

2024 RESEARCH FAST FACTS

Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC)



RESEARCH INVESTMENT AT A GLANCE: (1982-2024)

More than **\$250 million** in nearly **590** research grants and over **70** clinical trials focused on MBC

64% Focus on Treatment



ABOUT MBC

Metastatic breast cancer (MBC) is the most advanced stage (stage 4) of breast cancer where tumor cells have spread to other parts of the body such as the bones, liver, lungs or brain. While stage 1 breast cancer has a 99% 5-year relative survival rate, stage 4 only has a 31% 5-year relative breast cancer survival rate. MBC is treatable but not currently curable. It is crucial that researchers gain a better understanding of metastasis to help develop drugs that will slow, stop and prevent the spread of breast cancer.

Learn more about MBC [here](#).

WHAT WE'RE INVESTIGATING



Understanding the interaction of certain immune cells and brain cells, which promote growth of breast cancer brain metastases, to identify new targets for treatment of brain metastases.



Understanding how metastatic hormone receptor-positive breast cancer cells change the way they use energy and nutrition to grow quickly in bone and finding ways to block it as a way to prevent bone metastasis.



[Investigating](#) how cells from metastatic HER2-positive and triple negative breast cancer cells spread to and grow in the brain to develop better treatment options for these types of MBC.

Komen is a founding member of the **Metastatic Breast Cancer Alliance**, a coalition of more than **35 organizations** working together to **improve the lives and outcomes** for those living with MBC.

IN THE KOMEN RESEARCH PIPELINE:

More than **900** potential **new research discoveries** (drugs, biomarkers, devices, etc.) focused on MBC.

SPOTLIGHT



[Learn more](#) about how Dr. Paula Bos and ASPIRE Trainee Ailén García-Santillán are investigating how certain cells in the body's own immune system can help breast cancer cells grow and metastasize, and how to stop it.

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED FROM KOMEN-FUNDED RESEARCH

- A protein called Angptl7 made by aggressive breast cancer cells can help breast cancer metastasize and may be targeted with new therapies to treat MBC.
- High levels of a protein called PFKB4 are linked to poor outcomes and metastasis in TNBC and may be used as a biomarker to help doctors identify patients who are at greater risk of recurrence and metastasis.
- The presence of a protein called ICAM-1 in TNBC patient tumors increases likelihood of metastasis and may be used as a target to prevent MBC.



[LEARN MORE ABOUT BREAST CANCER](#)

[MORE KOMEN-FUNDED RESEARCH STORIES](#)

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