

# 2020 METASTATIC BREAST CANCER CONFERENCE

Education, Empowerment and Support

Sunday, November 15 / 9AM - 3PM

Virtual Conference

[KomenNewJersey.org/mbcimpact](https://KomenNewJersey.org/mbcimpact)

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**MBC Impact Series**

We won't stop until breast cancer does.

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# I've got cancer but I also have an expert oncology nurse navigator on my side.

Fighting cancer can feel overwhelming, with so many meetings, decisions, procedures, and questions. Our nurse navigators ensure you don't have to do it alone. With expertise and compassion, they can walk you through every step of your treatment process. They demonstrate the high level of care you'll find, along with our innovative therapies and cutting-edge research, at New Jersey's only NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center.



Visit [rwjbh.org/beatcancer](http://rwjbh.org/beatcancer) or call 844-CANCERNJ.

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Monmouth Medical Center  
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HEALTH

Let's beat cancer together.



We've taken every precaution to keep you safe.  
So if you've put off cancer care due to COVID-19, please don't delay it any longer.

# Welcome to the 2020 Metastatic Breast Cancer Conference

Welcome to Susan G. Komen New Jersey's second annual Metastatic Breast Cancer Conference! I am Melissa Surdez, a loving mother, wife, sister, friend. And a warrior, just like you.

I am a breast cancer survivor and LIVER since 2012. What does being a "breast cancer liver" mean? It means that I am living – and thriving – with metastatic breast cancer.

I live my life confidently, proudly and wonderfully knowing that the two chemotherapies I receive every third Monday work, and that the scans that I get every three months tell me all is good. I know that I am lucky – and some of my fellow sisters and brothers living with cancer are not as lucky. I see this every time I sit in that infusion chair. We need to save more lives from this awful disease.

That is why we are here today at the **2020 Metastatic Breast Cancer Conference: Education, Empowerment and Support**. We're welcoming women and men living with metastatic breast cancer, caregivers and family members to enjoy a day filled with great information, fun activities, free resources, and most importantly, a chance to connect with others facing their own journey with cancer. You'll hear from experts in the metastatic breast cancer community – including healthcare providers, scientists and more – while learning the latest in research, therapies and healthy living.

Susan G. Komen New Jersey is here to help all of us through the challenges we face as metastatic breast cancer patients. The organization is raising life-saving funds to invest in critical research focusing on the treatment of metastatic breast cancer, while investing in community programs that help local women living with this disease get the care and support that they need. That's why I am a proud board member of this Affiliate, and why I spent last year raising over \$20,000 for their fight against breast cancer.

If you could take away anything from me today, it would be this message: life is amazing. People are incredible. YOU are incredible. We are made up of thousands of stories that make us who we are. I love hearing your stories, and I can't wait to learn more about how you thrive living with metastatic breast cancer today.



**Melissa Surdez**

Johnson & Johnson  
Life Coach

Living with Metastatic Breast Cancer

# Schedule of Events

**9:30 am**

Welcome & Opening Remarks

**9:45 am**

Local Researcher Presentation

**10:45 am**

Break & Visit with Virtual Exhibitors

**11:00 am**

Breakout Sessions

**12:00 pm**

Lunch Break

**1:00 pm**

Patient Panel Discussion with Metavivor NJ

**1:45 pm**

Break & Visit with Virtual Exhibitors

**2:00 pm**

Breakout Sessions

**2:45 pm**

Closing Address

This Conference was designed using feedback from a focus group of metastatic breast cancer patients and caregivers. Thank you to those who participated in the focus group and offered your ideas toward the Conference theme, features and presentation topics. Thank you to MJH Associates, Inc. for hosting the focus group.



Save organizer time,  
Maximize attendee  
engagement & networking!

