

Resources for Teaching

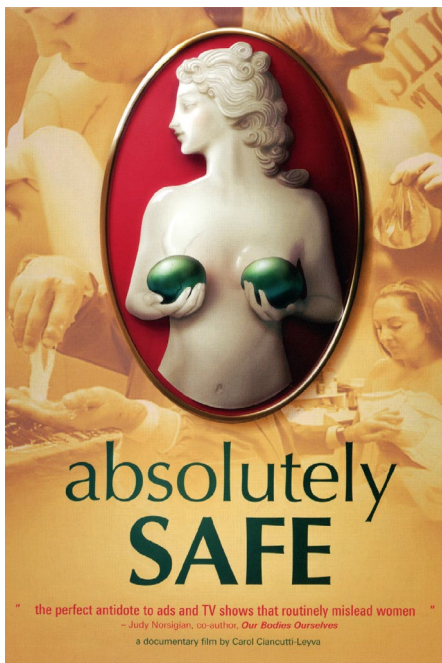
The [U.S. Food and Drug Administration Breast Implants page](#) includes the safety labels for silicone and saline implants, links to the latest data from the mandated studies, the history of regulation of implants, information about implants and cancer, a way to report problems with implants, and the very important booklet on [Local Complications and Adverse Outcomes](#).

[Our Bodies Ourselves](#) is a women's health advocacy information that presents unbiased, yet critical, perspectives on issues affecting women's bodies. Their site provides information on breast implants including [basic facts](#), [health risks](#), guidance for women with [breast cancer](#), information targeted at [teens](#), and [concerns](#) about the FDA approval process.

The [National Center for Health Research](#), a leader in public interest health science advocacy, publishes "[What You Need to Know About Breast Implants](#)" and provides a [website](#) dedicated to the latest implant information, media stories, and the voices of women with implants. They also provide a free [booklet](#) for women with DCIS to consider whether to undergo mastectomy or lumpectomy and the benefits and risks of breast implants. NCHR's book chapter on breast implants, published in 2017, is available free upon [request](#).

[American Society of Plastic Surgeons](#) presents their perspective on implant safety in a document called "[Patient Safety](#)", [statistics](#) on operations and costs, and a [statement](#) on Breast Implant Associated Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (BIA-ALCL).

[Wikipedia's entry](#) on Breast Implants is dominated by the views of plastic surgeons, despite advocates' attempts to edit it to support a more balanced entry. Nevertheless, it is rich with history and presents an opportunity for critical analysis of the controversial issues presented by the entry's multiple authors.



Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center's [Center for Shared Decision-Making](#) has created a Decision Aid Workbook for patients considering breast reconstruction following early-stage cancer diagnosis.

[National Cancer Institute](#) provides information about Mammograms for Women with Implants.

[Fenway Health Center's Transgender Health Program](#) can assist those considering implants as part of gender affirmation surgery.

There are several [Facebook Support Groups](#) related to implants including one for [women with BIA-ALCL](#) and another called [The Ticking Time Bomb](#).

Beyond Implants

Background Materials on the Women's Health Movement and Conflicts of Interest in Science and Medicine

Boston Women's Health Collective has produced *Our Bodies, Ourselves* since the early 1970's. Students can read excerpts from the original ([Preface and Introduction](#)) and [Introduction](#) to the 2011 (current) edition online. The site is a wealth of information and perspectives on contemporary women's health issues including [body image](#), [birth control](#), and [violence and abuse](#). OBOS also sponsors a site on global [surrogacy](#) issues.

National Women's Health Network has a video on the history of the women's health movement with a focus on advocacy actions related to reproductive health.

Barron Lerner's story-telling of what it took to gain women a voice in the decision to remove their breasts is essential reading. [No shrinking violet: Rose Kushner and the rise of American breast cancer activism](#). West J Med. 2001 May;174(5):362-5.

This recent investigative report by journalist Julia Belluz ([Too many studies have hidden conflicts of interest. A new tool makes it easier to see them](#)) describes the problems of conflicts of interest in science and PubMed's efforts to reveal them.

The former director of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Dr. David Michaels, and Dr. Celeste Monforton have produced riveting documentation of corporate attempts to inhibit health protective regulation. Dr. Michael discusses his book [Doubt is their Product](#) here. The issues are also discussed in their article in the [American Journal of Public Health: Manufacturing Uncertainty: Contested Science and the Protection of the Public's Health & Environment](#).



For practical tools on conflicts of interest in healthcare and the practice of medicine, students may look to [Community Catalyst](#), a healthcare advocacy organization and their [Conflict-of-Interest Curriculum Toolkit](#).

Investigative reporting teams from [ProPublica](#) created a site to allow students to search payments from pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers to doctors. Their [Dollars for Docs](#) site shows payments reported under the ACA's "Sunshine" provision.

Additionally, the Union of Concerned Scientists' [Center for Science and Democracy](#) defends scientific integrity and the role of science in public policy and the [Government Accountability Project](#) represents government whistleblowers, including related to medical devices.