Research Saves Lives

Because of medical research, the death rate for breast cancer in the U.S. is more than 30 percent lower than it was 25 years ago, and there are more than 3.5 million people living in the U.S. that have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Despite this tremendous progress, more than 41,000 women and men still die from breast cancer every year in the United States.

We can do better. We can reduce the current number of breast cancer deaths by 50 percent in the U.S. We can do it by 2026.

Komen will tackle this goal by drawing on our unparalleled leadership in research and advocacy, and by working to ensure that every person has access to, and receives, timely high-quality breast cancer care.

Our research investments are guided by more than 60 leading scientists and advocates, including our Scientific Advisory Board and Komen Scholars.

We fund the brightest minds and the best breast cancer research – research that has the potential to reduce breast cancer deaths within the decade. 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 22 different countries. Our commitment to the most promising, innovative and meaningful research will never waver.

Support Metastatic Breast Cancer Research

Learn how you can donate to a specific project from one of our metastatic breast cancer researchers.

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

Our Research Investment since 1982

$988 million in more than 2600 research grants and more than 500 clinical trials

What We’re Investigating

Understanding the causes of and finding more effective treatments for metastatic disease (cancer that has spread to other parts of the body – also known as stage IV)

Developing better therapies for aggressive forms of breast cancer that become resistant to treatment over time and can become metastatic

Using transformative technology to detect breast cancer at the very earliest stage, before it has spread or returned, and when treatment is most effective

Determining the causes of breast cancer inequities, and developing tools and methods to improve access and utilization of quality breast cancer care among underserved populations

Topic Area of Investment

- Biology 22%
- Treatment 31%
- Early Detection Diagnosis and Prognosis 19%
- Prevention 6%
- Survivorship and Outcomes* 12%
- Causes of Breast Cancer 10%

* 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