


Because breast cancer is everywhere, **SO ARE WE.**

At Susan G. Komen for the Cure®, we are committed to ENDING breast cancer forever by ENERGIZING SCIENCE to find the cures and ensuring QUALITY CARE for all people, everywhere.

CHALLENGE GRANTS – INVESTIGATOR-INTIATED RESEARCH

BREAST CANCER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

2012-2013 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Research Focus Areas:

- Studies of Occupational Cohorts and Other Highly-Exposed Populations
- New Exposure Assessment Tools
- Minimizing Exposure to Ionizing Radiation

Susan G. Komen for the Cure
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Susan G. Komen for the Cure®

KEY DATES

Application System Opens	August 6, 2012
Pre-Application Due	September 10, 2012, by 5 p.m., ET
Pre-Application Decision	November 2, 2012
Full Application Due	December 20, 2012 by 12:00 p.m., ET
Award Notification	March 31, 2013

KOMEN RESEARCH PROGRAM

At Susan G. Komen for the Cure®, we are committed to ***ending*** breast cancer forever by ***empowering people, energizing science*** to find the cures and ensuring ***quality care*** for all people, everywhere. Our Research Program is an essential driving force for achieving this mission.

Komen has sustained a strong commitment to supporting projects and programs that will identify and deliver cures for breast cancer. This commitment has resulted in important progress that has contributed to major advances in breast cancer over the past 30 years. We began with a single grant for $28,000 in 1982. With increasing investments over time, now totaling nearly $755 million, Komen is the largest non-government funder of breast cancer research.

Our research focus has evolved over the years. In the beginning we focused on understanding the basic biology of breast cancer. As we learn more about the factors that make cancer cells grow and spread, we are able to invest more in the translation of this knowledge into treatment, early detection and prevention, ***with the goal of supporting work that has significant potential to lead to reductions in incidence and mortality within the decade.***

BREAST CANCER AND THE ENVIRONMENT: A LIFE COURSE APPROACH

Major advances have been made in understanding the biology and diversity of breast cancer, but much more remains to be discovered about the many causes of breast cancer – particularly what contributions a diverse array of environmental factors may be making – and how to prevent it. The challenges are many: The scientific community has been presented with conflicting and inconclusive results from past studies. With increased knowledge of the complexity of breast cancer biology, it has become apparent that future research into environmental influences will need to focus on early-life exposures, associations with specific tumor types, and gene-environment interactions. Adding to the complexity of this task is the fact that for a wide array of exposures the assessment methodologies, tools and resources are limited.

Susan G. Komen for the Cure and its Scientific Advisory Board requested that the Institute of Medicine (IOM) review the current evidence on environmental risk factors for breast cancer, consider gene-environment interactions in breast cancer, explore evidence-based actions that might reduce the risk of breast cancer, and recommend research needed in these areas. The full text of the IOM report may be downloaded here: http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/Breast-Cancer-and-the-Environment-A-Life-Course-Approach.aspx

Of note, the report emphasized the "life course" approach in studying the risk factors and the mechanisms that affect risk of breast cancer. Prior and existing studies have focused primarily on exposures during adulthood, but this research may miss investigating critical windows during early life in which some environmental exposures may influence future risk for breast cancer. The breast undergoes substantial changes throughout a woman's entire life, especially in response to hormonal changes, such as the onset of puberty, pregnancy, and menopause. Therefore, the timing of environmental exposures and their relationship to increasing or reducing breast cancer risk may be directly or indirectly influenced by these developmental and hormonal events.

At the conclusion of their report, the IOM issued 13 recommendations for further research, of which three have been chosen by the Komen Scientific Advisory Board as the subject of Challenge Grants to be awarded for projects addressing key needs in this important field.

CHALLENGE GRANTS-INVESTIGATOR INITIATED RESEARCH

Challenge Grants seek to stimulate exploration of new ideas and novel approaches to research on breast cancer and the environment, through a life course approach, that have significant potential to lead to reductions in breast cancer incidence and/or mortality within the next decade.

