

124 Researchers Receive New Grants; 2015 Brinker Awardees Named; New Komen Travel Scholarships Announced



RESEARCH UPDATE



October Begins with Dr. Salerno's Breast Cancer Outlook

In her latest blog for [Huffington Post](#), Susan G. Komen® President and CEO Dr. Judy Salerno shares how we're gaining on breast cancer, the ways that Komen is impacting breast cancer research, our collaborative partnerships and Komen's commitment to funding young researchers.

2015 Research Grants Support 124 Researchers Working to Find New Therapies, Reduce Health Inequities and Fight Metastatic Disease



Susan G. Komen is proud to announce new grants to 124 researchers in 25 states and eight countries, with about half of the grants targeted to early-career researchers. The 2015 research grants include funding along the entire cancer continuum, but touch the major initiatives set by Komen's President and CEO: our commitment to funding early-career scientists, and disparities research and metastatic disease. Read more about the new grants in the [full press release](#).

2015 Komen Brinker Awardees Announced



Dr. Martine Piccart of the Jules Bordet Institute and Dr. Myles Brown of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute [will receive the 2015 Susan G. Komen Brinker Awards for Scientific Distinction in Clinical Research and Basic Science, respectively](#). The Brinker Awards Lectures will be held on December 9 during the 2015 Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium.

Dr. Olopade receives FDR Four Freedoms Medal



Komen Scholar Dr. Olufunmilayo Olopade, who serves on Komen's board of directors, [was recognized for her path-finding research](#) in Nigeria and America showing that women of African heritage can be genetically susceptible to more-aggressive earlier-onset forms of breast cancer. The [Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Medal](#) is given annually to individuals whose actions exemplify the four principles of democracy outlined by FDR in an historic 1941 speech.

Big Data for Breast Cancer (BD4BC)



The opportunity to harness the power of large, complex datasets to find patterns and trends in medical research has never been greater. Susan G. Komen, with support from the Robertson Foundation, is organizing [BD4BC](#) to bring together content experts from all relevant fields to discuss the challenges and opportunities regarding the use of “big data” to improve breast cancer research and treatment and develop recommendations to realize these opportunities. BD4BC will be held in New York, NY on October 8-9, 2015.

The Kelly Report and the Crisis in African-American Health Care



Komen President and CEO Dr. Judy Salerno praised U.S. Rep. Robin L. Kelly, D-Ill., for addressing health care equity gaps for African-Americans in the comprehensive new 2015 Kelly Report on Health Disparities [released in September](#). The report addresses a wide range of issues that [disproportionately affect health outcomes](#) in the [African-American](#) community. Komen contributed to the report's assessment of gaps in breast cancer outcomes.

Five Proposed Breast Cancer Bills on the Hill



Each year, Komen identifies Priority Issues that will be the focus of advocacy efforts for the coming year, but those aren't the only issues facing breast cancer survivors and their families. A recent [blog post](#) discusses five bills that are facing Congress, and why they are important to the breast cancer community.

NCI-MATCH Opens at Cancer Centers and Hospitals Nationwide



NCI-MATCH, the largest precision medicine trial in cancer to date, is now open at cancer centers and community hospitals across the country. The trial, also known as trial EAY131, seeks to determine whether matching certain drugs or drug combinations to people whose tumors have specific gene abnormalities will effectively treat their cancer,

regardless of their cancer type. Read more about [NCI-MATCH](#).

Funding Opportunity Coming Soon! The Jon Shevell Travel Scholarship Program

Komen is pleased to present the Jon Shevell Young Scientist Travel Scholarship Program to support the participation of Komen-funded early-career investigators in scientific meetings and conferences to present their Komen-funded research and to further their professional development. A RFA for this new opportunity will be released in the coming weeks. Watch your inbox!

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar

On October 12, 7-8 pm ET, Komen is hosting a Twitter Chat focusing on metastatic breast cancer with the [Metastatic Breast Cancer Network](#) (MBCN) and [Living Beyond Breast Cancer](#) (LBBC). Hosting the chat will be President of MBCN, Shirley Mertz; Vice President of Programs and Partnership at LBBC, Catherine Ormerod; and Komen Scholar Dr. Kathy Miller. **Please join the chat by following the official hashtag #MetsBCChat.**

Follow Susan G. Komen HQ on Twitter at @SusanGKomen.

- [Metastatic Breast Cancer Network \(MBCN\) Annual Meeting: Metastatic Breast Cancer Forum 2015](#), Boston, MA - October 16-17, 2015
- [American Association for Cancer Research \(AACR\)'s Advances in Breast Cancer Research](#), Bellevue, WA - October 17-20, 2015
- [Advanced Breast Cancer Third International Consensus Conference](#) (ABC3), Lisbon, Portugal – November 5-7, 2015
- The [Third Annual Living with Metastatic Breast Cancer Conference](#) will be hosted by Komen Los Angeles County in Monterey Park, CA, on November 14. This year's theme is "Treating the Whole Person." Thank you to Komen Scholar Dr. Patti Ganz for helping to plan the conference, and Chief Scientific Advisor Dr. George Sledge for agreeing to be the conference's keynote speaker.
- [AACR's The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved Conference](#), Atlanta, GA - November 13-16, 2015.

[San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium](#) (SABCS) San Antonio, TX -
December 8-12, 2015.

Komen Research in the News:

- A [highly collaborative study](#) authored by several Komen Scholars and grantees is providing the best evidence to date that a 21-gene test, called [OncotypeDx](#), can identify breast cancer patients who can safely avoid chemotherapy.
- Komen Scholar Dr. Benjamin Anderson co-authored a recent study which found that breast cancer incidences and death [rates](#) are increasing in several low- and middle-income countries, likely due to an [increase in risk factors associated with economic development and urbanization](#).
- Komen Grantee Dr. Tuya Pal discovered that [young black women with breast cancer living in Florida have a high frequency of BRCA gene mutations](#), about 12.4 percent of their study population.
- Komen Scholar and Promise Grantee Dr. Bert O'Malley and colleagues [found that a drug, MCB-61, which overstimulates proteins crucial for tumor growth, shows promise as a new strategy](#) to treat a wide range of cancers. This new approach works because the added strain of rapid cell division tips the overworked tumor cells over the edge.
- Komen Grantee Dr. Deborah Rhodes demonstrated that [adding molecular breast imaging to traditional mammography](#) for women with [dense breast tissue](#) could lower costs of per cancers detected compared with screening mammography alone.
- Detroit-based Delphinus Medical Technologies, co-founded by Komen Grantees Drs. Neb Duric and Peter Littrup, [is asking the FDA to indicate that their new ultrasound technology, SoftVue, is appropriate for patients with dense breast tissue](#). Learn more about [Komen's support of this break-through technology](#).

Komen Kudos!

Komen Founder **Nancy G. Brinker** was named [one of the 2015 Inductees](#) to the National Women's Hall of Fame. The Induction Ceremony was held October 3.

Congratulations to the following Komen Scholars who were recently recognized for their outstanding contributions to breast cancer research:

- [Dr. Bert O'Malley](#) received the Endocrine Society's Outstanding Innovation in Science Award, recognizing the highest achievements in the endocrinology field, including groundbreaking research and innovations in clinical care.

- [Dr. Mary-Claire King](#) and [Dr. Geoffrey Wahl](#) both received National Cancer Institute Outstanding Investigator Awards, recognizing their current efforts in the cancer research field with a multi-year, multi-million dollar grant to provide extended funding stability and encourage investigators to embark on projects of unusual potential in cancer research.



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