2025 RESEARCH FAST FACTS

Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC)

RESEARCH INVESTMENT AT A GLANCE:
(1982-2025)

Nearly **$365 million** in close to **900** research grants and over **110** clinical trials focused on MBC

66% Focus on Treatment

ABOUT MBC

Metastatic breast cancer (MBC) is the most advanced stage (stage 4) of breast cancer where tumor cells have spread beyond the breast and nearby lymph nodes to other parts of the body, such as the bones, liver, lungs or brain. It's estimated there are about 170,000 women living with MBC in the U.S. MBC is treatable, but not currently curable. Prognosis varies greatly from person to person. Women with MBC are only about 30% as likely as women in the general population to live at least 5 years beyond their diagnosis. It's crucial that researchers gain a better understanding of metastasis, including recurrence and drug resistance, to help develop drugs that will slow, stop, and prevent the spread of breast cancer.

WHAT WE'RE INVESTIGATING

Learning how immune cells and brain cells interact with one another to promote the growth of brain metastases may identify new treatment targets for breast cancer brain metastatic disease.

Testing the effectiveness of targeting a protein called eIF4A to stop the growth of MBC in the lungs and liver and to help the body's own immune system fight MBC.

Discovering how DNA from mitochondria, the cell's powerhouse, helps breast cancer spread, which could lead to new ways to treat it.

Komen is a founding member of the **Metastatic Breast Cancer Alliance,** a coalition of more than **40 organizations** working together to **improve the lives and outcomes** for those living with MBC.

IN THE KOMEN RESEARCH PIPELINE:
(1982-2025)

Over **1,500** potential **new research discoveries** (drugs, biomarkers, devices, etc.) focused on MBC.

SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Veena Padmanaban is using her Komen Career Transition Award to investigate how breast cancer cells may use nearby nerves in the body to grow and metastasize, which may provide new ways to prevent and treat MBC.

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED FROM KOMEN-FUNDED RESEARCH

- The EMBody clinical trial is already showing how regular exercise can benefit women living with stable MBC, including improved strength, stamina and the ability to tolerate treatment.
- A recent study showed that differences in how much oxygen is available to bone metastases may help identify new ways to treat it.
- The presence of a protein called ICAM-1 in tumors from people with triple negative breast cancer increases the likelihood of metastasis and may be used as a target to prevent MBC.

LEARN MORE ABOUT BREAST CANCER | **MORE KOMEN-FUNDED RESEARCH STORIES** | **GET INVOLVED & SUPPORT RESEARCH**