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SUSAN G. KOMEN®'S 2015 BREAST CANCER RESEARCH FUNDING TARGETS EARLY-CAREER INVESTIGATORS, NEW THERAPIES, HEALTH INEQUITIES AND METASTATIC DISEASE

Oregon Researchers Receive \$450,000 in Research Funding

DALLAS – Sept. 22, 2015 – Susan G. Komen, the world's largest nonprofit funder of breast cancer research, announced new grants to 124 researchers in 25 states and 15 countries, with about half of the grants targeted to early-career researchers squeezed by stagnation in federal research dollars.

The grants include \$450,000 in new funding for research at Providence Portland Medical Center, bringing Komen Oregon and SW Washington's total research investment to \$11,929,260.

The 2015 research grants expand Komen's ongoing commitment to funding early-career scientists, that is, recent graduates and those trying to establish independent research careers. This group has been especially hard hit by real-dollar declines of as much as 25 percent in federal research funding over the past decade.

"We committed two years ago to do all that we can to ensure that talented early-career investigators remain in the breast cancer research field, while continuing our support for established researchers," said Komen President and CEO Judith A. Salerno, M.D., M.S. "We cannot afford to lose talented scientists to other fields for lack of funding."

This year's research slate brings Komen's total research investment to more than \$889 million since 1982, the largest of any nonprofit, and second only to the U.S. government.

Grants from Komen's nearly \$36 million research portfolio – including more than \$17.6 million in grants awarded to early-career investigators – span the entire cancer continuum from prevention to treatments for aggressive and metastatic disease. These include:

- 36 grants to improve understanding of **metastatic breast cancer**
- 18 grants investigating how tumors develop **drug resistance**
- 19 grants related to the study of **triple negative breast cancer** – one of the most aggressive forms of the disease
- 15 grants working to identify and understand **biological and socio-economic health inequities**
- 13 grants seeking to develop **new and novel therapies**

Investments in Oregon

Komen's research program is funded in part by contributions from Komen's nationwide network of Affiliates, which direct 25 percent of funds locally raised to Komen's national research program. The remaining 75 percent of net funds are invested into community outreach programs that serve local women and men facing breast cancer.

Since 1991, \$19.8 million has been funneled to community programs serving local women and men in Oregon and SW Washington.

“We are so proud to have the support of this community as we help our friends, coworkers and neighbors who are facing breast cancer, and work for continued progress against breast cancer through research,” said CEO, Andrew Asato.

In Oregon, **William Redmond, Ph.D. of Providence Portland Medical Center** will receive \$450,000 to understand the biological mechanisms that stop a patient’s immune system from fighting breast cancer. He will help develop new immunotherapeutic approaches, such as a vaccine, that will potentially destroy breast cancer cells throughout the body, providing better treatment options for women with metastatic breast cancer.

A full list of Komen’s 2015 research grants can be found [here](#).*

In addition to funding breast cancer research, Komen has invested more than \$1.95 billion into community health outreach and global programs that serve hundreds of thousands of women and men annually through breast cancer health and support programs that screen, educate and provide financial, medical and psychosocial assistance.

For more information about Komen’s mission investment, please visit komen.org.

About Susan G. Komen Oregon and SW Washington

In the last 24 years, the local organization has funneled nearly \$20 million into programs that prioritize the importance of improving and building on the quality of life for survivors, emphasize the value of early detection and screenings, as well as financial assistance for access to treatment. Another \$11.9 million has been dedicated to local cutting edge research.

About Susan G. Komen

Susan G. Komen is the world’s largest breast cancer organization, funding more breast cancer research than any other nonprofit while providing real-time help to those facing the disease. Since its founding in 1982, Komen has funded more than \$889 million in research and provided \$1.95 billion in funding to screening, education, treatment and psychosocial support programs serving millions of people in more than 30 countries worldwide. Komen was founded by Nancy G. Brinker, who promised her sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would end the disease that claimed Suzy’s life. Visit komen.org or call 1-877 GO KOMEN. Connect with us on social at ww5.komen.org/social.

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