

2026 RESEARCH FAST FACTS

Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC)



RESEARCH INVESTMENT AT A GLANCE:

(1982-2026)

Over **\$375 million** in more than **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 to other parts of the body, such as the bones, liver, lungs or brain. While stage 1 breast cancer has a nearly 100% 5-year relative survival rate, stage 4 only has about a 34% 5-year relative survival rate in the U.S. MBC is treatable but not currently curable. It is crucial that researchers gain a better understanding of metastasis to help develop drugs that will slow, stop and prevent the spread of breast cancer.

Learn more about MBC [here](#).

WHAT WE'RE INVESTIGATING



Investigating whether two proteins, BK2 and APJ, help dormant cancer cells become active again and cause metastases and whether targeting these proteins could help prevent recurrence or suppress metastasis.



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.



Testing if drugs that increase levels of a protein called SLFN11 in metastatic breast cancers improve responses to the antibody-drug conjugate sacituzumab govitecan to overcome treatment resistance.

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:

(1982-2026)

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

SPOTLIGHT



Komen Career Catalyst Research grantee Dr. Eva González Díaz is testing a new way to study bone metastases. This approach has the potential to identify new drug targets quickly and accurately for treating hormone receptor-positive metastatic breast cancer in the bones.

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

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