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Alice Fern
Susan G. Komen Oregon and
SW Washington
(503) 553.3678
afern@komenoregon.org

SUSAN G. KOMEN® REACHES \$1 BILLION MARK FOR RESEARCH - WITH FOCUSED PROJECTS LOCALLY ON METASTATIC BREAST CANCER AND NEW TREATMENTS

OREGON Researchers Receive \$850,000 in Research Funding

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 – Susan G. Komen funds \$26 million in new research projects that focus on metastatic breast cancer, developing new, more-effective treatments, and addressing disparities in breast cancer outcomes. This year’s grant slate focuses on key areas that will help the organization achieve the Bold Goal to reduce the current number of breast cancer deaths in the U.S. by 50 percent by 2026.

“In order to save more lives, we must address the main cause of breast cancer deaths: metastatic breast cancer,” said George Sledge, Susan G. Komen’s co-Chief Scientific Advisor, M.D., Professor of Medicine, and Chief of the Division of Oncology in the Department of Medicine at Stanford University.

“We are pleased to be able to support research aimed at preventing breast cancers from metastasizing (spreading) and developing new, more effective treatments for metastatic disease,” added Komen’s co-Chief Scientific Advisor, Jennifer Pietenpol, Ph.D., Executive Vice President for Research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Director of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, the B.F. Byrd Jr. Professor of Molecular Oncology, and Professor of Biochemistry and Otolaryngology at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

An estimated 154,000 women in the U.S. are living with metastatic breast cancer – the most advanced stage of breast cancer that has spread outside the breast, often to the brain, bones, liver and lungs. Currently, there is no cure for metastatic breast cancer, and it is responsible for almost all the 42,000 breast cancer deaths in the U.S. each year.

Among the 60 grants Komen awarded this year, 38 are focused on better understanding and treating metastatic breast cancer. Grants were also given to researchers who are developing new therapies for breast cancer including aggressive subtypes such as triple negative breast cancer, investigating drug resistance, and addressing health disparities in breast cancer outcomes among specific communities.

“Breast cancer does not affect everyone equally and with the grants we’re funding this year, we’re moving closer to new therapies for aggressive forms of cancer, understanding why treatment doesn’t work in some patients and making sure everyone has access to the care they need,” said Paula Schneider, CEO, Susan G. Komen.

Komen's newest research projects* include 60 grants totaling \$25,689,384.

- 38 grants totaling \$17,504,384 are focused on better understanding metastasis – why it occurs and how to prevent and treat **metastatic breast cancer**
- 39 grants totaling \$15,579,815 for **catalyzing the development of new therapies** for all stages of breast cancer
- 16 grants looking into novel treatments for triple negative breast cancer
- 14 grants totaling \$6,298,750 investigating **drug resistance** (why drugs stop working in some patients)
- 9 grants focused on disparities in breast cancer outcomes and
- 5 that apply big data technology (e.g. Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning) to breast cancer research

**Grant may be counted because of a multi-disciplinary approach.*

These new funds bring Komen's total research investment in breast cancer to more than \$1 billion since opening its doors in 1982, and Komen's investment in research focused on metastatic breast cancer to \$210 million. Since our inception, we have funded more breast cancer research than any other non-profit outside of 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 \$2.3 billion has been invested in efforts to provide critical education and real-time support to people in communities across the country.

Susan G. Komen Oregon and SW Washington

Komen's research grant program is supported in part by funds raised by the organization's nationwide network of Affiliates. Each year, Komen Oregon and SW Washington contributes at least 25 percent of local funds raised to research, while the remainder of their funds help provide vital education and real-time support to people facing breast cancer today in the community. Since 1991, Komen Oregon and SW Washington has funded \$19.9 million to community programs serving local women and men, while contributing \$12.6 million to research.

Oregon Health & Science University

Komen Scholar Joe Gray, Ph.D., will receive \$400,000 to improve metastatic hormone receptor positive (HR+) breast cancer treatment by identifying FDA-approved drugs that could improve the effectiveness of immune therapies. This could lead to better therapeutic strategies for these patients by enhancing the immune system's ability to kill the cancer.

Providence Portland Medical Center

Kristina Young, M.D., Ph.D., will receive \$450,000 to study how to increase the ability of the immune system to fight metastatic breast cancer. To do this, she will study how depleting one protein, TGFbeta, can help the immune system identify and attack breast cancer cells. These studies will help create new treatment strategies for eliminating metastatic breast cancer.

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

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About Susan G. Komen®

Susan G. Komen® is the world's leading nonprofit breast cancer organization, working to save lives and end breast cancer forever. Komen has an unmatched, comprehensive 360-degree approach to fighting this disease across all fronts and supporting millions of people in the U.S. and in countries worldwide. We advocate for patients, drive research breakthroughs, improve access to high-quality care, offer direct patient support and empower people with trustworthy information. Born out of a promise between two sisters, Susan G. Komen remains committed to supporting those affected by breast cancer today, while tirelessly searching for tomorrow's cures.