



The mission of Susan G. Komen® is to save lives by meeting the most critical needs in our communities and investing in breakthrough research to prevent and cure breast cancer

# SUSAN G. KOMEN-LOBULAR BREAST CANCER ALLIANCE METASTATIC INVASIVE LOBULAR CARCINOMA RESEARCH GRANT, IN HONOR OF JULIA K. LEVINE

**2025 Letter of Intent Announcement and Instructions**



**Susan G. Komen®**  
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White Horse Beach, MA 02381  
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## KEY DATES

Letter of Intent (LOI) Announcement:	April 15, 2025
Letter of Intent Due:	May 23, 2025, by 1 p.m., Eastern Time
Letter of Intent Decision:	June 16, 2025
Application Due:	August 11, 2025, by 1 p.m., Eastern Time
Award Notification:	On or around December 1, 2025

**PURPOSE OF AWARD:** The Susan G. Komen-Lobular Breast Cancer Alliance Metastatic Invasive Lobular Carcinoma Research Grant, in Honor of Julia K. Levine, is a joint effort to support innovative research focused on metastatic invasive lobular carcinoma (mILC) that will unlock new knowledge about lobular breast cancer, advance patient care and/or improve patient outcomes of those impacted by mILC. At Susan G. Komen®, we are committed to saving lives by meeting the most critical needs in our communities and investing in breakthrough research to prevent and cure breast cancer. The Lobular Breast Cancer Alliance® (LBCA) engages patients, clinicians and researchers to collaboratively promote knowledge of lobular breast disease and increase lobular breast cancer research to identify better methods of detection, specific treatments and to eradicate lobular breast disease.

**GRANT TERMS:** Applicants/Primary Investigators (PIs) may request funding of up to \$200,000 per year (combined direct and indirect costs) for up to two years (\$400,000).

## 2025 METASTATIC INVASIVE LOBULAR CARCINOMA RESEARCH TOPIC

Invasive lobular carcinoma (ILC), also referred to as lobular breast cancer (LBC), is the second most common histologic type of invasive breast cancer and accounts for 10-15% of all breast cancer diagnoses. ILC is characterized by unique biology, distinct morphological features and an unusual pattern of metastasis. These characteristics make detection especially challenging and often lead to delayed diagnoses and later stage disease. There are currently no therapies specific to ILC, which is often hormone-receptor positive and thus treated the same as other hormone-receptor positive breast cancers. However, ILC has a much higher risk of late recurrence, often more than ten years after diagnosis when compared to invasive carcinoma of no special type (NST), yet is understudied and lacks representation in clinical trials. Therefore, there is a critical need to advance our understanding of this disease and develop specific clinical strategies and approaches to improve outcomes, particularly for mILC. Thus, the goal of the Metastatic Invasive Lobular Carcinoma Research Grant is to support outstanding research with a specific primary focus on **metastatic lobular breast cancer**. We are especially interested in **hypothesis-driven** studies that will expand our understanding of the biology of mILC, and/or improve diagnosis, treatment and/or prevention of metastatic lobular breast cancer. These studies may be considered basic, translational, clinical and/or population science in nature.

Komen and LBCA consider “innovative” to be employing new thinking, new methods, new strategies to make a substantial, non-incremental step forward in our understanding of the biology of mILC and/or how we prevent, detect or treat mILC. Given that there has been so little study of lobular breast cancer, we encourage applicants to build ground-breaking paradigms, test imaginative hypotheses and develop creative concepts that may advance the current prevailing theories or practices for other breast cancer types and/or explore novel areas of investigation.

Proposed Research Projects that leverage data science are highly encouraged. If applicable, the Applicants/PIs must concisely justify within the Scientific Abstract how their Research Project addresses data science. *Data science* includes artificial intelligence and other analytical methods applied to data aggregated from multiple sources (electronic health records, other clinical data, administrative databases, large data repositories, genomics and other -omics data, etc.).

**Letters of Intent addressing topics not focused on metastatic lobular breast cancer as described above, will be administratively withdrawn from consideration for a full Application submission without an opportunity for appeal. Applicants/PIs may only submit ONE Letter of Intent for this funding opportunity.**

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/DESIGNATED RECIPIENTS

Applicants/PIs and Institutions must conform to the following eligibility criteria to apply for a Metastatic Invasive Lobular Carcinoma Research Grant. Grants will be awarded to a single Principal Investigator (PI). **Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs) are not allowed.** Co-Investigators are permitted.

### Applicant/PI

- Must have a doctoral degree, such as M.D., Ph.D., Dr.P.H., D.O. or equivalent.
- Must currently be an independent investigator or have a formal offer letter from the Institution that confirms position and start date by the Application due date (August 11, 2025), documented by the Applicant/PI Biosketch and Letter of Institutional Support.
- May only submit ONE LOI/Application for this funding opportunity.
- If the Applicant is a Komen grantee, they must ensure that all past and current Komen-funded Grants are up to date and in compliance with all Komen requirements, e.g., progress report submissions, IRB approvals, etc. by the Application due date (**August 11, 2025**), if applicable.
- Is not required to be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

### Institution

- Must be a non-profit institution or organization. Non-U.S. institutions and individuals must be able to accept wire transfers and pass the non-U.S. grantee vetting process should they be selected for funding. Non-U.S. institutions and individuals on the OFAC sanctions list are ineligible to apply.
- May not be a governmental agency (i.e., NIH, NCI, etc.).
- Must agree to adhere to Komen's Policies and Procedures for Research and Training Grants.