Studies of Occupational Cohorts and Other Highly-Exposed Populations

Research seeking to study populations exposed to potentially cancer-causing agents or external toxins, chemicals, hormones or radiation, such as occupational cohorts, persons with event-related high exposures, or patient groups receiving high-dose or long-term medical treatments, including medical radiation. Such projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Collection of information on the prevalence of known breast cancer risk factors among the study population
- Comparisons of breast cancer incidence associated with various work assignments and job titles and the distribution of known breast cancer risk factors among workers
- Studies utilizing existing cohorts from records of patients treated for specific diseases or conditions
- Event-related exposures from such incidents as industrial accidents, contamination episodes, etc., that provide opportunities to investigate impact of specific timing of such exposures

New Exposure Assessment Tools

Research seeking to improve methodologies for measuring, across the life course, personal exposure to and biologically effective doses of environmental factors that may alter risk for or susceptibility to breast cancer. Projects may include, but are not limited to, methods that will:

- Determine routes of exposures to environmental factors that may alter risk or susceptibility to breast cancer, and how they vary over time and throughout the life course
- Develop novel biomarkers of early exposure through the study of early biologic effects (DNA adducts, methylation, tissue changes, and gene expression)
- Determine patterns of persistence of potentially carcinogenic chemical compounds and their metabolites, the determinants of variability in retention, and the variation in exposure levels over time

Minimizing Exposure to Ionizing Radiation

Comparative effectiveness research seeking to assess the relative benefits and harms of medical radiation, including imaging procedures and diagnostic/follow-up radiologic tests using algorithms in common practice. Such projects may include, but are not limited to those that will:

- Clarify the extent of population risks, unnecessary uses of medical radiography, and the best means to maximize its benefits and minimize its harms

Advocates in Science: Optional Patient Advocate Involvement

Although not required for applications, Komen has a strong commitment to including breast cancer patient advocates in the design and implementation of research projects to provide patient perspective. For example, patient advocates may be utilized on applications that include clinical trials, interaction with patients, mentoring committees or any other decision-making entities, and can also be involved in other aspects of the research program such as planning and oversight, research subject recruitment, program evaluation, and/or dissemination of information to the public.

Advocates, if included, should be listed as collaborators in the key personnel section of the application, and may be compensated as noted below under 'budget guidelines.'

A guide, presented by Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Advocates in Science, is attached as Appendix A, and provides suggestions for the inclusion of advocates. For assistance in identifying trained advocates or to discuss including advocates in the proposed research program, contact advocatesinscience@komen.org.

FUNDING INFORMATION

Applicants may request either three or four years of funding as follows:

- Up to a total of $750,000 over three years (combined direct and indirect costs); or
- Up to a total of $1,000,000 over four years (combined direct and indirect costs)

Budgets are not required to be equivalent across each year of the Grant, but rather should reflect the costs appropriate to support the research project each year.

Budget Guidelines:

- Personnel on the project are limited to a base salary at or below $250,000 per year, and PIs must provide a 10% minimal level of effort
- Equipment costs are limited to no more than 30% of total direct costs
- Indirect costs cannot exceed 25% of total direct costs (including any indirect costs paid through subcontracts or consortia)
- Travel costs are allowed
- Publication costs and meeting-related poster printing costs are allowed
- Reasonable compensation of advocates is allowed when advocates perform services that would otherwise be a contracted expense. Compensation may be in the form of salary, per-hour compensation, or honoraria. Additionally, grant funds can be used for advocate participation in scientific conferences that would enhance their knowledge and skills related to the research project
- Graduate and postdoctoral fellow tuition costs are not allowed
- Visa costs are not allowed
- Professional membership dues are not allowed

DESIGNATED RECIPIENTS

Grants will be awarded to a single Principal Investigator (PI) or one PI and one Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI).

