

## RESEARCH

### Using Cutting-Edge Technology to FIND THE CURES FOR BREAST CANCER

Despite public successes in awareness and monumental progress in effective diagnosis and treatment, breast cancer remains a devastating, deadly disease. **Metastatic breast cancer (MBC)**, also known as stage IV, is the most advanced type of breast cancer and remains incurable. Only one-third of women diagnosed with MBC in the U.S. live at least five years after diagnosis.

Modern treatments and technologies continue to improve survival rates for people with MBC. However, survival varies greatly from person to person. Komen believes the future of MBC treatment will emerge at the intersection of cutting-edge technologies and innovative research approaches. Liquid biopsies are just one innovative approach that Komen researchers are using to personalize treatments, leverage big data and improve outcomes for MBC patients.



**“Technology development, like liquid biopsies, is really how we’re going to move the needle, both in terms of treating our patients, but also in understanding their disease.”**

**Dr. Daniel Stover**  
*Komen funded researcher*

Dr. Stover is using liquid biopsy and imaging to monitor MBC progression and treatment response in patients with bone metastases.

Susan G. Komen has funded more than **530 MBC research projects over the past 39 years**, including more than 50 clinical trials. Continued research investment into cutting-edge technologies will have an impact on transforming MBC from a terminal diagnosis to a chronic disease.

**BY SUPPORTING RESEARCHERS** who are pioneering new breakthrough technologies like liquid biopsies, we can bring cutting-edge technologies and treatment options for MBC patients closer to reality.

### What is a liquid biopsy?

Liquid biopsies are one tool that holds remarkable potential for improving the lives of MBC patients, as well as promising implications across cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis.

**A liquid biopsy is a blood test that looks for cancer cells or pieces of DNA from cancer cells that are circulating in the blood.** Linking findings in the blood with decision-making for treatment and prognosis requires advanced and innovative technology that has only recently become available for researchers.

**“Liquid biopsies will save time, money, mental health anxiety, unnecessary surgeries and treatment. It is important that this test be accessible and affordable for all patients who receive a breast cancer diagnosis.”**

**Lesley Kailani Glenn**  
*Komen Advocate in Science*



**Dr. Allison Kurian** was awarded a Komen grant to research a new liquid biopsy technique. This new technique can help doctors detect MBC at an earlier point

than currently available methods. This would allow for swifter therapeutic intervention and treatment for patients.

Learn more about the latest information on breast cancer risk factors, screening, diagnosis, treatment, MBC, survivorship and more on [komen.org](https://www.komen.org)