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**Abstract:**

Metastatic hormone receptor–positive (HR+) breast cancer is usually treated first with endocrine therapy (ET) plus targeted drugs like CDK4/6 inhibitors. These treatments work well for a time, but almost all patients eventually develop resistance to ET-based combinations and need chemotherapy. Often, the first chemotherapy patients receive is an oral drug called capecitabine, which is generally well tolerated. Currently, chemotherapy is given alone without continuing ET based on older data with tamoxifen which works differently than modern ET. New laboratory studies show that a new kind of ET called SERD, which blocks and degrades the estrogen receptor, increases the killing activity of chemotherapy in HR+ breast cancer cells, including those that have become resistant to prior treatments and those with ESR1 mutations (a common cause of ET resistance). The CAPELA trial will test whether adding the oral SERD elacestrant to capecitabine is better than capecitabine alone in patients with advanced HR+ breast cancer who have already received ET and a CDK4/6 inhibitor but no chemotherapy for metastatic disease. The main outcome is how long patients remain free from cancer growth (progression-free survival), in all patients and the subgroup of patients with ESR1 mutations. We will also collect blood samples to study tumor DNA and other markers that may predict who benefits most from the combination. If successful, this trial could change the standard of care by supporting continued estrogen blockade alongside chemotherapy, improving outcomes for patients with metastatic disease and leading to trials of chemotherapy in combination with ET in patients with early-stage disease, potentially increasing chance of cure.

**Bio:**

Dr. Fanucci received her undergraduate degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before earning her medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine. She completed her Internal Medicine residency at Brown University and Hematology/Oncology fellowship at Yale University where she also served as Chief Fellow before joining the Breast Oncology Program at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Her clinical and research work centers on improving outcomes for patients with breast cancer, with a focus on patients with lobular breast cancer and inflammatory breast cancer. Dr. Fanucci designs and leads clinical trials aimed at advancing treatment options and translating emerging evidence into patient-centered care.