**Note:** It is the policy of Susan G. Komen to support organizations, projects and programs that do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, or any other legally protected characteristics. Komen does not knowingly award grants to organizations that discriminate in their hiring, those they accept as volunteers or the clients they serve.

## FUNDING INFORMATION AND GRANT TERM

Applicants/PIs may request funding of up to \$200,000 per year (combined direct and indirect costs) for up to two years (\$400,000).

Applicants/PIs should take note of the following budget guidelines:

- Personnel on the Research Project are limited to a base salary at or below \$250,000 per year.
- Level of effort committed to the proposed Research Project does not determine salary level; salary levels are determined by the Applicant/PI's institutional policies.
- Reasonable compensation of Patient Advocates is allowed and encouraged.
- Research Technicians may be included as salaried personnel on the Research Project.
- Reasonable travel costs ARE allowed for purposes specifically related to the proposed Research Project for the PI and Key Personnel conducting the research (e.g., Postdoctoral Fellow or Graduate Student).
- Publication costs and meeting-related poster printing costs ARE allowed for purposes specifically related to the proposed Research Project.
- Equipment costs are limited to no more than 25% of total direct costs.
- Professional membership dues or subscription dues are NOT allowed.
- Periodicals or other subscriptions are NOT allowed.
- Graduate Students and Fellow tuition costs are NOT allowed; stipends and salaries to Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows ARE permitted.
- Visa costs are NOT allowed.
- Indirect costs cannot exceed 15% of total direct costs (including any indirect costs paid through subcontracts or consortia). Indirect costs include all expenses not directly related to the conduct of the Research Project, including, but not limited to, allocated costs such as facilities, telephone/communication expenses, technology support, computer usage fees, administrative support, etc.

## LETTER OF INTENT REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS

**The Letter of Intent form included at the end of this document must be filled out in its entirety.** Applicants/PIs may only submit one Letter of Intent for this funding opportunity. Each Letter of Intent will be administratively reviewed for eligibility, compliance with submission guidelines and responsiveness to the research focus. Applicants/PIs whose Letters of Intent are appropriately responsive to the goals of this funding opportunity will be invited to submit full Applications. Applicants/PIs will be notified of Letter of Intent review decisions via email by June 16, 2025. If you have questions or need assistance, please

email [SSPrograms@komen.org](mailto:SSPrograms@komen.org). Completed Letter of Intent forms should be submitted as a PDF and emailed to [SSPrograms@komen.org](mailto:SSPrograms@komen.org) by **May 23, 2025**.

#### **Required: General Information**

Enter general information regarding the Applicant/PI, including name, contact details, and institution name and address.

#### **Required: Title and Scientific Abstract**

The title is limited to no more than 81 characters in length (including spaces). Do not use abbreviations or all capital letters. The title should be lay-friendly and accurately describe the focus of the proposal. Proposed Research Projects must be hypothesis-driven studies focused on metastatic lobular breast cancer. They may be considered basic, translational, clinical and/or population science in nature and should align with the research goals and priorities of [Komen](#) and the [LBCA](#). The Scientific Abstract must provide a concise description of this proposed Research Project using 3,000 characters (with spaces), including the rationale for the research question, hypothesis(es) to be tested, and the research specific aims.

#### **Required: Key Personnel**

Key personnel include Major Collaborators and Patient Advocate(s) who are integral to the execution of the research plan.

Komen defines Key Personnel as an individual who contributes to the scientific development or execution of a project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not they receive salaries or compensation under the Grant. Typically, these individuals devote a defined percentage of effort to the project and have doctoral or other professional degrees. Collaborators/Consultants at the postdoctoral or graduate student level may be considered Key Personnel if their involvement meets this definition. Patient advocates who are integral to the execution of the Research Plan need not have doctoral or other professional degrees.

## **FULL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants/PIs whose Letters of Intent meet eligibility requirements, submission guidelines and responsiveness to the research focus will be invited to submit full Applications, which will include the following required information:

#### **Required: Research Plan**

Research projects must be hypothesis-driven studies focused on metastatic lobular breast cancer. They may be considered basic, translational, clinical and/or population science in nature and should align with the research goals and priorities of [Komen](#) and the [LBCA](#). The Research Plan must demonstrate consideration to the entire 2-year grant term expected of this grant mechanism, including detailed information on the near-term specific aims and research goals. The Applicant/PI must propose a Research Plan that includes a clear and concise statement of the research question, hypothesis(es), specific aims, background, and approach of the Research Project.

#### **Required: Patient Advocate**

Susan G. Komen and the LBCA have a strong commitment to including breast cancer Patient Advocates to provide the patient perspective in the design and implementation of research projects.

NOTE: Failure to include a Patient Advocate on the Application will result in administrative withdrawal with no opportunity for appeal.

