ABOUT OUR RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Despite successes in awareness and progress in diagnosis and treatment, breast cancer remains a devastating disease. Nearly 44,000 breast cancer deaths are predicted this year in the U.S. alone. Komen believes that the future of breast cancer treatment, prevention and diagnosis will come from breakthrough research in the most deadly and aggressive forms of breast cancer and solving the causes of breast cancer health disparities. Our focus remains to advance personalized medicine, improve health outcomes for everyone, and train the next generation of diverse cancer researchers.

WHAT WE’RE INVESTIGATING

Developing new methods to identify dormant breast cancer cells and evaluate the impact of treatments on dormant cells to prevent metastatic breast cancer recurrence and death.

Assessing an online platform that registers people with stage 4 oligometastatic breast cancers, standardizes the treatment approach, and allows for follow-up data collection to promote long-term survival and future prevention of MBC.

Studying hormone receptor-positive breast cancers that are resistant to CDK4/6 inhibitor drugs to develop new therapeutic strategies to overcome resistance and prevent recurrence.

IN THE RESEARCH PIPELINE:

- More than 3,100 new breast cancer research discoveries (drugs, biomarkers, devices, etc.)
- Over 700 new discoveries focused on MBC.
- More than 1,200 potential treatments, more than 400 focused on MBC.
- Nearly 400 new strategies to reduce breast cancer disparities.

SPOTLIGHT

Our research investments are guided by more than 50 leading scientists and advocates, including our Scientific Advisory Board and Komen Scholars. As a global leader in the fight against breast cancer, we have funded research in 47 states including DC, and 24 different countries. Our commitment to the most promising, innovative, and meaningful breast cancer research will never waver.

WHAT WE’VE LEARNED FROM KOMEN-FUNDED RESEARCH

- Triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) is less likely to be detected by mammogram screening in Black women, and breast density and higher body mass index (BMI) experienced by this group are strong risk factors for TNBC.
- Estrogen receptor mutations can drive development of metastasis, which could lead to new treatment approaches for metastatic breast cancers with these mutations.
- Artificial intelligence can analyze large, complex datasets to identify biomarkers that can optimize current and future personalized medicine strategies for people with breast cancer.