2025 RESEARCH FAST FACTS

Immunotherapy

RESEARCH INVESTMENT AT A GLANCE:
(1982-2025)

More than **$65 million** in over **160** research grants and close to **20** clinical trials focused on immunotherapy

ABOUT IMMUNOTHERAPY

Immunotherapy is a relatively new and promising area of breast cancer treatment that boosts the body's own immune system to recognize and fight cancer cells. It can be used alone for breast cancer treatment or given along with other treatments like chemotherapy, radiation or surgery. Many types of immunotherapy drugs are used to treat breast cancer, including monoclonal antibodies. Vaccines are another type of immunotherapy that are currently being tested in clinical trials.

Learn more about emerging areas in breast cancer therapy here. Learn more about participating in a breast cancer immunotherapy trial here.

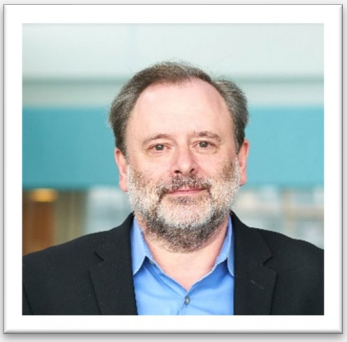
WHAT WE'RE INVESTIGATING

- Studying unique factors that are sometimes only produced by cancer cells, and how they can be used in new immunotherapies to help the body's own immune system kill breast cancer cells.
- Testing a new immunotherapy strategy that helps the body's immune system find and attack cancer cells, with the potential to stop brain metastases.
- Testing new drug combinations that precisely target breast cancer cells and the body's immune cells to make immunotherapies more effective at treating aggressive breast cancers.

> *"The treatment options today are what make treatment better than it was 12 years ago when I started. Options are hope. Options are futures."*

Komen Advocate in Science Peggy Johnson speaking on immunotherapy for treatment of triple negative breast cancer on Komen's Breast Cancer Breakthroughs series. Read more here.

SPOTLIGHT



Komen Scientific Advisory Board Member and Komen Scholar Dr. Alan Ashworth is using his Komen Leadership Grant to test if engineering the body's own immune cells to better recognize cancer cells can boost their ability to kill cancer cells.

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED FROM KOMEN-FUNDED RESEARCH

- A recent study reported that the body's own immune cells are in different locations in breast tumors depending on subtype, which may help determine which tumor types will respond better to immunotherapies.
- A Phase I clinical trial showed that a new breast cancer vaccine was safe and produced an immune response in several patients, supporting future trials to test the effectiveness in preventing recurrence of triple negative breast cancers.
- Implantable microdevices can deliver new combinations of immunotherapies and other drugs for pre-clinical testing of effectiveness for new breast cancer treatments.

Learn More About Breast Cancer | **More Komen-Funded Research Stories** | **Get Involved & Support Research**