ADVANCING BREAST CANCER RESEARCH: FROM DISCOVERY TO PATIENT IMPACT

FY26 | JUNE 2026

TRANSFORMING OUTCOMES THROUGH RESEARCH

THE CHALLENGE

Despite advances in care, too many patients still face poor outcomes:

- **~50%** of breast cancer patients do not recieve recommended care leading to disease progression
- **~30%** experience treatment failure that can lead to metastatic disease
- **10-30%** of patients with invasive breast cancer will face recurrence
- Once breast cancer becomes metastatic, **there is no cure**

OUR RESEARCH STRATEGY

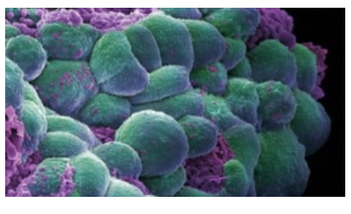
Komen invests in research that addresses the greatest challenges facing patients today

Eliminate Breast Cancer Disparities

... to improve health outcomes for everyone impacted by breast cancer

Advance Precision Medicine

... so that each patient's care can be tailored to them and their unique breast cancer



Conquer Metastatic Breast Cancers

... the cancers that kill

▶ HOW WE ADDRESS THESE PRIORITIES:

Invest in cutting-edge discovery research

Support top scientific talent conducting innovative, impactful studies

Advance patient-centered research

Conduct research to deepen understanding of real-world patients' experiences, care, and outcomes

Use Komen's influence to drive change

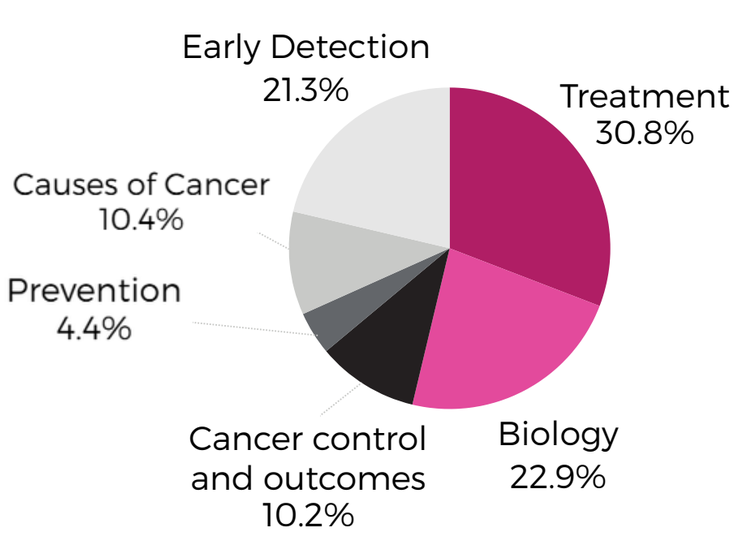
Apply patient voice, scientific expertise, and leadership to accelerate progress in breast cancer research and care

OUR RESEARCH INVESTMENT

Every advancement in breast cancer care is the result of research

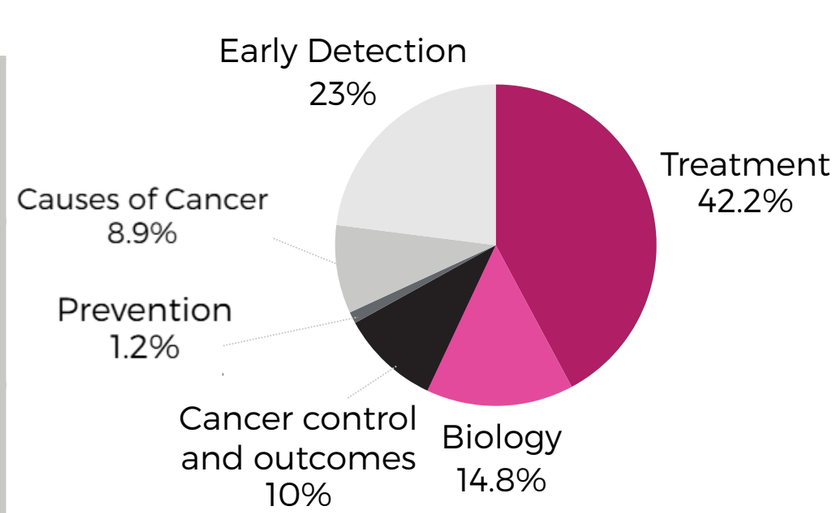
All Time

$1.1B+
2,800 grants
600+ clinical trials



FY26

$15.4M
36 grants
12 clinical trials



$100,000 invested in research is estimated to generate **294** years of potential life saved

FROM DISCOVERY TO PATIENT IMPACT

▶ FUELING BREAKTHROUGHS THAT SAVE LIVES:

Komen-supported research helps move scientific breakthroughs from early discovery to treatments reaching patients

In FY26, **36** new potential discoveries were added to the pipeline. Komen now has over 4,200 potential discoveries in the research pipeline.