Primary Institution

For Grants awarded to a PI/Co-PI team, Grant Agreements will be executed between Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the PI's institution. The Primary Institution will serve as the administrator of the Grant funds and will hold responsibility for the disbursement of the funds to other participating institutions, management of the budget, and submission of all required documents and reports. It is expected that the primary institution will enter into subcontracts with any other participating institutions, and assurances that these contractual agreements have been executed will be required prior to funding.

ELIGIBILITY

PIs, Co-PIs, and Primary Institutions must conform to the following eligibility criteria to be considered for funding through an IIR Grant. Eligibility requirements must be met at the time of full application submission.

PIs and Co-PIs:

- Must have a doctoral degree, including MD, PhD, DrPH, DO, or equivalent
- Must have a full time faculty appointment at the time of application
- Principal Investigators (PI) on a Komen Promise Grant or Career Catalyst Research Grant may only apply in the final year of their funding and may NOT hold both grants simultaneously.
- Must ensure that all past and current Komen-funded Grants are up to date and in compliance with all Komen requirements; e.g., progress report submissions, IRB approvals, etc.
- Are not required to be U.S. citizens or residents

Institutions

- Primary Institution must be a nonprofit institution or organization anywhere in the world
- Other participating institutions may be nonprofit institutions or industry partners, however, industry partners may not be reimbursed for any fee or profit
- All institutions and industry partners must agree to adhere to Komen's Policies and Procedures for Research and Training Grants including, for example, regulatory assurances, ownership of equipment, intellectual property, liability and insurance and reporting requirements. Copies of these Policies and Procedures are available at http://ww5.komen.org/ResearchGrants/FundingOpportunities.html

Susan G. Komen for the Cure®

Nancy G. Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer forever. In 1982, that promise became Susan G. Komen for the Cure and launched the global breast cancer movement. Today, Komen for the Cure is the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energize science to find the cures. Thanks to events like the Komen Race for the Cure®, we have invested more than $1.9 billion to fulfill our promise, becoming the largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to the fight against breast cancer in the world.

REVIEW PROCESS

Susan G. Komen for the Cure® utilizes a multi-step approach to application and review that requires submission of a pre-application and submission of a full application upon invitation only. Pre-applications are first administratively reviewed for eligibility, adherence to formatting requirements, and responsiveness to the research focus specified in this RFA. **Applications that do not meet eligibility, formatting, or responsiveness requirements will be administratively withdrawn and will not be reviewed or scored.**

Each qualified pre-application is then reviewed by a panel of three scientists with appropriate expertise and a patient advocate. Scientist and advocate reviewers assess the strengths and weaknesses of each application based on the defined review criteria, described below.

Only applicants with pre-applications deemed most meritorious and aligned with Komen's research mission will be invited to submit full applications. It is anticipated that full applications will be invited from approximately 20-25% of pre-application submitters.

Applicants will be notified of pre-application review decisions via email. Once notifications are sent, applicants will be granted access to reviewer comments. Applicants invited to submit a full application will be granted access to the full application site.

Pre-application Scientific Peer Review Criteria

The applicant must address the following criteria in the pre-application narrative.

Research Question and Significance	• Describe how the proposed research addresses one of the research foci as described in the RFA.
Scientific Approach and Feasibility	• Describe how the proposed study hypothesis(es) comprehensively addresses the overarching research question(s). • Describe how the proposed specific aims fully answer the study hypothesis(es). • Describe how the scientific approach effectively addresses each specific aim. • Describe the specific outcomes/deliverables of the proposed research plan.
Scientific and Patient Impact	• Describe your project and your project's impact as you would explain to a non-scientist, such as your sister, neighbor, friend, etc. in 3-5 sentences. Include how the research question(s) as outlined in Section B have significant potential to lead to a reduction in breast cancer incidence and/or mortality within the next decade. • Why is (are) the research question(s) important to the breast cancer patient and survivor community? • Have you consulted breast cancer survivors/advocates in the development of the research project? If so, how? • How will the research proposed in this application lead to a better understanding of the impact of the environment on breast cancer incidence and outcomes? Will this research lead to better knowledge of risk factors that can be measured throughout a woman's lifetime?

