This multi-media resource list provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary “In The Family,” that premieres on October 1st, 2008 at 10 PM (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

How much would you sacrifice to survive? When Chicago filmmaker Joanna Rudnick tested positive for the “breast cancer gene” at age 27, she knew the information could save her life. She also knew she was not only confronting mortality at an early age, but would have to make heart-wrenching decisions about the life that lay ahead of her. Should she take the irreversible preventive step of having her breasts and ovaries removed, or risk developing cancer? What would happen to her romantic life, her hopes for a family? “In the Family” documents Rudnick’s efforts to reach out to other women while facing her deepest fears. A co-production of Joanna Rudnick, Kartemquin Films and Independent Television Service (ITVS).

ADULT NONFICTION


Bennett, Robin L. The Practical Guide to the Genetic Family History. Danvers: 1999, Wiley-Liss, Inc. The Practical Guide to the Genetic Family History is a valuable resource that outlines the proper methods for taking and recording a patient’s family medical history, allowing primary care physicians to be more efficient in diagnosing conditions with potential genetic components.

Canfield, Jack and Mark Victor Hansen and Mary Olsen Kelly. Chicken Soup for the Breast Cancer Survivor’s Soul: Stories to Inspire, Support and Heal. Deerfield Beach: 2006, HCI. This addition to the popular Chicken Soup series should help anyone diagnosed with or undergoing treatment for breast cancer, as well as their close friends and family members. Divided into categories such as love, healing, challenge and courage, the wide-ranging first-person accounts set a positive but realistic tone.


Davis, Devra. The Secret History of the War on Cancer. New York: 2007, Perseus Book Group. Devra, the director of the Center for Environmental Oncology at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, reveals how the world we live in affects whether we get cancer.

Ellis, Neal C. Jr. Inherited Cancer Syndromes: Current Clinical Management. Memphis: 2004, Springer-Verlag Inc. This handbook is designed to educate physicians and health care workers about the genetics of inherited syndromes of cancer.


Offit, Kenneth. Clinical Cancer Genetics: Risk Counseling and Management. 1998: New York, Wiley-Liss, Inc. This book on cancer genetics in clinical practice covers most of the essential material in this complex field in a highly effective and readable way. The role of genetics in cancer is put into context by an overview of the role of genetics in disease, and Offit reviews our current knowledge of specific forms of genetic predisposition in both common and rare cancers.


Woodruff, Ronnie C. Mutation and Evolution. Norwell: 1998, Kluwer Academic Publishers. Although debated since the time of Darwin, the evolutionary role of mutation is still controversial. In over 40 chapters from leading authorities in mutation and evolutionary biology, this book takes a new look at both the theoretical and experimental measurement and significance of new mutation.

ADULT FICTION


Delve Deeper into “In The Family”
A film by Joanna Rudnick

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Jacobs, Marian B. Coping With Hereditary Diseases. New York: Rosen Publishing Group, 1999. Explains how hereditary diseases, the most common of all diseases, work, and potential ways of avoiding them.


FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS


FILMS

Breasts: A Documentary. A film by Meema Spadola. First Run Features, 1996. (50 mins.) An all-female film crew interviews 22 women who openly discuss the role breasts have played in their lives. www.amazon.com


The Fight for Our Life: Three Women Battle Ovarian Cancer. Createspace, 2007. (28 mins.) From the moment a woman is diagnosed with ovarian cancer, an overwhelming number of facts, statistics, and information are thrown at her. This documentary goes beyond the facts and gives a human face to the disease. Sally Cotlar, Kolleen Stacey, and Susan Thrower are three powerful women who openly share their experiences with the disease, as well as certain coping strategies they have found helpful, whether spiritual, nutritional, emotional, or psychological. www.amazon.com

In the Land of Women. A film by Jonathan Kasden. Warner Brothers, 2007. (97 mins.) Meg Ryan plays a mother who is recovering from breast cancer, learning to rediscover herself as her daughter falls in love. www.amazon.com


Rachel’s Daughters: Searching for a Cure for Breast Cancer. A film by Allie Light and Irving Saraf. Women Make Movies, 1997. (107 mins.) A documentary that follows a group of breast cancer patients and survivors, who see themselves as “daughters” of ecologist Rachel Carson, as they seek answers to possible environmental causes of cancer. www.wmm.com

Why I Wore Lipstick to my Mastectomy. A film by Peter Werner. Lifetime, 2006. Based on the true story of Gerayln Lucas (who also co-wrote the film), who tries to deal with the shock of her cancer diagnosis with the best attitude possible. www.mylifetime.com