducing the burden of breast cancer. Dr. Ranchod is especially interested in the role of the environment on breast cancer risk and disparities in breast cancer risk, treatment, and survival.

Karuna Jaggar joined Breast Cancer Action as Executive Director in 2011. Throughout her 15-year career in nonprofit leadership, Ms. Jaggar’s work has focused on women’s rights and on eliminating socio-economic inequities. Her previous involvements include overseeing Women’s Initiative for Self-Employment as Executive Director and serving on the Board of the California Association of Micro-enterprise Opportunity (CAMEO) where she chaired the Policy Committee. Ms. Jaggar currently serves on the Breast Cancer Research Council of the California Breast Cancer Research Project. She holds a Master’s degree in Economic Geography from UC Berkeley, with a special emphasis on Women, Gender, and Sexuality, and received her B.A. in Philosophy from Smith College. Ms. Jaggar is an unapologetic patient advocate for loved ones who have undergone treatment for breast cancer.

EVENTS:

- August 28, 9:00 am -- conference call with CHE (Collaborative on Health and the Environment)
To join, email Diana DeFazio, diana@akaction.org
- September 5, 6pm-8pm -- From Awareness to Action; *Rethink the Pink*. Loussac Library, Wilda Marston Theatre

CONTACT: For interviews with Ms. Jaggar and Dr. Ranchod, contact Dana, (907) 222-7714, dana.d@akaction.org.

Karuna Jaggar and Dr. Yamini Ranchod’s lecture series in Alaska are made possible with support from the Alaska Run for Women. Co-sponsors include Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and the Alaska Nurses Association.