Armando E. Giuliano, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd
2011 Susan G. Komen for the Cure®
Brinker Award for Scientific Distinction in Clinical Research

Armando E. Giuliano, MD, FACS, FRCSEd, is being honored for his seminal work investigating sentinel lymph node biopsy as an alternative to removal of underarm lymph nodes (complete axillary dissection) for women with breast cancer. His work has had a significant impact on the standard of care and quality of life for breast cancer survivors by reducing the side effects associated with determining lymph node involvement.

Dr. Giuliano's 30-year research career as a breast surgeon-scientist has been dedicated to reducing the short- and long-term side effects associated with breast cancer diagnosis and treatment. Some of his early endeavors included analysis of fine needle aspiration as a diagnostic tool, comparison of mastectomy to lumpectomy, and other studies that have reduced the need for radical surgery in many breast cancer patients.

In 1991, Dr. Giuliano's focus shifted to the benefits of sentinel lymph node biopsy for breast cancer patients as an alternative to complete axillary dissection. He showed that the sentinel node could be identified and, if free of cancer, other axillary nodes were most likely cancer-free as well. The medical community rapidly embraced this finding and, over the next five years, sentinel node biopsies became standard treatment for women with early stage breast cancer. More recently, Dr. Giuliano led two large, ground-breaking clinical trials, demonstrating that some women with node-positive breast cancer may also be able to avoid complete axillary dissection without increasing their risk of recurrence or death from breast cancer.

Dr. Giuliano currently serves as the Executive Vice Chair of Surgical Oncology in the Department of Surgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, Calif. He also serves as the Associate Director of Surgical Oncology at Cedars-Sinai's Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute and Co-Director of Cedars-Sinai's Saul and Joyce Brandman Breast Center – A Project of the Women's Guild. He received his medical degree at the University of Chicago, completed his residency in Surgery at UCSF, and completed a fellowship in Surgical Oncology at UCLA. He retains appointments as Clinical Professor of Surgery at UCLA and at USC.

Dr. Giuliano's research to advance less invasive surgical treatments for breast cancer is improving the lives of countless women every year and will continue to change the way that breast cancer is treated internationally.