PRE-APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

All pre-applications must be submitted in accordance to the requirements and instructions of this Request for Applications (RFA). All application materials must be in English and must be submitted online in the proposalCENTRAL system. No paper applications or applications sent by email will be accepted.

Online Pre-Applications must be completed by 5pm, EST (U.S.) on **Monday, September 10, 2012**, using the proposalCENTRAL website at https://proposalcentral.altum.com.

Getting Started in proposalCENTRAL

If you are a new user of proposalCENTRAL, follow the "REGISTER" link and complete the registration process. After you register, complete your Professional Profile (green tab second from the left) before starting an application.

If you are already registered with proposalCENTRAL, access the site and log in with your Username and Password. If you have forgotten your password, click on the "Forgot your password?" link. Provide your e-mail address in the space provided; your username and password will be sent to you by e-mail.

To start a pre-application, select the "Grant Opportunities" tab (gray tab furthest to the right). A list of applications will be displayed. Find **"Susan G. Komen for the Cure: Environmental Challenge Grant- Investigator Initiated Research Grants"** and click the "Apply Now" link (second to last column) to create your pre-application.

Complete all fields in the application and all templates that are provided. Upload all requested documents in portable document format (PDF). See the proposalCENTRAL FAQ section, https://proposalcentral.altum.com/FAQ/FrequentlyAskedQuestions.asp, for more information.

If you have difficulties registering, logging in, or creating your application, contact proposalCENTRAL Customer Support immediately: Phone: (800) 875-2562 or (703) 964-5840 E-mail: pcsupport@altum.com

Susan G. Komen for the Cure has been dedicated to funding breast cancer research since inception in 1982. At the local level in the U.S., Komen works through a grassroots network of 120 Affiliates who serve as the face and voice of the Komen organization in 48 states across the country. All of the Affiliates actively participate in generating the funds that are used to sponsor the Komen research grants. Twenty five percent of all the money raised locally is pooled at the national level and invested in Research and Training Grants.

Pre-Application Sections

The following information is required to submit a complete pre-application. Numbers correspond to the application sections found on the left side of the proposalCENTRAL website.

1. **TITLE PAGE**

   Enter the title of the research project directly into proposalCENTRAL system. The title is limited to no more than 81 characters in length (including spaces). Do not use abbreviations or all capital letters. A project title must be entered and saved before additional sections may be accessed.

   Research Focus Area

   Please select the focus area for the research proposed from the dropdown menu.

2. **DOWNLOAD TEMPLATES & INSTRUCTIONS**

   The Request for Application (RFA) Guidelines and Application Instructions document, the Policies and Procedures, CSO Codes & Topic Codes Guidelines and all templates can be downloaded from this page.

   You must download and complete the following templates: Pre-Application Narrative Template, Biosketch Template, and Pre-Application Submission Checklist.

   Click the "Download" link to save each of the templates to your computer.

   Use your word processing software (e.g., MS Word, WordPerfect) to complete the Pre-Application Narrative Template, Biosketch Template, and Pre-Application Submission Checklist on your computer and then convert templates to PDF format. You do not need to be connected to the internet or proposalCENTRAL while working on the templates.

   Upload the completed template files to your online application.

   See Section 8 for instructions on how to complete and upload the templates.

3. **ENABLE OTHER USERS TO ACCESS THIS PROPOSAL**

   Optional.

4. **APPLICANT/PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR**

   Enter contact information for the applicant/PI directly into proposalCENTRAL system. When entering contact information, do not use personal addresses.

5. **INSTITUTION & CONTACTS**

   Enter information regarding the lead institution and signing official directly into proposalCENTRAL system.

