



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Joni Avery  
Susan G. Komen  
972-855-4382  
[press@komen.org](mailto:press@komen.org)

AFFILIATE CONTACT  
Komen Oregon & SW Washington  
###  
EMAIL

**SUSAN G. KOMEN® ANNOUNCES \$31 MILLION IN 2017 FUNDING FOR 98 NEW BREAST CANCER RESEARCH GRANTS, WITH FOCUS ON AGGRESSIVE AND METASTATIC CANCERS**

***Oregon Researcher Receive \$179,999 in Research Funding***

**PORTLAND – September 30, 2017** – Susan G. Komen, the world's leading breast cancer organization, today announced 2017 research funding of \$30.7 million for 98 research grants, with a focus on new treatments and understanding of the most lethal forms and stages of breast cancer. Komen funding to institutions in 27 states and 7 countries also includes research into new screening technologies, treatments for metastatic and aggressive types of breast cancer and disparities in breast cancer outcomes.

The grants include \$179,999 in new funding for research at Oregon Health & Science University Knight Cancer Institute in Oregon, bringing Komen's total research investment in Oregon to \$12.4 million since 1992.

"We are focused on new treatments, ways to overcome drug resistance in breast cancer patients, and a better understanding of how and why breast cancer spreads, so that we can better treat metastatic breast cancer or prevent it all together," said Andrew Asato, CEO, Susan G. Komen Oregon and SW Washington. "This focus on aggressive and metastatic disease is the foundation of our **Bold Goal** to reduce U.S. breast cancer deaths by 50 percent by 2026."

Metastatic breast cancer – which is breast cancer that has spread to other parts of the body like the brain, liver, bones or lungs – is responsible for almost all of the nation's 40,000 annual breast cancer deaths. More than 154,000 women are living with metastatic disease in the U.S. today. By targeting metastatic disease, Komen is hoping to reduce breast cancer deaths dramatically in the U.S.

This year's funding also includes \$17.6 million to early-career investigators. "Funding for early-career researchers ensures a continuum of breast cancer research, across generations, which is critical in a time of tightening federal research dollars," Asato said.

Komen's 2017 portfolio includes:

- 37 grants expanding our knowledge of **metastatic breast cancer** and how to better treat it or prevent it;

- 37 grants looking into novel treatments for **aggressive types of breast cancer** (specifically, triple negative, inflammatory breast cancer luminal B, and ER-positive recurrent breast cancer).
- 59 grants focused on new therapies, including 10 for targeted therapies and 20 for drug development
- 24 investigating drug resistance (why drugs stop working in some patients)
- 9 on disparities in breast cancer outcomes and 2 involving Big Data

### **Komen's Investments in Oregon**

Komen's research program is funded in part by contributions from Komen's nationwide Network of Affiliates, which directs 25 percent of funds raised locally to Komen's national research program, while investing the remaining 75 percent into community outreach programs that serve local women and men facing breast cancer.

Since 1991, Komen Oregon & SW Washington has funded \$19.5 million to community programs serving local women and men. \$12.4 million has been directed to breakthrough research since 1997 at OHSU Knight Cancer Institute and Providence Cancer Institute.

"We are so thankful for the friends, family and neighbors that fight alongside us, helping to reduce the number of breast cancer deaths in Oregon, both on the ground and through research," said Asato.

### **Oregon Health and Science University**

**Elizabeth Mitchell, Ph.D.**, will receive nearly \$180,000 to find indicators to determine breast cancer risk in patients with DCIS. She hopes her studies provide information for assessment of those breast cancers that have likelihood to be aggressive and potentially progress towards metastasis.

These new funds bring Komen's total research investment in breast cancer to more than \$956 million since opening its doors in 1982, the largest of any nonprofit and second only to the U.S. government. In addition to research, Komen and its nationwide network of Affiliates serve women and men in thousands of communities. To date, more than \$2.1 billion has been invested in community programs that provide education, screening and treatment support.

Oregon also has 3 ongoing grants, awarded in previous years including grants to Komen Scholar Joe Gray, Ph.D.