



**Susan G. Komen
Research Grants – Fiscal Year 2014**

This research grant was approved by Komen's national board of directors for FY2014 Research Programs funding. This grant will be funded upon the execution of grant agreements between Komen and the grantee institutions.

Susan G. Komen graduate training in breast cancer disparities at UC Berkeley

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Lead Organization: University of California, Berkeley

Grant Mechanism: Graduate Training in Disparities Research Grants **Grant ID:** GTDR14301469

Public Abstract:

Background: The death rate from breast cancer mortality has dropped by 3.9% the past twenty years. Compared to women over 50, the reduction has been greater for women under 50. However, for poor women with less education without health insurance, and minority women (especially African Americans) death rates have not been reduced (1). **Objective:** To train pre-doctoral students to become breast cancer health disparity researchers. **Methods:** Novel aspects of this proposed training program include: 1) each Scholar will have both an academic and an agency/research mentor; 2) a summer internship with distinguished researchers from other pre-imminent San Francisco Bay Area health organizations such as University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), Kaiser Permanente Division of Research (KP DOR), the Cancer Prevention Institute of California (CPIC). 3) Each scholar will have, at least, two different research experiences that span breast cancer prevention (e.g. diet and exercise) and early detection through breast health check-ups and mammography to treatment and survivorship. Students will work with both information collected by their mentors as well as information that they have collected. 4) A multi-ethnic group of researchers who study multi-ethnic populations on breast cancer disparity issues that includes African American, Asian-Americans, Latinas, and Euro-American researchers. 5) pre-doctoral colleagues who are from under-represented minority groups. Our focus is providing course work and research training to three doctoral students per year. In addition to the course work for their doctoral programs (Doctor of Public Health, PhD in Epidemiology and in Health Services and Policy Analysis), they will be exposed to the latest methods of research such as Cancer Epidemiology, Disparities Research, Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Recruitment for the Program will both within the SPH and UCB community as well as nationally through programs with other schools developed by our Diversity Coordinator. The SPH has a supportive atmosphere as over 25% of the students are underrepresented minorities (URM). **Results:** We will collect information on the time to get a doctoral degree as well as the number of research presentations, publications, and other awards. Findings from the summer and dissertation research will be shared at regular Mentorship Meetings. We plan to present findings from the program at their annual meeting for breast cancer survivors in the SF Bay Area sponsored by our local Komen affiliate. **Implications:** Our experience is that developing URM researchers results in research more focused on the experience of underserved populations at risk for breast cancer disparities due to the environment in which they live, access to screening and early treatment, and survivorship.