6. **KEY PERSONNEL**

   Key Personnel includes the co-PI (if applicable), major contributors, collaborators, and advocates (if applicable) who are integral to the execution of the research plan. **Do not list the PI as Key Personnel in this section.**

   Add new contacts by entering the e-mail address of the key person you wish to add. Click 'Add'. Add Key Personnel information for the person selected. Select the appropriate Role from the dropdown. Enter the percent effort proposed for this key person on this project. Key personnel must have a percent of effort and salary support indicated, with the exception of advocates where 0% effort and no salary support is allowed. When entering contact information, do not use personal addresses for the key person.

Non-Key Personnel

Non-Key Personnel include graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research technicians, and collaborators who can be replaced without affecting the functionality of the grant. Add new contacts by entering the e-mail address of the key person you wish to add. Click 'Add'. Add Non-Key Personnel information for the person selected. Select the Non-Key Personnel Role from the dropdown. Enter the percent effort proposed for this non-key person on this project. A non-key person may have 0% effort. When entering contact information, do not use personal addresses for the non-key person.

7. CSO AND TOPIC CODES

Please see the Download Templates & Instructions section to view the CSO and Topic code definitions prior to selecting the CSO and Topic codes for the proposed research. Select the proper code from the 'Available Codes' and use the double arrows to move your selection into the 'Selected Code' category. Save after your selection has been made.

8. NARRATIVE AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Uploaded documents must be converted to PDF prior to submission in the proposalCENTRAL system and should not be password protected or they may not convert properly.

Uploading the attachments into your application. Once you have converted your attachments to PDF files, the next step is to upload the files to your online application.

- Make certain that the converted PDF files are closed on your computer.
- Open your application and go to the section for attaching files.
- Enter your own description of the file in the "Describe Attachment" field.
- Select the appropriate type of attachment from the drop-down list. NOTE: After selecting attachment type, the screen will show the file types (e.g., PDF, .doc) that are allowed for that type of attachment. Only .PDF attachments are permitted for this application submission.
- Click on the "Browse" button to select the file from your computer.
  - The "Choose File" dialog box opens for you to search for the template file on your computer's hard disk or local area network.
  - Select the file and click "Open."
  - The file location and name will display in the window adjacent to the "Browse" button.
- Click on the "Upload Attachment" button. You will get a confirmation message on your screen that the file was uploaded successfully. You will also see that your file is now listed in the "Uploaded Attachment" section of the screen. Two links are available in each row of an uploaded attachment: DEL and SHOW. "DEL" allows you to delete the file, if necessary, and "SHOW" opens the uploaded file. **Open and review your uploaded file.**

9. VALIDATE

Validate the application on proposalCENTRAL. This is an essential step. An application that has not been validated cannot be submitted. "Validate" checks for required data and required attachments. You will not be able to submit if all the required data and attachments have not been provided.

10. SUBMIT

After successfully passing the validate check and printing your documents, click the "Submit" link. An e-mail will be sent to you confirming your submission.

Once your application is submitted you may view it by accessing the "Submitted" link under the Manage Proposals tab. The status column will show "Submitted" and the date submitted. You may need to refresh your browser screen after submitting the application to see the updated status.

The following elements are required components of the pre-application:

Pre-Application Template

Download the Template from proposalCENTRAL and fill in the following sections. The Pre-Application Narrative (Sections A-D) is limited to 3 pages. Applicants may exceed the recommended page length for a given section as described below provided that the total narrative is no more than 3 pages, including figures and tables. Cited Publications and Pre-Application Supporting Documents are not included in this page number limit.

Document Format

Please follow the formatting requirements below. Applications not adhering to these format requirements will be administratively withdrawn prior to review.

