



2019 Komen Tissue Bank Challenge: Using Normal Tissue to Fight Breast Cancer

Program Announcement

Susan G. Komen is committed to saving lives by meeting the most critical needs in our communities and investing in breakthrough research to prevent and cure breast cancer. This includes research that will help us understand how breast cancer develops from the normal breast.

Research has shown that traditional “normal” tissue sources used in cancer studies, such as tumor-adjacent tissue, does not actually represent normal, healthy breast tissue. If we want to understand how breast cancer develops, and develop new treatment and detection methods, scientists must study truly normal tissue.

To help us achieve this goal, Komen is excited to announce a new funding opportunity for researchers to use a truly unique resource: **The Susan G. Komen® Tissue Bank at the IU Simon Cancer Center** (Komen Tissue Bank, or KTB), the first and only biorepository in the world containing breast tissue and blood products from donors that show no evidence of breast cancer at the time of donation. To learn more about KTB, visit: <https://komentissuebank.iu.edu/>

Since 2007, over 8,000 women have donated their blood and/or tissue to help the research community. **To leverage this valuable resource, we are seeking the best ideas in innovative research proposals to move the field of breast cancer forward.**

By providing truly normal tissue, the KTB can accelerate research related to finding causes and preventions of breast cancer.

Komen is pleased to announce the Komen Tissue Bank Challenge, supporting innovative research proposals that will use KTB resources to improve the understanding, treatment, or detection of breast cancer. The Letter of Intent instructions and application system will open on August 27, 2019. Submission deadline is September 25.

- **Eligibility:** All research faculty with great ideas!
- **Award:** \$200,000 for up to 2 years.
- **To Apply:** Applicants must submit a 2-page Letter of Intent through proposalCENTRAL. For more information, please visit www.komen.org/RFA.

Potential Studies using KTB Resources

- Are there changes that take place in the normal breast, including the microenvironment, that increase the risk of developing metastatic breast cancer?
- How do established risk factors (e.g. obesity or alcohol consumption) impact normal breast biology and contribute to breast cancer development?
- How do gene mutations shared between family members (e.g. mothers and daughters) influence breast cancer development?
- How do environmental or socio-economic factors contribute to disparities in breast cancer risk?
- Are there unique characteristics in the breast tissue of women who never develop breast cancer?

Resources Available from the Komen Tissue Bank

- Tissue samples from over 5,300 women.
- Blood products from over 8,000 women.
- Rich medical and demographic data of donors, and annual medical follow up data since 2014.
- Unique cohorts, including related family members and pregnant/breastfeeding women.
- The Virtual Tissue Bank, featuring downloadable data generated by researchers using KTB samples.
- Cell lines representing normal counterparts of intrinsic subtypes of breast cancer.



Please note that the KTB is a tissue bank for normal breast tissue: **no tumor samples are available.** The number of donors who have reported developing cancer is very small.

PITCH US YOUR IDEA!



To find the best ideas, Komen is asking researchers to submit Letters of Intent to describe their innovative research projects that will use KTB resources. The top applicants will have the unique opportunity to pitch their idea in-person!

Applicants should submit a 2-page Letter of Intent, describing their project and its impact, by **September 25**. Selected applicants will be invited to prepare a full Application. The top applications will be invited to present their proposal at the Komen Tissue Bank Competition, held during the Komen Scholars meeting on February 27. **For more information visit <http://www.komen.org/RFA>.**

The Komen Tissue Bank provides researchers the opportunity to help women fight back against a disease that affects far too many. By understanding the normal breast, scientists will be able to better understand the origins of breast cancer, leading to new treatments and prevention methods that will save lives.

“I feel a sense of empowerment when I have the opportunity to help others. I wanted to donate breast tissue in hopes that researchers can be one step closer to finding the cure.” – KTB Donor

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Questions? Learn more at www.komen.org.