In FY26, **22** discoveries progressed through the pipeline, moving one step closer to patients.

▶ KOMEN'S RESEARCH IMPACT IN THE CLINIC:

In FY26, Komen-supported research and investigators played a role in 3 newly approved breast cancer drugs

Prembrolizumab

Recently approved form of the drug that is easier to deliver. Harnesses the body's immune system to recognize and attack breast cancer cells. Used to treat certain triple negative breast cancers and has helped improve outcomes for some patients when combined with chemotherapy.

14.5% of women with MBC are reported to have triple negative breast cancer and could potentially benefit from this drug.

Datopotamab Deruxtecan

Targeted therapy known as an antibody drug conjugate that is designed to deliver cancer-fighting medicine directly to breast cancer cells while limiting damage to healthy cells.

Imlunestrant

Targeted therapy designed to block estrogen signaling in patients with an *ESR1* gene mutation that can make standard hormone therapies less effective. A companion test helps identify patients with the mutation who may benefit from this approach.

65% of women with MBC are reported to have HR+, HER2- breast cancer and could potentially benefit from these drugs.

Because of decades of research investment,
Komen-supported science and researchers have contributed to
31 of the 32 FDA-approved breast cancer therapies in the last 30 years

▶ SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF RESEARCH LEADERS:

Komen supports today's early career scientists and clinicians who will play key roles in meeting Komen's mission to invest in breakthrough research to prevent and cure breast cancer. Komen has invested **$126.1M** in over **270 early career researchers** through the Career Catalyst Research (CCR) grant program between 2008-2026.

"Investing in top scientific talent is one of the most powerful ways we can drive progress," said Jennifer A. Pietenpol, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Advisor for Komen. "Komen's commitment, especially to early-career researchers, ***cultivates a vibrant ecosystem where bold ideas and pioneering research can thrive****, accelerating our path toward the cures we urgently seek."*

▶ RETURN ON INVESTMENT:

CCR grantees were nearly **twice as likely** to stay in the breast cancer field than those who applied for the program but were ultimately not funded.

Every **$1** Komen invests in early career researchers through the CCR grants generates **$17** in additional research funding, **expanding the impact of donor dollars beyond the initial grant.**

▶ INSIDE THE LABS ADVANCING TOMORROW'S CARE:

Promising science with the potential to transform patient outcomes

ELIMINATING BREAST CANCER DISPARITIES

JULIE PALMER, ScD, MPH
Boston University
Komen Leadership Grant

Research Question: Is there a difference in performance between three breast cancer risk models in Black women?
Key findings: The Black Women's Health Study (BWHS) model of breast cancer risk assessment worked better than two other models commonly used in the clinic.
Impact: This could help improve outcomes and **alleviate disparities for Black women** at high risk for breast cancer.

ADVANCING PRECISION MEDICINE

AKI MORIKAWA, MD, PHD
University of Michigan
Komen Career Catalyst Research

Research Question: Can we find which drugs work best for each person in combination using genetic analysis?
Key findings: Treatment responses vary a lot between different tumor types, even betwen patients with similar cancers. Also PI3K inhibitor drugs may help some patients even if they do not have the usual *PIK3CA* gene mutation
Impact: This highlights the importance of **personalized treatment plans** because breast cancer tumors can be very different from one another.

CONQUERING METASTATIC BREAST CANCER

DANIEL STOVER, MD
Ohio State University
Komen Career Catalyst Research

Research Question: Can liquid biopsy predict responses to specific therapies?
Key findings: Liquid biopsy, which measures circulating tumor cells in a blood test, is a useful biomarker for prognosis in advanced breast cancer.
Impact: This supports development for use in **clinical decision making for treatment**. This is particularly important since standard imaging cannot detect or measure growth of all metastatic tumors.

BRINGING THE PATIENT VOICE TO RESEARCH

Positioning Komen as the leading voice of real-world breast cancer patients

Advocates in Science (AIS) - Patient advocates are involved at every step of our research programs to ensure research reflects patients' needs and realities. They help set priorities, serve as our advisors, review every grant application and are part of every Komen funded grant team.