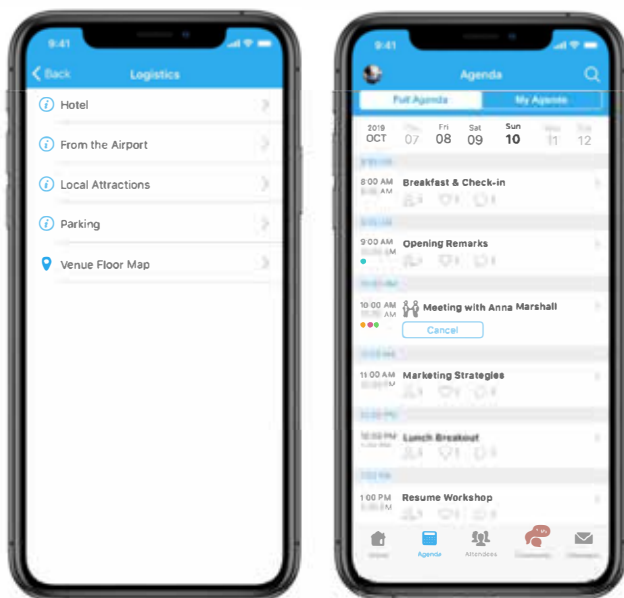
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**NAVIGATE** the event agenda and logistics, even without Wi-Fi or data. Access useful information like ridesharing and local attractions through the Community Board

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We won't stop until breast cancer does.

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Metastatic Breast Cancer Research, Support and Awareness  
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### Community Sponsors





# Guest Speakers



## **Nicole Aiello-Couzo, PhD**

Postdoctoral fellow  
Princeton University

Dr. Nicole Aiello is a postdoctoral fellow in the Kang Lab at Princeton University. She earned her PhD at the University of Pennsylvania where she focused on the molecular mechanisms that drive metastasis in pancreatic cancer. Now Nicole studies the intersection between normal and malignant mammary stem cells, which are thought to be responsible for drug resistance, tumor recurrence and metastasis.



## **Ruchi Bhatt, DO**

Medical Oncologist/Hematologist  
Hackensack Meridian Health

Ruchi Bhatt, D.O., is a fellowship trained, board certified hematologist and medical oncologist. She did her training in Internal Medicine followed by a fellowship in Hematology and Oncology at Nassau University Medical Center and Stony Brook University Medical Center in Long Island, NY. She completed her training in 2019.

She treats patients with a variety of malignancies and benign hematology conditions. Dr. Bhatt is a member of several professional associations including the American Society of Clinical Oncology, American Society of Hematology, American College of Osteopathic Internal Medicine and American Osteopathic Association. She is proficient in Gujarati, Hindi and entry level medical Spanish.

She participates in a variety of medical conferences and tumor boards for comprehensive , multi disciplinary cancer care.

# Guest Speakers



## **Tami Eagle Bowling**

NJ Chapter of Metavivor

Tami Eagle Bowling graduated from Marlboro High School in 1991, and received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing from Penn State University in 1995. Tami spent twenty years in the media world, selling print & digital advertising for well-known brands such as Cosmopolitan, Marie Claire, Teen Vogue and Bon Appetit. During her career, Tami traveled to 24 countries, always proud to return to

her home in the United States.

During a routine mammogram, Tami was diagnosed with invasive ductal carcinoma (breast cancer) in early 2015. Her daughters were just 2 and 5 years old. She met with three breast surgeons and two reconstructive surgeons and wanted to have a double mastectomy. However, a PET/CT scan revealed the cancer had already metastasized to her liver which meant it was stage IV metastatic breast cancer and too late for surgery. Tami immediately started taking an oral chemotherapy and is alive because this treatment was approved by the FDA just 3 months before her diagnosis. That is the power of research. Tami's current treatment is working well, and her scans currently show no evidence of disease. However, the average life span for metastatic breast cancer patients is 3 years. She does not take any day for granted. Her mantra is Make Each Day Meaningful.

Since her diagnosis, Tami has raised over \$200,000 to fund metastatic breast cancer research grants for METAvivor and Breast Cancer Alliance. She was presented with the 2017 Play for P.I.N.K. Humanitarian Award for her steadfast dedication to raising these vital funds and for being an inspiration to so many. She traveled to Washington to fight for better access to healthcare for metastatic patients and championed bills that could improve quality of life. In 2018, she was recognized for her efforts by the State of New Jersey with a Joint Legislative Resolution. In April 2019, Tami co-founded the 1st local NJ chapter of METAvivor Research and Support and Facebook group METAvivors of NJ. This group is for patients, family and friends who want to learn about hopeful stories, the latest MBC research and ways to advocate. Tami currently serves as a consumer reviewer for the Department of Defense CDMRP program and helps evaluate the impact for which grants should get funded. She will continue to play an active role in the #LightUpMBC campaign which lit up over 80 monuments around the world last year on October 13th to show unity for MBC. Tami continues to speak to groups of all ages about metastatic breast cancer, mentors newly diagnosed patients and continues to be a fierce advocate for research.



