RESEARCH SAVES LIVES

Because of medical research, improvements have been made to early detection and treatment of breast cancer that have led to a 40% decrease in mortality in the U.S. over the past 30 years. There are more than 3.8 million breast cancer survivors in the U.S. Despite this tremendous progress, more than 42,000 women and men still die from breast cancer every year in the U.S. We can do better.

Komen’s Mission is to save lives by meeting the most critical needs in our communities and investing in breakthrough research to prevent and cure breast cancer.

We listened to our patient advocates and worked with our scientific advisors to set research priorities to help us achieve this mission by conquering metastatic breast cancer (MBC), eliminating disparities in outcomes and putting Big Data to work for breast cancer patients.

Our research investments are guided by more than 40 leading scientists and advocates, including our Scientific Advisory Board and Komen Scholars. We fund the brightest minds and the best breast cancer research. Our research program is patient-focused, with patient advocates involved in all steps of the research process.

As a global leader in the fight against breast cancer, we have funded research in 47 states and the District of Columbia, and 24 different countries. Our commitment to the most promising, innovative and meaningful research will never waver.

Visit the Fast Facts series to learn more about our research investment on a particular topic.

OUR RESEARCH INVESTMENT:

Nearly $1.1 billion in more than 2700 research grants and more than 500 clinical trials

What are Komen-funded researchers doing right now?

- Developing and testing new and improved treatments for metastatic breast cancer starting with an understanding of the biology of breast cancer and how it spreads.
- Developing better treatments for aggressive forms of breast cancer and those that tend to become resistant to treatment and become metastatic.
- Identifying the factors that contribute to breast cancer disparities and developing tools and methods to improve access and utilization of quality breast cancer care among vulnerable populations.
- Using Big Data and transformative technology such as artificial intelligence to fuel scientific discoveries and accelerate the delivery of equitable, patient-focused care.

What’s currently in Komen’s Research Pipeline

More than 160 Active research grants resulting in:

More than 250 New research products (drugs, biomarkers, devices, etc.) supporting Komen’s Mission.

More than 60 New therapies, more than half of which are focused on metastatic breast cancer.

More than 60 New strategies to reduce breast cancer disparities like better healthcare delivery methods.

Topic Area of Total Investment (1982-2020)

- Biology 23%
- Early Detection, Diagnosis and Prognosis 19%
- Prevention 5%
- Causes of Breast Cancer 10%
- Survivorship and Outcomes 12%
- Treatment 31%

*Survivorship & Outcomes research focuses on a broad range of areas including management of side effects; support, education and communication strategies for patients, family/caregivers and healthcare professionals; and health care delivery approaches to improve quality of life.