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SUSAN G. KOMEN® ANNOUNCES NEARLY \$33 MILLION IN NEW RESEARCH FUNDING TO SUPPORT BOLD GOAL OF CUTTING BREAST CANCER MORTALITY BY 50 PERCENT

Illinois Researchers Receive \$1,260,700 in Research Funding

DALLAS – September 19, 2016 – Building on its [bold goal to reduce current breast cancer deaths by 50 percent in the U.S. over the next decade](#), Susan G. Komen, the world's leading breast cancer organization, today announced \$32.7 million in new research grants for 2016. Awarded across 23 states and 7 countries, the projects span the entire continuum of breast cancer research, including research into metastatic disease, novel treatments for aggressive types of breast cancer, new technologies and health equity – areas that will make a significant impact in achieving the 50 percent goal.

The grants include \$1,235,700 in new funding for research at four institutions in Illinois, bringing Komen's total research investment in Illinois to \$19,383,794 since 1982.

"For nearly 35 years our organization has been a leader in the fight to end breast cancer, changing how people think about, talk about and treat this disease. Now, with a sharpened focus on our organization's new strategic direction, we are delighted to announce new research funding that will play a significant role in making our bold goal a reality," said Komen President and CEO Judy Salerno, M.D., M.S.

"Not only will these grants accelerate our understanding of key areas in breast cancer research, but they include funding for early-career investigators. As federal research dollars become increasingly difficult to secure, these awards give promising young researchers an opportunity to establish their careers, and help ensure breakthrough breast cancer research continues for years to come," Dr. Salerno added. "Their work is essential to achieving our vision of a world without breast cancer."

Grants from Komen's nearly \$33 million 2016 research portfolio* – including more than \$16 million to early-career investigators – will focus on promising areas in research that have the greatest potential to save lives, including:

- 38 grants expanding our knowledge of **metastatic breast cancer** and how to stop it.
- 15 grants looking into novel treatments for **aggressive types of breast cancer** (specifically, triple negative, Luminal B and inflammatory breast cancer).
- 21 grants **advancing our ability to detect** primary and recurrent breast cancer at its earliest stages.
- 12 grants identifying the causes of **breast cancer disparities** and testing ways to overcome barriers to care.

Komen's Investments in Illinois

Komen's research program is funded in part by contributions from Komen's nationwide Network of Affiliates, which direct 25 percent of funds raised locally to Komen's national research program, while

investing the remaining 75 percent into community outreach programs that serve local women and men facing breast cancer.

Since 1992, the Memorial Affiliate has funded over \$11 million to community programs serving local women and men, while contributing over \$3 million to Komen research.

"We are so thankful for the friends, family and neighbors who fight alongside us, helping to reduce the number of breast cancer deaths in Illinois, both on the ground and through research," said Linda Maricle, Executive Director.

In Illinois, researchers will receive \$1,235,700, including:

The University of Chicago

- **Mary Dolan, Ph.D.**, will receive \$405,000 to create a Graduate Program in Breast Cancer Disparities at the University of Chicago. Master's and doctoral students will leverage the institution's strength in health disparities research to conduct research focused on understanding and eliminating breast cancer disparities

Northwestern University-Chicago Campus

- **Dai Horiuchi, Ph.D.**, will receive \$450,000 to investigate a class of cancer drugs called PIM inhibitors, which are currently being used to treat other cancers, as a new targeted therapy against a specific subtype of triple negative breast cancer.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- **Amy Baek, Ph.D.**, will receive \$180,000 to study the process by which a byproduct of cholesterol promotes breast cancer metastasis. Dr. Baek will determine if immune cells are involved, and use this information to develop inhibitors that will block this process and prevent breast cancer metastasis.
- **Abhishek Sharma, Ph.D.**, will receive \$180,000 to develop a drug that targets and blocks mutant estrogen receptors which are more commonly found in endocrine-resistant, metastatic breast cancer. Dr. Sharma's new drug could be a new option for ER+ breast cancers that have developed resistance to current endocrine-based therapies.

These new funds bring Komen's total research investment to more than \$920 million since opening its doors in 1982, the largest of any nonprofit outside the U.S. government. In addition to research, Komen and its nationwide network of Affiliates serve women and men in thousands of communities. To date, more than \$2 billion has been invested in community programs that provide education, screening and treatment support.

About Susan G. Komen®

Susan G. Komen is the world's largest breast cancer organization outside of the federal government, funding more breast cancer research than any other nonprofit while providing real-time help to those facing the disease. Since its founding in 1982, Komen has funded more than \$920 million in research and provided more than \$2 billion in funding to screening, education, treatment and psychosocial support programs. Komen has worked in more than 60 countries worldwide. Komen was founded by Nancy G. Brinker, who promised her sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would end the disease that claimed Suzy's life. Visit komen.org or call 1-877 GO KOMEN. Connect with us on social at ww5.komen.org/social

**Contingent upon signed and executed contracts with Komen*