# Guest Speakers



## Jennie Byram

### Living with Metastatic Breast Cancer

Jennie Byram is a wife and mother to her 6-year-old daughter. She was a special education teacher for 7 years. Now Jennie focuses her time on being a full-time mom, her health and enjoying time with family and friends.

Jennie was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer in January 2016 which spread to her bones and marrow. Then in April 2018, the

cancer spread to her liver. She has had many ups and downs over the years with progression and failed treatments. Despite everything, Jennie remains hopeful that through awareness, research and funding that one day this can become a chronic disease.



## Mark Esposito, PhD

### CEO and Founder

### KayoThera

Dr. Mark Esposito is the CEO and co-founder of KayoThera, a discovery stage biotechnology company developing therapies to treat advanced cancer patients. Dr. Esposito received his B.A. from Middlebury College and his PhD from Princeton University under Dr. Yibin Kang. Dr. Esposito's work has focused on identifying the

fundamental mechanisms driving solid tumor relapse and suppression of anti-tumor immunity. Translating discoveries made in the lab at Princeton University, Dr. Esposito's team at KayoThera is developing small molecule therapeutics with the goal of curing advanced-stage cancer patients.



## Brandi Green

### Beauty Area Expert

### Walgreens

Brandi Green has been employed with Walgreens over 12 years with the role of Beauty Area Expert. She is certified in cosmetology from Empire Beauty School and degree in business from City University of New York. She educates Beauty Consultants to offer product suggestions to patients and customers who trust

Walgreens. She is a mother of 3- Nyier 14, Niya 9, and Mannyvon 6. All done with unconditional support from Husband Mannix for over 16 years. Her passion is family people, and her team.

# Guest Speakers



## **Zuhaib Ibrahim, MD, FACS**

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon  
The Plastic Surgery Center

Dr. Zuhaib Ibrahim has extensive training in cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgery with a special interest in microsurgery and peripheral nerve surgery. His philosophy centers on providing the highest quality personalized care in a warm and professional environment.

Dr. Ibrahim went on to complete his surgical training at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, followed by an integrated plastic and reconstructive surgical program at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He was a key member of the team that performed the first bilateral arm transplant in a quadruple amputee.

While at Johns Hopkins Hospital, he received numerous awards and accolades including the prestigious Armed Forces Institute of Regenerative Medicine Career Enrichment Award, the Paul S. Lietman Global Health Award, and the J.K. Hardesty Award from the Plastic Surgery Research Council. He has published twenty-four peer reviewed articles and his work has been extensively presented in both national and international conferences.

- Board Certified in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery by the American Board of Plastic Surgery
- Plastic Reconstructive and Cosmetic Surgery Residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital
- General Surgery Residency at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
- Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Hand and Face Transplantation at Johns Hopkins Hospital



## **Liz Johnson**

Writer at Breast Cancer Conscript

Liz Johnson is a writer, blogger, digital marketer, aspiring novelist, serial entrepreneur, adventurer, investor, triathlete (emphasis on the word “try”) and willing to try anything new. In 2011, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and in 2015, she was diagnosed with a recurrence. Her blog, Breast Cancer Conscript, describes the daily challenges of making peace with the enemy within.

# Guest Speakers



## **Yibin Kang, PhD**

Warner-Lambert/Parke-Davis  
Professor of Molecular Biology  
Princeton University

Yibin Kang is a Warner-Lambert/Parke-Davis Professor of Molecular Biology at Princeton University and an Associate Director of Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. He graduated with a bachelor's degree from Fudan University in Shanghai in 1995. After

completing his graduate study at Duke in 2000 and a postdoctoral training at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Dr. Kang joined the faculty of Princeton University as an Assistant Professor of Molecular Biology in 2004. He was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2010 and to Endowed Chair Full Professor in 2012.

