Dear Komen Research Grantee,

Highlights from the 2012 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS)

Susan G. Komen for the Cure® is proud to support the CTRC-AACR San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS) – one of the largest scientific meetings in the world dedicated entirely to understanding, diagnosing, treating and preventing breast cancer. Komen’s presence at this meeting extends to sponsorship of Education Sessions, support for several scientific achievement awards for accomplished scientists and young researchers, and convening grantees and research/patient advocates to advance our research mission. We are proud that more than 150 former and current Komen grantees presented their work at SABCS!

Highlights by Chief Scientific Advisor Eric Winer

If you were unable to attend, Komen’s Chief Scientific Advisor, Dr. Eric Winer, has

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Muss and Yarden Named 2012 Brinker Award Winners for Scientific Distinction

Established by Susan G. Komen for the Cure® in 1992, the Brinker Awards for Scientific Distinction are marquee awards that honor leading scientists for their significant achievements and contributions in basic and translational science and clinical practice that have advanced the fight to save lives and realize our vision of a world without breast cancer. This year’s awardees are Dr. Hyman Muss, a clinician-scientist, for his work in clinical research and Dr. Yosef Yarden, for his basic science work which has led to more personalized treatments for breast cancer. Both of their stories were featured on our Voices of Impact Series.

To learn more about the Brinker Award and past awardees, click here.

Komen Supports Scholars in Training

We’ve been proud of the role Komen has played in helping to advance the careers of young breast cancer researchers. Since 2008, we’ve sponsored of Annual AACR Scholar-in-Training Awards, granted to early career scientists actively pursuing cutting-edge breast cancer research to encourage and support their attendance at SABCS. Winners are chosen based on the quality of their research as demonstrated by their accepted abstracts. This year, 20 scholarships were awarded to graduate students, medical students, postdoctoral fellows and physicians-in-training from seven countries - Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Japan, the Netherlands and the USA.

Dr. Balázs Győrffy is this year’s recipient of the Ambassador Nancy G. Brinker Scholar-in-Training Award (SITA). This special Brinker SITA award is presented to an outstanding Hungarian breast cancer researcher to enable his or her attendance at SABCS. Dr. Győrffy’s research focuses on personalized breast cancer medicine, both in developing better ways of predicting individual responses to medications, and in identifying ways of targeting different subtypes of breast cancer.

SABCS General Session Highlight on Breast Density

A highlight of the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium was a session on breast density moderated by Komen Scholar, Dr. Melissa Bondy, which included top experts in the breast density field. Breast density has received a lot of attention in recent years, because it is...
seen as one indicator of the potential to develop breast cancer later in life. However, we don’t fully understand the biology and the clinical significance of having dense breasts. We know that density can be influenced by lifestyle factors such as diet and exercise - and thus can be changed to some extent – and that the causes of breast density are mostly inherited. The experts in the San Antonio session discussed research being done to use biomarkers and genetics information to more accurately assess an individual’s risk. To read a summary about the Breast Density General Session at SABCS, click here.

SABCS General Session Highlight on Clinical Trials
Clinicians and researchers presented results of recent clinical trials looking at new drugs and new combinations of drugs targeting the cell receptor HER2 during the Friday General Session moderated by Komen Chief Scientific Advisor, Dr. George Sledge. Komen Scholar Dr. Jose Baselga presented the results of the CLEOPATRA trial which concluded that combined treatment of trastuzumab plus pertuzumab and led to better patient survival. Komen Scholar Alumnus Dr. Aron Goldhirsch was involved in the HERA trial presented later Friday morning that investigated whether treating patients for longer than one (the current standard) or two years with trastuzumab affected patient survival. These studies concluded that longer treatment with trastuzumab did not improve survival and that doctors could further reduce patient treatment length. To read a summary about the Clinical Trial General Session at SABCS, click here.

SABCS Poster Highlight on Latest Research from the Komen Tissue Bank
Another highlight from the recent San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium was a presentation from Dr. Susan Clare, co-principal investigator of the Komen Tissue Bank, which found that pre-malignant changes are already taking place at the DNA level in breast tissue near a breast cancer tumor. The study could have a significant impact on the way we detect and treat recurrence of breast cancer. Read more on this study in our latest Komen blog post.

Did you meet your Science Manager?
"One of the highlights of my job is to personally meet with Komen-funded investigators whose work will significantly impact breast cancer research in the near future. SABCS offers a unique opportunity for a more casual and personal conversation that fosters a mutually rewarding relationship." Margaret Flowers, Scientific Grants Manager

Our Research, Evaluation and Scientific Programs staff had the opportunity to meet with Komen Grantees. If you were unable to attend or meet with your Science Manager, keep an eye out here for updates on future conferences that our staff will be attending.