- Must be in PDF file format.
- Font Size: 12 point or larger.
- Font Type: Times New Roman (Biosketches are not required to be in Times New Roman font).
- Spacing: No more than six lines of type within a vertical inch (2.54 cm).
- Page Size: No larger than 8.5 inches x 11.0 inches (21.59 cm x 27.94 cm).
- Margins: At least 0.5 inch (1.27 cm) in all directions.
- Print Area: 7.5 inches x 10.0 inches (19.05 cm x 25.40 cm).
- Headers or Footers may only be used for page numbers on the biosketches, but margins must remain at least 0.5 inches with the header or footer. Formatting of the header and footer on the pre-application template must not be altered.
- Recommended lengths for each narrative section of the application are provided. The complete pre-application narrative (Sections A-D of the Template) must not exceed 3 pages in length.

Guidelines for Images

- Reduce the file size of documents with images by "inserting" the image (as opposed to "cutting" and "pasting").
- Insert only PNG, GIF or JPG graphic files as images in your Word document. Other graphical file formats are either very large or difficult to manipulate in the document.
- Do not insert Quick Time or TIFF objects into your document.
- Anchor the images you embed in your document. Once you have anchored the "inserted" image, you can format text to wrap around the image.
- Do not edit your images in Word. Use a graphics program.
- Do not embed your images in tables, text boxes, and other form elements.
- Do not add annotations over the images in Word. Add annotations to the images in a graphics program.

Section A: Title (81 Character limit):

Applicants should enter the title of their proposal exactly as it is entered in proposalCENTRAL.

Section B: Research Question and Significance (.5 page recommended):

Applicants should describe the research question and how the proposed research addresses one of the specific breast cancer and the environment research foci as described in this RFA.

Section C: Hypothesis, Specific Aims and Approach (1 page recommended):

Clearly and concisely outline the hypothesis(es), specific aims, and the scientific approach that will be taken to address each specific aim. In this section, address the following:

- Describe how the proposed study hypothesis(es) comprehensively addresses the overarching research question(s).
- Describe how the proposed specific aims fully answer the study hypothesis(es).
- Describe how the scientific approach effectively addresses each specific aim.
- Describe the specific outcomes/deliverables of the proposed research plan.

Section D: Scientific and Patient Impact (1.5 pages recommended):

This section will be reviewed by advocate and scientific reviewers. Clearly and concisely answer the questions 1-4 using non-scientific language appropriate for a lay audience:

1. Describe your project and your project's impact as you would explain to a non-scientist, such as your sister, neighbor, friend, etc. in 3-5 sentences. Include how the research question(s) as outlined in Section B have significant potential to lead to a reduction in breast cancer incidence and/or mortality within the next decade.
2. Why is (are) the research question(s) important to the breast cancer patient and survivor community?
3. Have you consulted breast cancer survivors/advocates in the development of the research project? If so, how?
4. How will the research proposed in this application lead to a better understanding of the impact of the environment on breast cancer incidence and outcomes? Will this research lead to better knowledge of risk factors that can be measured throughout a woman's lifetime?

Cited Publications

No more than 10 references to relevant publications may be listed. References must be numbered and follow the formatting example on the pre-application template. Cited publications are not included in the overall Pre-Application Narrative 3-page limit.

Pre-Application Supporting Documents

The following documentation is required to support the pre-application:

Biosketches

Required for all key personnel. Biosketches must be no more than 4 pages each and in NIH format. A template will be available for download on the proposalCENTRAL website.

Biosketches are not included in the Pre-Application Narrative 3-page limit.

Pre-Application Submission Checklist

Download the Pre-Application Submission Checklist from proposalCENTRAL and indicate all tasks that have been completed and reviewed. Sign the Checklist, indicating that all instructions have been followed before uploading the checklist into proposalCENTRAL.

PRE-APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Applicants are strongly encouraged to complete, review, and submit their applications with sufficient time to allow for technical difficulties, varying time zones, human error, loss of power/internet, sickness, travel, etc. Applicants may review their submissions for accuracy until the application submission deadline. Extensions to the Pre-Application submission deadline will not be granted, with the rare exception made for severe extenuating circumstances.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Applicants must conform to the stated research focus areas and follow the pre-application submission instructions, including page limitations and format guidelines, such as the prescribed font and margin size.