Dr. Kang's research focuses on the molecular mechanisms of breast cancer metastasis. His work discovered new genes that promote recurrence, metastasis and chemoresistance of breast cancer, delineated tumor-stromal interactions that are essential for metastatic growth, and identified novel therapeutic agents. Dr. Kang has published over 170 original articles in leading journals including Science, Cancer Cell, and Nature Medicine. Dr. Kang's outstanding achievements have been recognized by many prestigious awards, including a Department of Defense Era of Hope Scholar Award (2006), the 2011 Vicek Prize for Creative Promise in Biomedical Sciences (2011), and the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Award for Outstanding Achievements in Cancer Research (2012), and the AACR Outstanding Investigator Award in Breast Cancer Research (2014). Dr. Kang has elected as a Fellow of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), a Komen Scholar, and an American Cancer Society Research Professor.



## **Tiffany Kendig, PT, DPT, MPH, CLT**

ReVital Cancer Rehabilitation

Tiffany Kendig, PT, DPT, MPH, CLT is a Physical Therapist (PT) with passion and experience providing oncologic physical therapy services to clients with a variety of cancer diagnoses. She completed undergraduate and graduate studies in Physical Therapy at Boston University, and is also a graduate of Columbia University's School of Public Health. Tiffany practiced in the oncology rehabilitation setting

for nearly 10 years at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in the roles of Senior Therapist in the acute care setting, Clinical Specialist in Neurology in the outpatient setting, and as a Supervisor with MSK's Outpatient Rehabilitation Service. She is currently the ReVital Cancer Rehabilitation Program Director at Kessler Rehabilitation Center. She is an Executive Board Member of the American Physical Therapy Association's Academy of Oncologic Physical Therapy, and contributed to the Academy's Evaluation Database to Guide Effectiveness (EDGE) taskforce. Ms. Kendig has co-authored peer-reviewed manuscripts and presented multiple invited lectures in the area of oncology rehabilitation to advance knowledge and practices in the field.

# Guest Speakers



## **Tracy Matino**

Breast Cancer Exercise Specialist, Pilates Coordinator and  
Fitness Instructor

Pink Ribbon Program, CentraState Fitness and  
Wellness Center

I have been teaching in the fitness industry for 13 years. I have many varied fitness certifications but my passion is for Pilates in which I am a Comprehensively Trained instructor through Balanced Body. My background in Pilates helps with the rehabilitative nature of the Pink Ribbon Program. I love being an instructor because I get to guide and share in a client's journey to discover how capable they are through movement and strength. I am inspired by my clients daily and it is such a reward to see them achieve their goals.

"Change happens through movement and movement heals" -Joseph Pilates



## **Denise Johnson Miller**

Hackensack Meridian Health

Denise L. Johnson Miller, M.D., FACS, is a board-certified general surgeon and is fellowship trained in surgical oncology. As a nationally recognized breast surgeon, she specializes in breast cancer, melanoma surgery, and soft tissue tumors. Dr. Johnson Miller is currently developing clinical translation trials in support of oncology drug testing, as well as an in-depth genetic testing program for multidisciplinary cancer risk screening in breast cancer. Dr. Johnson Miller is also a member of the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) accreditation committee for Hackensack Meridian Health, and holds high academic standing as the Clinical Professor of Surgery at Seton Hall Medical School and Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery at Rutgers Medical School. Dr. Johnson Miller is interested in the following specialties: accelerated partial breast irradiation, autologous "tissue flap" breast reconstruction, and skin and nipple sparing mastectomies.

# Guest Speakers



## **Iuliana Shapira, MD**

**Regional Cancer Care Associates**

Iuliana Shapira, MD is Chief Medical Officer at Regional Cancer Care Associates. She oversees clinical operations which includes quality of care and patient safety, coordination of clinical care, development of clinical information support systems, and physician engagement in strategic initiatives to provide value-based quality care. Her role also includes overseeing and expanding the research

portfolio and implementation of innovative programs to advance quality improvement and new models of care for best practices in oncology.

