Kurzfassung: The healthcare system in Germany offers two screening systems for women aiming at early detection of breast cancer: Screening of high risk women (≥ 30% lifetime risk) and screening of women with normal risk (< 10% lifetime risk).

Scientific work supported by the German Cancer Aid has led to establishment of interdisciplinary teams of human genetics, gynecology and radiology in 15 university centers. Based on an individual risk evaluation by human genetics, high risk women are offered a tailored imaging program, mainly consisting of MR imaging every year and additional ultrasound as well as digital mammography in some cases.

For women with normal risk Germany has built up a nation-wide mammography screening program addressing the age group between 50 and 69 years. Digital mammography screening is offered throughout the whole nation according to the European Guidelines for Screening and Detection of Breast Cancer. In the meantime high standardization of structure, medical and physical quality of the screening process as well as assessment has been reached. Evaluation of the screening process demonstrates the high quality population-based program for early detection of breast cancer. It can now be shown on an epidemiological basis that introduction of screening has led to an increase of preclinical cancers and a tumor shift towards smaller tumors (DCIS and T1 stages).

Within this presentation structure as well as results of these two well established programs for early detection of breast cancer and further developing strategies in Germany will be presented.

Lernziele: Demonstration of two German health care programs for early detection of breast cancer in women with high risk and in women with normal risk.