Failure to adhere to these instructions will result in applications being administratively withdrawn from consideration prior to peer review, without appeal.

FULL APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Only applicants with pre-applications deemed most meritorious and aligned with Komen's research mission will be invited to submit full applications. Instructions on how to submit a full application will be provided on the pre-application decision date listed above.

QUESTIONS?

Contact information for all inquiries regarding application submission is provided below.

Type of Inquiry	Contact
All programmatic inquiries (including questions related to eligibility, program requirements, Komen policies and procedures, etc.)	**Komen Research Programs Help Desk** Email: helpdesk@komengrantsaccess.org Phone: 1-866-921-9678 (Toll-free within the United States and Canada)
All technical inquiries related to the online application system, proposalCENTRAL (including questions related to system access, navigation, document uploads, etc.)	**Altum/proposalCENTRAL** Email: pcsupport@altum.com Phone: 1-800-875-2562 (Toll-free U.S. and Canada), or 1-703-964-5840 (International)

APPENDIX A: ADVOCATES IN SCIENCE: OPTIONAL ADVOCATE INVOLVEMENT IN CHALLENGE GRANTS

Breast cancer patient advocate involvement is an encouraged but not a required element of the proposed research program to be supported by a Komen Challenge Grant. Advocates can provide the patient perspective when research projects are being designed and implemented. Patient advocates are particularly encouraged for those applications that include clinical trials or interaction with patients. As such, Komen encourages that advocates be meaningfully and actively involved in aspects of the proposed research program, such as in planning and oversight, research participant recruitment, program evaluation, and/or dissemination of information to the public and may also be included on mentoring committees or any other decision-making entities.

The following guide, presented by Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Advocates in Science, provides suggestions for the inclusion of advocates. For assistance in identifying trained advocates or for questions about how to include advocates in your proposed program of research, please contact advocatesinscience@komen.org.

Who can serve as an advocate?

- Advocates should be individuals who have been diagnosed with breast cancer or have a strong personal connection to breast cancer, and who are able to represent the collective breast cancer patient/survivor perspective.
- Advocates should be involved with a breast cancer advocacy organization (not limited to Susan G. Komen for the Cure®). Since the role of the advocates is to provide the patient perspective, advocates should not be employed as health care professionals, though they can be employed by an institution in the grant application.
- Regardless of their professional credentials, advocates should have a high level of training in the peer review of research (such as having participated in the Komen Advocates in Science training programs or similar training) and familiarity with current issues in breast cancer research.

Ideas for advocate involvement

- Reviewing the proposed design of a clinical trial and providing guidance from the point of view of a breast cancer patient with regard to eligibility, frequency of invasive testing, etc.
- Developing the approach for patient accrual to the clinical trial through messaging and community outreach, such as:
  - Speaking as part of the research team at scientific meetings and conferences to present the impact of the work to the breast cancer patient.
  - Preparing and delivering a poster presentation for scientific meetings and conferences, for instance, on the approach to patient accrual.
  - Developing an educational approach for patients to explain how the results could be an option for their treatment.
  - Monitoring patient accrual and suggesting modifications to the approach if needed.
  - Monitoring the patient experience, such as through development of a questionnaire or personal interview, and providing assistance and support when necessary.
  - Reviewing the language contained in Informed Consent forms, questionnaires, and other documents related to patient involvement for readability and sensitivity.
- Assisting in the development of the Scientific and Patient Impact Section by helping to communicate the relevance of the research project to a general, non-scientific audience.

- Speaking in the community about the results of the research. This is best done as a team with a researcher and an advocate making the presentation.
- Creating educational activities for local, regional, and national groups and organizations to inform them of the research you are conducting and its importance to breast cancer patients through community events, seminars, or web conferences.
- Creating patient education materials to explain the research project and/or clinical trial, the importance of the research to breast cancer, and how the trial might be an option for patients.
- Being included as an author on a publication as appropriate.