Dr. Shapira comes to RCCA from State University of New York in Brooklyn, New York, where she held the position of Chief of Division of Hematology Oncology and Director of Cancer Institute at State University New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center. During her tenure at Downstate, she introduced changes that lead to major improvements in the safety and quality of care and mentored numerous physicians, residents and medical students. As a member of the Medical Executive Committee at SUNY Downstate she has contributed to the development and implementation of the corporate strategy. Earlier, she worked for nine years as Director of Cancer Genetics at Northwell Health System and Associate Professor of Medicine at Hofstra University.

Dr. Shapira holds the academic appointment as Associate Professor of Medicine and Cell Biology for the SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. Prior to her work in academic medicine, Dr. Shapira served in clinical practice in rural Lake Village, Arkansas. She received her medical degree in 1990 from the Carol Davila Medical School in Bucharest. She conducted her residency training in Internal Medicine at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, New Jersey and Hematology Oncology Fellowship at SUNY Downstate Medical Center.



## **Deborah Toppmeyer, MD**

**RWJBarnabas Health & Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey**

Deborah Toppmeyer, MD, is an expert in breast cancer, breast cancer genetics, and the design and implementation of clinical trials that offer promising new therapies targeted to specific types of breast cancer. She helps her patients navigate through treatment options while encouraging enrollment in clinical trials, and

simultaneously provides opportunities for students to learn cancer biology, cancer pharmacology, genetics, and clinical care.

Toppmeyer is the author or co-author of more than 50 publications and serves on the editorial board of the journal Clinical Cancer Research. She is a core member for the Breast Committee of the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group, one of the nation's largest clinical cancer research organizations.

# Guest Speakers



## **Melissa Surdez**

Komen NJ Board Member & Metastatic Thriver  
Johnson & Johnson

Melissa Surdez has been employed by Johnson & Johnson for 19 years. Currently, Melissa is the Global Head of Employee Experience for the company.

Melissa is a human resources leader who brings drive, collaboration, pragmatism and authenticity to all she does. Melissa has a passion

for life, passion for family, passion for friends and passion for everyone she meets. She lives every day like it is the best day ever and will be for everyone.

In 2016, Melissa became certified as a Life Coach by the International Federation of Coaching.

This great achievement is super exciting for her because in addition to her professional experiences, Melissa is currently living with Stage 4 Breast Cancer and is proud to mentor many women with cancer from all ages on how to live life to its fullest.

Lastly, Melissa has a fantastically supportive husband – Lance and two deliciously wonderful children – Quinn, 21 and Brielle, 17 who continue to hold her up when she needs a little extra support and love her unconditionally.

Melissa is a human resources leader who brings drive, collaboration, pragmatism and authenticity to all she does. Melissa has a passion for life, passion for family, passion for friends and passion for everyone she meets. She lives every day like it is the best day ever and will be for everyone.