1. **One or more Patient Advocate(s) must be included as Key Personnel** and in the Patient Advocate Involvement Plan.
2. The named Patient Advocate(s) must submit a **Letter of Support** detailing their role and commitment to the proposed project.
3. **Each Applicant/PI must complete the Patient Advocate Involvement Plan found within the Application.** This plan, which outlines how the Applicant will involve the Patient Advocate(s), is a required component of the Application. The involvement of the Patient Advocate(s) may also be addressed in other sections of the Application where appropriate.

#### **Required: ORCID Identifier**

The Principal Investigator must include an ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) identifier upon Application submission (**August 11, 2025**). ORCID is a non-proprietary alphanumeric code to uniquely identify scientific and other academic authors. You can register for an ORCID at any time: <http://orcid.org/>.

**Required: Data Sharing Policy for Research Grants**

To accelerate scientific discovery, research results and data should be made as widely and freely available as possible, ensuring equitable access while safeguarding the privacy of participants and protecting confidential and proprietary data. Komen's Data Sharing Policy aligns with the NIH's data sharing requirements updated in January 2023 ([https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/data\\_sharing/data\\_sharing\\_guidance.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/data_sharing/data_sharing_guidance.htm)), including policies for sharing large-scale genomics data (<https://sharing.nih.gov/genomic-data-sharing-policy>) and clinical trial information (<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/clinical-trials/reporting/index.htm>). The Komen Data Sharing Policy will apply to all Komen-funded research grants, regardless of the award amount.

**Required: Applicant/PI Biosketch**

The Applicant/PI must submit a Biosketch to confirm all current and past academic experience and positions. Additionally, the Biosketch should include scientific contributions and publications that the Applicant considers to be of the most significance in their career or field, including relevance to metastatic lobular breast cancer if applicable, and why the central findings were so influential or how they applied to the field. Biosketches must be no more than 5 pages each and in NIH format. A template is available for download on the NIH website: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/biosketch>.

**Required: Other Sources of Funding**

The Applicant/PI must submit an **Other Support** document to confirm their current, past and pending research grants. Other Support may be as long as necessary to be thorough. A template is available for download on the NIH website: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/other-support>.

**Required: Letters of Support**

The Applicant/PI must submit Letter(s) of Support from Patient Advocate(s), Collaborators, Resource Availability, and/or Institutional Support, if applicable.

**SUSAN G. KOMEN-LOBULAR BREAST CANCER ALLIANCE METASTATIC INVASIVE  
LOBULAR CARCINOMA RESEARCH GRANT, IN HONOR OF JULIA K. LEVINE  
LETTER OF INTENT**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** *This Letter of Intent form must be filled out in its entirety in English using the prescribed font and margin size found below (Calibri and 11 point). Applicants/PIs may only submit one Letter of Intent for this funding opportunity. Each Letter of Intent will be administratively reviewed for eligibility, compliance with submission guidelines and responsiveness to the research focus. Applicants/PIs whose Letters of Intent are appropriately responsive to the goals of this funding opportunity will be invited to submit full Applications. Applicants/PIs will be notified of Letter of Intent review decisions via email by June 16, 2025. If you have questions or need assistance, please email [SSPrograms@komen.org](mailto:SSPrograms@komen.org). Completed Letter of Intent forms should be submitted as a PDF and emailed to [SSPrograms@komen.org](mailto:SSPrograms@komen.org) by **May 23, 2025**.*

## A: General Information

Principal Investigator: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

## B: Title and Scientific Abstract

### Title of Research Project:

*The title is limited to no more than 81 characters in length (including spaces).*

### Scientific Abstract:

*Provide a concise description (3,000 characters or less) of the proposed research. Research projects must be hypothesis-driven studies focused on metastatic lobular breast cancer. They may be considered basic, translational, clinical and/or population science in nature and should align with the research goals and priorities of Komen and the LBCA. The scientific abstract must include brief descriptions of the following:*

- *The scientific rationale supporting the proposed research.*
- *The specific hypothesis or hypotheses to be tested and the expected and/or realized results.*
- *The research aims and design.*
- *How the successful completion of the project will uniquely advance our understanding of metastatic lobular breast cancer and ultimately save the lives of breast cancer patients.*

## C: Key Personnel

Please list Major Collaborators and Patient Advocate(s) who are integral to the execution of the research plan, if known.

1. Name:		
Institution/Affiliation:	Title/Position:	Role:
2. Name:		
Institution/Affiliation:	Title/Position:	Role:
3. Name:		
Institution/Affiliation:	Title/Position:	Role:
4. Name:		
Institution/Affiliation:	Title/Position:	Role:
5. Name:		
Institution/Affiliation:	Title/Position:	Role:
6. Name:		
Institution/Affiliation:	Title/Position:	Role:

\*add additional rows as needed

**Completed Susan G. Komen-Lobular Breast Cancer Alliance Metastatic Invasive Lobular Carcinoma Research Grant Letter of Intent forms should be emailed directly to [SSPrograms@komen.org](mailto:SSPrograms@komen.org) by May 23, 2025.**