

Susan G. Komen for the Cure



5005 LBJ Freeway, Suite
250
Dallas, TX 75244
(877) 465-6636
<http://ww5.komen.org/>



Mission

The mission of Susan G. Komen for the Cure is to eradicate breast cancer globally with a focus on reducing incidence by funding research and using its network of 100,000 survivors and activists to raise awareness. In addition, Komen spends large percentages of its revenues on education, screening, and treatment services for individuals and communities.

Strategy/Approach

Komen is the largest non-governmental funder of breast cancer research. Originally, the organization focused its research strategy on understanding the basic biology of breast cancer but now has expanded to include translational research, early detection, and prevention.

The Scientific Advisory Board guides the focus of research, with “Komen Scholars” providing peer review to identify the most promising projects for funding. In addition to its traditional grants process – which have programs both for research and training – Komen established Promise Grants in 2008 to encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration and translational-focused projects on incidence and mortality reduction. These grants support investigator teams including oncologists, surgeons, and imaging specialists to converge around critical issues surrounding prevention, early detection, and treatment.

The organization also strives to raise funds and educate people in the battle against breast cancer through global events and legislative advocacy each year.

Research Portfolio

Komen has sustained a strong commitment to supporting research that will identify and deliver cures for breast cancer. It supports different types of research grants from all over the world and issues annual requests for applications. Applicants undergo a rigorous scientific peer review processes.

- **Investigator-Initiated Research** – focus on prevention/early detection, targeted therapies for triple negative breast cancer (TNBC), biology, and tumor genetics
 - *\$1 million over four years*
- **Career Catalyst Research** – focus on basic and translational/clinical research for scientists early in their careers
 - *\$450,000 over three years*
- **Promise Grants** – focus on late recurrence, with significance put on collaborative and cross-disciplinary research projects that focus on reducing incidence and mortality
 - *\$7.5 million over five years*

Komen also offers **Career Catalyst Research Grants**, for faculty scientists working to achieve research independence, as well as **Postdoctoral Fellowships** and **Post Baccalaureate Training** research grants. Non-research funding includes additional support to scientists and communities, including vulnerable/affiliate community grants and international community health grants.

Partnership Practices

Komen collaborates with a variety of partners on research-specific projects. Examples include:

- **Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Tissue Bank at the IU Simon Cancer Center** – Goal is to acquire biomolecule and tissue specimens from the entire continuum of breast development – puberty to menopause – and to make these specimens or the digital data derived from them available and accessible to researchers across the globe.
- **American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)** – Komen is engaging and supporting ASCO through three major initiatives. These include an extramural grants initiative to support research and projects related to the quality of, access to, and delivery of cancer care with general applicability in the breast cancer arena, an annual breast cancer symposium, and a workforce issues initiative.
- **American Association for Cancer Research** – Granted close to \$6 million in conference support and educational programming. Specific programming includes scientific educational sessions, scientific travel scholarships, Scientist Survivor Program, and outstanding investigator awards.
- **Translational Breast Cancer Research Consortium** – A collaborative group founded in 2005 to conduct innovative and high-impact clinical trials for breast cancer. It consists of 16 research centers, with member personnel representing clinicians, basic scientists, statisticians, and patient advocates. Komen has been a key sponsor since 2007.
- **World Health Organization (WHO)** – Komen provides funding for WHO, Erasmus University Rotterdam, and Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Center to assist developing countries in planning or further improving their breast cancer control programs.
- **The Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation & Young Survival Coalition**—Encouraging people to participate in the Health of Women breast cancer study and to improve treatment by identifying issues that breast cancer survivors face today.

Komen partners with biotech and pharmaceutical companies. Komen engages in traditional corporate underwriting relationships through Race for the Cure and its other awareness-building activities. It also collaborates with industry in other ways; however there is no evidence of R&D oriented partnerships with industry. Examples of industry partnerships include:

- Partnered with **BioStorage Technologies, Inc.** through the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Tissue Bank at IU Simon Cancer Center.
- Partnered with **Merck** for Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon; an initiative to raise awareness about the burden of breast and cervical cancer, mobilize partners, and work towards HPV vaccination of young girls and access to cervical cancer screening and treatment for women in sub-Saharan Africa

Financials

Komen is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The most recent financial information available is from 2013.¹

Year ending 3/31/2013:

- Revenue: \$146,321,937
- Net Assets: \$294,589,250
- Medical Research Grants: \$49,882,918
- Gifts received: \$118,656,952
- Expenditures: \$159,863,196

Key Accomplishments

- World's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists, having invested more than \$1.9 billion toward the fight against breast cancer.
- Partnered or funded programs in more than 50 countries as part of investment in breast cancer research, education, and community programs since 1982.
- In 1994, a former Komen grantee discovered the gene mutation BRCA1 as an indicator for inherited forms of breast cancer.
- A former Komen grantee discovered telomerase, an enzyme instrumental in a chromosome's ability to divide and replicate, in 1999.
- In 2008, Komen reached \$100 million awarded in research grants.
- Provided more than \$27 million in funding for international breast cancer research and more than \$17 million for international community education and outreach programs.
- To date, Komen has funded more than seven clinical trials through Promise Grants, including therapies for ER-negative breast cancer, HER2-positive breast cancer, TNBC, and inflammatory breast cancer.

- In FY2012, Komen Global programming invested more than \$2.5 million in international community health grants in over 23 countries

Leadership

Susan G. Komen for the Cure is governed by a **Board of Directors** and relies on its **Scientific Advisory Board** and **Advisory Councils** for advice on related matters and policies.

- **Founder and Chair of Global Strategy** : Nancy G. Brinker, nbrinker@komen.org
- **Chief Financial Officer**: Mark E. Nadolny, mnadolny@komen.org
- **President & CEO**: **Judith A. Salerno, MD, MS**, jsalerno@komen.org

¹ Information obtained from Susan G Komen Foundation Financial Statements, <http://ww5.komen.org/AboutUs/FinancialInformation.html>, March 2014.