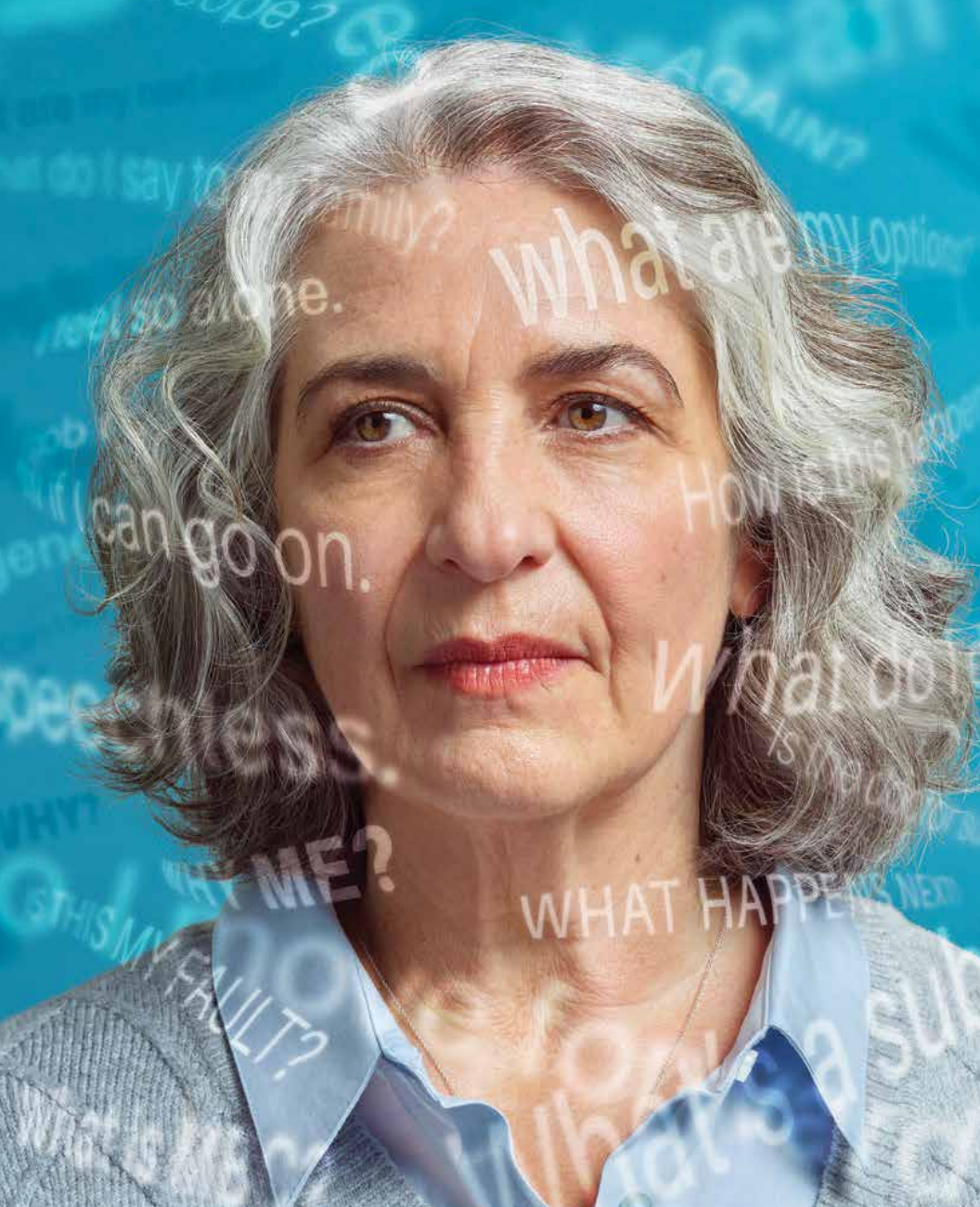
## **Serena Wong, MD**

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Dr. Serena Wong is a medical oncologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She practices at MSK Monmouth in Middletown, NJ where she also serves as Site Medical Director. Dr. Wong received her MD degree from Columbia University. Following a residency in Internal Medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine she then completed a fellowship in Hematology/Oncology

at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Her clinical practice is devoted exclusively to the care of patients with breast cancer, providing access not only to standard therapies but also to clinical trials evaluating promising new treatments for various stages and subtypes of breast cancer. Dr. Wong also has a particular interest in symptom management and quality of life concerns that patients with breast cancer often face. She is collaborating with colleagues from various disciplines to conduct studies that will help us better understand and address these issues.





**A DIAGNOSIS OF METASTATIC BREAST CANCER  
CAN OVERWHELM YOU WITH QUESTIONS.**

Learn how to manage what comes next and be involved in your treatment options.

**FINDYOURMBCVOICE.COM**



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# — PROUD — SUPPORTERS

**SUSAN G. KOMEN NEW JERSEY  
2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL METASTATIC BREAST  
CANCER CONFERENCE**



WE'RE  
HERE  
FOR YOU



A cancer diagnosis is overwhelming at any time but needing treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic adds a new level of stress to an already challenging situation.

Physicians at Regional Cancer Care Associates are here for you and their commitment to patients is as strong as ever.

RCCA's doctors and medical staff treat individuals with cancer, whether those people are newly diagnosed, are in the midst of treatment or have completed active treatment and have a question or need follow-up care.

RCCA has more than 125 cancer specialists practicing at 28 care centers throughout New Jersey, Connecticut, Maryland, Pennsylvania and the Washington, D.C. area.



