

Information for Prospective Advisory Council Members

DCIS Understood was founded in 2024 by Julia Stalder, who, in the wake of her own ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) diagnosis, was moved to create a national organization to spread awareness of DCIS and help patients navigate their treatment options. We are currently an all-volunteer, Board-led 501(c)(3) organization, and are growing quickly to keep pace with the urgent need for more education, advocacy and research on DCIS.

We are eager to build a volunteer council of advisors to provide scientific and medical industry expertise as we develop our educational content and advocacy priorities. We are mindful of the varying perspectives on DCIS in the medical community and seek to create a well-informed and respectful advisory council with opinions grounded in data and research, who are willing to help us explore and address the shifting and sometimes controversial issues in the DCIS field.

Mission and Goals of DCIS Understood

The mission of **DCIS Understood** is to increase awareness and knowledge of Ductal Carcinoma in Situ (DCIS) and to accelerate research of DCIS through education, advocacy and funding.

We achieve our mission by:

- Providing patients diagnosed with DCIS with comprehensive educational resources and tools to better understand their diagnosis and treatment options;
- Advocating for an individualized, patient-centered approach to treatment; and
- Promoting and supporting DCIS scientific research that will lead to improved prognosis of reoccurrence risk and risk of developing invasive disease.

DCIS Understood takes the position that DCIS is a condition that is distinct from invasive breast cancer, with many open questions and emerging areas of research that should be made available in a balanced, clear and digestible format for the tens of thousands of women who are diagnosed each year. Using education and advocacy, we strive to advance scientific research that will clarify the many outstanding questions around DCIS, help push for individualized, patient-centered DCIS treatment, and equip patients with the knowledge to understand the condition, their individual risk profile, and help clarify their decision-making around treatment. We believe that if women are empowered to learn about DCIS and navigate the decision-making process from a place of understanding, rather than fear, then whatever treatment decision they make will be the right one.

Role and Expectations of Advisory Council Members

- Provide scientific and medical industry expertise to assist and guide DCIS Understood in the development of its educational content and advocacy priorities:
 - Be available to the President by phone and/or email approximately 4-5 times per year to answer questions regarding existing and emerging science in the DCIS field.
 - As the Advisory Council grows, be willing to communicate with fellow members of the council, particularly in areas where there may be disagreement or competing viewpoints.
 - Review new educational content published on the DCIS Understood website as your time permits.

- Be an ambassador and advocate for DCIS Understood:
 - Understand and support the mission and goals of the organization.
 - Agree to be listed (with a brief biography and photograph) as an Advisory Council member on the DCIS Understood website.
 - Recommend additional Advisory Council prospects and support the President in her outreach to those prospects where helpful and appropriate.

- Other expectations:
 - Follow DCIS Understood's bylaws and policies.
 - Maintain confidentiality about all internal matters.
 - A financial gift to the organization is suggested but not required.
 - Advisory Council members are expected to serve a two-year term and may serve additional terms.