



# Harvard Public Health

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# NOW

## PANEL

### Webcast Available: Breast Cancer in Developing Countries — An Unforeseen Public Health Priority

**B**reast cancer is a serious threat to the health of women globally and a leading cause of death and disability among women in developing countries. Yet it is unrecognized as a priority in low- and middle-income countries. In Mexico, for example, most cases are self-detected, and only 10% of all cases are detected in stage one, the earliest stage of breast cancer when cure is likely. Mammography services are limited and awareness is lacking. As of 2006 only 22% of women aged 40 to 69 in Mexico reported having had a mammogram in the past year.

In the first in a series of "participatory panels on public health priorities," experts gathered in a packed Snyder Auditorium on April 14 to discuss "Breast Cancer in Developing Countries." Dean **Julio Frenk** hosted. **Felicia Marie Knaul**, Senior Economist at the Mexican Health Foundation, presented research results from the developing world on the spread of this epidemic with a focus on Mexico, and also spoke from her personal perspective as a breast cancer patient. **Lawrence Shulman**, Chief Medical Officer and Sr. Vice-President for Medical Affairs, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Associate Professor of Medicine, HMS, analyzed breast cancer from a global perspective and the importance of early detection and survivorship support. HSPH Professors **Jennifer Leaning** and **Walter Willett** presented, respectively, perspectives on the relation to women's health and rights, and some of the most recent research from the School on causal factors linked to breast cancer.

A webcast is available at <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/breast-cancer-in-developing-countries/>. In addition, full coverage from **HPH NOW** will be available at <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/now>.



**From left to right, Felicia Marie Knaul, Julio Frenk, Walter Willett, Lawrence Shulman, and Jennifer Leaning**