Approximately 10-20 percent of all breast cancers are diagnosed as triple negative breast cancer (TNBC). TNBC gets its name because it lacks the three receptors—estrogen (ER), progesterone (PR), and human epidermal growth factor 2 (HER2)—that are present in a majority of breast tumors. These receptors can be targeted with many current therapies. Because TNBC lacks all three receptors, it does not respond well to these therapies. TNBC can be more aggressive than other subtypes of breast cancer and is more likely to come back after treatment (recur).

TNBC is also more likely to effect young women, African-American women and people with a BRCA1 mutation. With few treatment options and no targeted therapies specifically for TNBC, more research is needed to better understand how this cancer develops and can be treated more effectively.

Read how Komen’s Chief Scientific Advisor Dr. Jennifer Pietenpol is working to find targeted therapies for TNBC in our Science Buzz series. http://sgk.mn/lhYpOuV

Learn more about triple negative breast cancer http://sgk.mn/lo4hJjG