92% of AIS members agree that the program has helped them influence research and projects in their community, nationally or internationally.

"AIS puts us in front of researchers. It connects their research to actual human beings, conveying a sense of urgency"

Partnership with Guardant Health - Komen established a patient advisory board to help Guardant researchers understand what matters most to breast cancer patients. The patient advisors provided targeted insights and feedback into how breast cancer patients feel about surveillance and continuous monitoring after treatment.

▶ GENERATING REAL-WORLD EVIDENCE AND PATIENT INSIGHTS:

ShareForCures (SFC) - Breaking down barriers to participation in research

- **1,559** people fully enrolled surpassing FY26 goal of 1,500
- **94%** of participants would recommend SFC to others

Komen-led Research Studies

In FY26 Komen initiated **5 research studies** using ShareForCures and/or Komen's Center for Applied Research (CfAR)

- How oral vs. IV treatments affect productivity
- Patient preference for communicating about side effects
- Treatment decision making and guideline concordant care
- Understanding MBC patients' priorities and experiences when making treatment decisions
- Validation of prediction models for depression

Research Spotlight:

- **The Question:** Is there a difference in quality of life and productivity for breast cancer patients receiving oral treatment versus intravenous (IV) treatment?
- **Study Approach:** Surveyed exclusively SFC. participants, enrolling 147 patients in 24 hours
- **Key Findings:** IV treatment has a more negative impact than oral treatments across several areas including productivity at work and home, side effect burden, and family wellbeing.
- **Impact:** This research has advanced key legislative efforts including the federal Cancer Drug Parity Act and Idaho's HB 648, **contributing to systemic change to increase access to oral breast cancer drugs**.

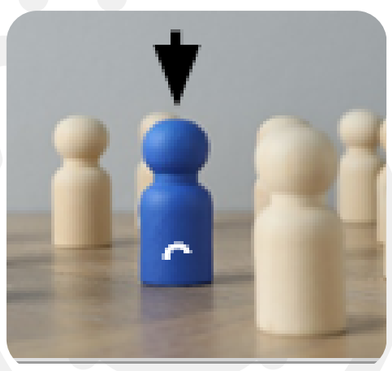
DRIVING CHANGE THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Amplifying scientific expertise and leadership to address urgent needs in breast cancer research and care

INFLAMMATORY BREAST CANCER (IBC)

Komen's validated **IBC Scoring System** is the first quantitative diagnostic tool for IBC and is now used by 8,800+ individuals in all 50 U.S. states and 120+ countries to support faster, more accurate diagnosis.

In FY26, Komen advocacy drove the creation of dedicated IBC diagnostic codes that will **improve care** and support IBC focused clinical research.



IBC patients are now visible

LOBULAR BREAST CANCER (LBC)

Komen in partnership with the **Lobular Breast Cancer Alliance** co-funded two grants focused on metastatic invasive lobular carcinoma (mILC). ILC is the second most common type of invasive breast cancer and accounts for 10-15% of all breast cancer diagnoses but has been significantly understudied. These studies will unlock new knowledge about LBC, advance patient care and/or improve patient outcomes.

TRANSLATIONAL BREAST CANCER RESEARCH CONSORTIUM (TBCRC)

Komen helps support the TBCRC, which conducts innovative, biologically-driven high impact breast cancer clinical trials. 18 sites share data, expertise, and resources. To date, the TBCRC has supported 75 trials and enrolled over 7,550 clinical trial participants.

FY26 RESEARCH GRANTS

LEADERSHIP GRANTS

Susan Domchek, MD, University of Pennsylvania
Use of PRS and Early Detection Assays for Decision Making Regarding Risk Management in BRCA Carriers

Reshma Jagsi, MD, DPhil, Emory University
Personalizing Radiation Oncology Care and Decision Support for Patients with Breast Cancer

Cynthia Ma, MD, PhD, Washington University in Saint Louis
Identifying and Conquering Hormone Therapy Resistance in Early-Stage Breast Cancer

Tuya Pal, MD, Vanderbilt University
Genetic Risk Education And Testing (GREAT) Information for Breast Cancer Care

Melissa Troester, PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Impact of Spatial Heterogeneity in Tumor and Microenvironment on Recurrence

Rulla Tamimi, ScD, MS, Weill Cornell Medicine
Weight Management, Metabolomics Signatures and Breast Cancer Risk and Survival

