



**Susan G. Komen
Research Grants – Fiscal Year 2014**

This research grant was approved by Komen's national board of directors for FY2014 Research Programs funding. This grant will be funded upon the execution of grant agreements between Komen and the grantee institutions.

Breast cancer disparities among low income women

Investigator(s): Cathy Bradley, Ph.D.

Lead Organization: Virginia Commonwealth University

Grant Mechanism: Graduate Training in Disparities Research Grants **Grant ID:** GTDR14302086

Public Abstract:

This three-year training program is to mentor and support doctoral student research. Their research will help understand and ultimately reduce disparities in breast cancer care such as breast cancer screening, guideline recommended treatment, and related patient-centered outcomes. Their research will focus on low income women, including uninsured and Medicaid women. Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) is ideal setting for this training, as VCU Medical Center is the largest safety net health systems in Virginia. Patients are drawn from an urban minority population; nearly half of the patients have low incomes. The Massey Cancer Center is designated by the National Cancer Institute to provide high quality cancer care. This training project will recruit six PhD students to study breast cancer disparities in low income women. After completing this training program, we expect that: 1) students will gain a good understanding of the breast cancer care and patterns of disparities in breast cancer screening, treatment, surveillance, and outcomes in low income population and to identify potential causes and remediation of these disparities; 2) students will develop skills in critical thinking and research methods applicable to research in breast cancer disparities; 3) students will be oriented to the research environment at the VCU Massey Cancer Center and patient advocate resources in central Virginia; and 4) trainees will develop a dissertation paper containing new findings focused on breast cancer disparities disseminate them to the provider, patient, and policy-making community. Each trainee will develop an individual mentoring plan with their mentor. Mentors will guide trainees to develop a program of courses and a research agenda that meets the needs of each individual student. Through collaboration with patient advocacy groups such the Komen Central Virginia Affiliate and Sisters Network Central Virginia Chapter, we will offer trainees a summer internship program. The internship plays a very important role making the training project patient-focused and applicable to the lives of breast cancer patients.