*To learn more about RCCA or to schedule an appointment,*  
**CALL (844) 474-6866 OR VISIT [RCCA.COM](https://www.rcca.com)**

# 2019 RESEARCH FAST FACTS

## Metastatic Breast Cancer

### RESEARCH SAVES LIVES

**Metastatic breast cancer (MBC)** is an advanced stage (stage IV) of breast cancer where tumor cells have **spread** to other parts of the body, such as the bones, liver, lungs or brain. Most breast cancer deaths are a result of metastasis.

In the 1970s, only 10 percent of women survived five years after a diagnosis of MBC. Today, because of research and the discovery of new and more-effective treatments, this has increased to an average of 25 percent. While MBC is treatable, it is not currently curable. Nearly all breast cancer deaths are due to MBC. This is, in part, because we do not know what causes cancer cells to spread.

Komen is dedicated to understanding why metastasis occurs and how to stop it, with nearly 70% of its FY19 research grants addressing MBC.

In addition to funding research, Komen is a founding member of the [Metastatic Breast Cancer Alliance](#) – more than 30 organizations working to unify efforts to improve the lives and outcomes for those living with MBC.

Read how Komen-funded researcher Dr. Xiang Zhang's personal experience with breast cancer is shaping his fight against MBC in the lab.  
<http://sgk.mn/2wElasb>



Learn more about metastatic breast cancer  
<http://sgk.mn/1wKFOFE>

### OUR RESEARCH INVESTMENT:

(1982-2019)

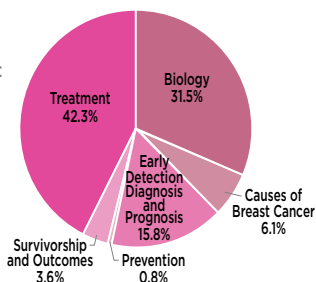
More than **\$210 million** in over **500 research grants** and more than **50 clinical trials** focused on MBC

### What We're Investigating

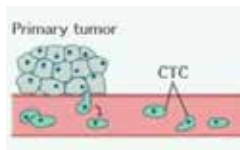
- Identifying the genes and processes that cause breast cancer cells to metastasize.
- Developing and testing new therapies to both prevent and treat metastatic breast cancer.
- Discovering new methods for predicting risk of metastasis or detecting metastasis early using urine or blood tests or body scans.



### Topic Area of Total Investment



Read more about the development of Lymphoseek in our Stories of Discovery series.  
<http://sgk.mn/1hXCYWa>



Read more about circulating tumor cells (CTCs) as a biomarker and drug target for MBC in our Science Buzz series.  
<http://sgk.mn/1eDrujd>

### WHAT WE'VE LEARNED from Komen-funded research

- Tilmantocept (Lymphoseek), a novel FDA approved imaging method, can be used to more-effectively detect whether breast cancer has spread to the lymph nodes.
- The FDA-approved Src kinase inhibitor—dasatinib— stops stem-like cancer cells that are starting to spread and may be used to prevent metastasis from occurring or treat early MBC. [Read more.](#)
- The presence of certain types of circulating tumor cells may be used as a biomarker to predict who is at high risk for metastasis and may serve a drug target to prevent MBC.

Learn more about breast cancer

More Komen-funded Research Stories

Get Involved & Support Komen Research

# KEEP GETTING CANCER SCREENINGS



## STAYING HEALTHY IS PART OF STAYING SAFE.

We've all spent the past few months taking extra precautions in order to stay safe. But right now, staying healthy is just as important. That's why we've made it safer than ever to return for necessary cancer screenings like mammograms, prostate screenings, pap smears and colonoscopies—because finding cancer early offers your best chance for a positive outcome.

[HackensackMeridianHealth.org/GetCancerCareNow](https://HackensackMeridianHealth.org/GetCancerCareNow)



Hackensack  
Meridian *Health*

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## Mission

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Save lives by meeting the most critical needs in our communities and investing in breakthrough research to prevent and cure breast cancer.

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## Vision

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A world without breast cancer.

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## Bold Goal

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Reduce the current number of breast cancer deaths by 50% in the U.S by 2026.



Join our fight: [komennewjersey.org](https://komennewjersey.org)