Mariana Chavez MacGregor, MD, MSc, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Breast Cancer Treatment Initiation and Completion: Advancing Understanding and Reducing Disparities

Lisa Coussens, PhD, Oregon Health & Science University
Identifying Immune-Mediated Protumoral Pathways in Breast Cancer for Therapeutic Targeting

Christina Curtis, PhD, Stanford University School of Medicine
Molecular Determinants Of Breast Cancer Progression And Recurrence

Amelie Ramirez, DrPH, University of Texas Health, San Antonio
Holistic Verses Usual Rehabilitation to Address Quality of Life in Breast Cancer

Lisa Newman, MD, MPH, Weill Cornell Medicine
Triple Negative Breast Cancer in Women with African Ancestry

Sarah Tolaney, MD, MPH, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Enhancing the Immunogenicity of Metastatic Breast Cancer via DNA Damage

Donald McDonnell, PhD, Duke University
Targeting the LYPD3 Signaling Pathway in Metastatic Breast Cancer

Sohrab Shah, PhD, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Genomic Structural Variations as Markers of Breast Cancer Evolution and Immune Response

Ian Krop, MD, PhD, Yale University School of Medicine
Personalized Biomarker Guided Therapy in Early Stage HER2+ Breast Cancer

Tracy Battaglia, MD, MPH Yale University
AI-Assisted Navigation to Mitigate Hereditary Breast Cancer Testing Disparities

Allison Kurian, MD, Stanford University School of Medicine
Spatial Molecular Imaging and Cell-Free DNA Analysis in the Diverse Breast Cancer Family Registry

Nancy Lin, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Identifying New Targets and Therapies for CNS Metastases from Breast Cancer

Ben Ho Park, MD, PhD, Vanderbilt University
Targeting Spliceosome Mutations for Breast Cancer Therapy

Jennifer Pietenpol, PhD, Vanderbilt University
Triple Negative Breast Cancer: Subtypes, Molecular Targets, and Therapeutic Approaches

Kornelia Polyak, MD, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Breast Cancer Risk Prediction and Prevention Strategies

CAREER CATALYST RESEARCH

Julie Di Martino, PhD, New York Medical College
Targeting Novel BDKRB2-Driven Mechanisms of Breast Cancer Dormancy and Recurrence

Eva González Díaz, PhD, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Elucidating Drug Resistance in Breast Cancer Metastasis Using 3D Bone Organoids

Carman Li, PhD, University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine
Leverage Epigenetic Insights for Early Interception of Basal-Like Breast Cancer

Rosalyn Sayaman, PhD, University of California, San Francisco
Heritable and Immune-Metabolic Drivers: Response and Disparities in Breast Cancer

Benjamin Schrank, MD, PhD, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
An Engineered HER2-Directed Immunotherapy Against Metastatic Breast Cancer

Anli Zhang, PhD, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
mRNA-Encoded Autoactive cGAS Mutant for Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Treatment

OPPORTUNITY GRANTS

Christina Curtis, PhD, Stanford University School of Medicine
Microenvironmental Determinants of Metastasis in Invasive Lobular Carcinoma

Patrick Derksen, PhD, University Medical Center Utrecht
Controlling Dormancy to Treat Relapses of Metastatic ILC (Invasive Lobular Carcinoma)

Antonio Wolff, MD, Johns Hopkins University
The Translational Breast Cancer Research Consortium

CAREER TRANSITION AWARDS

Julia Ransohoff, MD, Stanford University
Defining Spatial Molecular Residual Disease by Breast Tumor Tissue Profiling

Hanna Karvonen, PhD, New York University
Discovering Catalytic and Pharmacologic Vulnerabilities in Breast Cancer

Daniel Peiffer, PhD, MD, University of Chicago
Predicting and Enhancing Responses to Sacituzumab Govitecan in Breast Cancer

SPONSORED PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Kate Quinn, CFRE, American Society for Clinical Oncology
Global Oncology Young Investigator Award: Promoting Oncology Research in Global Oncology

Rita Mukhtar, MD, University of California, San Francisco
International Invasive Lobular Breast Cancer Symposium

Alana Welm, PhD, American Society for Clinical Oncology
21st Biennial Congress of the Metastasis Research Society

*"Komen's commitment to breast cancer research comes at a pivotal time and will **drive meaningful advances** in our understanding of the disease and care of patients," said Ann Partridge, M.D., M.P.H., Chief Scientific Advisor for Komen. "By fueling science that is both innovative and inclusive, we're **accelerating progress where patients need it most** — while building a foundation for individualized care for all."*