The 2012 Breast Cancer Research Year in Review
The biggest headlines in 2012 were findings that brought ever closer to understanding the genetic underpinnings of breast cancer, providing us a roadmap to personalized medicine, and revealing more questions to answer in the years to come. We discuss these studies as well as other major findings in 2012 on mammary stem cells, treating drug resistance tumors, and using functional genomics to find new drug targets in our Year in Review blog here.

**Clinical Science 2012: Advancing our Knowledge of Breast Cancer Treatment**

In 2012, researchers and clinicians have made key advances in breast cancer therapy. Many clinical trials focused on combinations of therapies that have been administered as standalone treatments in the past. The immune response has also played a role in new therapy development, and new treatment regimens have been introduced to enhance therapies currently implemented in the clinic. Continue reading 2012’s noteworthy advances in clinical research by clicking here.

**Community Connect: Alabama and Tennessee**

Engaging Dialogue between Researchers and the Community in Alabama

There is a Komen funded breast cancer researcher in almost every Affiliate community across the world. Komen Affiliates give 25% of net revenue directly towards funding research to end breast cancer. Despite this close connection, our Affiliates and researchers are often strangers in the same community. Here are two specific examples of how one of our Advocates in Science, Dr. Beverly Laird, and the North Central Alabama Affiliate have engaged in dialogue, collaboration and awareness with breast cancer researchers at the University of Alabama Birmingham Cancer Center. The Breast Cancer Research Roundtable established by Dr. Laird, has led to increased collaboration between researchers at UAB and opportunities to meet the Affiliate. The monthly Lunch and Learn programs sponsored by the Affiliate, is a forum for researchers to present their work and to provide educational sessions for their local community. Read more about this story by clicking here.

**How can I get started?** Researchers interested in volunteering or presenting their work to their local Affiliate should contact their Science Manager. Researchers interested in adding an Advocate to their research projects should contact the Komen Advocates in Science program by clicking here. Affiliates may contact their Regional Support Manager to learn more about launching a similar program in their local community.

**Komen Research Programs featured at Greater Nashville Affiliate Event**

Members of the Komen Research Programs staff are working on building strong relationships with local Affiliates and our research grantees. Last month, three of our Science Managers, Drs. Jerome Jourquin, Michelle Martin-Pozo, and Betsey Wagener,
teamed up with the Greater Nashville Affiliate to talk to the local community—including its Board of Directors—about Komen-sponsored research. The event took place on December 13, at a Meet & Greet organized at the Affiliate’s office.

**Bench to Curbside: 3-D Ultrasound Imaging Developed at the Karmanos Institute**

Komen funded researcher Dr. Neb Duric (pictured left) and his colleagues at the Karmanos Cancer Institute at Wayne State University have developed and installed the very first commercial version of a new 3-D breast cancer detector, called SoftVue. In early tests, SoftVue was more effective at scanning cancer in dense breasts than mammography, potentially reducing unnecessary biopsies by 30%. The researchers expect to receive FDA approval early next year.

This success follows 13 years of development and more than $30 million dollars of research investments, including Belk EDGE: A Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Grant for Early Detection and General Education funded with the support of Belk. Dr. Duric’s Belk EDGE grant, awarded in 2010 supported development of the technology behind SoftVue.

**Winner of the Komen College Scholarship Program: Juan Arellano**

The Komen College Scholarship Program provides the opportunity for promising young student leaders who have lost a parent to breast cancer to pursue their college degrees. We are proud to announce this year’s Scholarship Award will go to Juan Arellano from Colorado. Juan lost his mother to breast cancer in 2008. Despite his loss, Juan says “[S]omething good always comes out of something bad. Losing my mother made me a stronger person. I now know that I can truly accomplish anything as long as I have my family and my education."

The Komen College Scholarship program has awarded 59 scholarships since 2001. This program is possible due to the generosity of long-time supporters David and Margaret Leavenworth. Additional funding is provided by corporate partners, NASCAR, Newman’s Own, and the Miami Dolphins. Click here to learn more about Juan’s story as well as what past Scholarship awardees are doing now.
Intellectual Property Policies for Komen Grantees

Komen recognizes that inventions having public health, scientific, business, or commercial application or value may be made in the course of research supported by Komen. We remind you that all inventions must be reported to Komen in writing within three months after their conception or discovery. Further, Komen must be notified immediately upon filing a patent or copyright application or asserting any intellectual property right in an invention. Please review your Policies and Procedures for more details and contact your Science Manager or email the Helpdesk with any questions.

Job Posting

Scientific Grants Manager available (any U.S. location - remote position)

Komen is currently recruiting! We are looking for a scientist with strong breast cancer research expertise to join our Science Management team. If you are interested in a rewarding scientific career outside the lab, view the job description here.