Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation Announces New Board Leadership and New Initiatives

Experienced Executive to Assume Chairman Role

Norwood, NJ, October 8, 2012– The Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation® (TNBCF; [tnbcfoundation.org]) announces the appointment of Kurt Nygaard as Chairman of the Board, succeeding Hayley Dinerman, a founding board member who will retain a seat as a board member.

Kurt assumes leadership at a time of rapid expansion for the Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation (TNBCF). The TNBCF is coming off its strongest financial year and welcomes a diverse set of new funders including General Electric, the General Electric Foundation, Celgene, the Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Foundation, and Revlon.

“Thanks to our generous donors, we recently surpassed the milestone of $1,000,000 in grants to scientific research,” said Lori Redmer, Executive Director, Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation, “and the seed money our grants represent is growing.”

“Funding from the Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation allowed us to continue our research analyzing the roles of certain genes in regulating DNA repair in triple-negative breast cancer,” said Shridar Ganesan, MD, Cancer Institute of New Jersey, “The preliminary data generated by this work was a critical part of our recent successful grant application to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) which just awarded us over $1,700,000 for the next five years to pursue this work. Our ability to get NCI funding for this research would not have been possible without the initial support of the Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation.”
From a media and advocacy standpoint, TNBCF is also breaking new ground partnering with companies with broad-based consumer reach. TNBCF is a content partner in Revlon’s first-ever PSA campaign called “Your Lips can Save Lives,” featuring Emma Stone and her mother Krista, a triple negative breast cancer survivor. (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUSnKRomclI&feature=player_embedded#t=12s)

TNBCF also partnered with the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) on its annual Cancer Progress Report to Congress, and joined AACR members on Capitol Hill to meet with Senators and their staffs to discuss the findings. In the face of potential budget sequestration for the NIH and NCI this year, this effort is particularly crucial as funding for critical research in triple negative hangs in the balance. (http://www.tnbcfoundation.org/tnbc_pressrelease_091212.pdf)

“Triple negative breast cancer is an especially dangerous and destructive form of breast cancer, and it is the sole focus of our work at the foundation,” said incoming Chairman Kurt Nygaard. “We make a huge difference for patients, while catalyzing research to find a cure. It is my honor to be involved in this work as the foundation continues its growth.”

Mr. Nygaard resides in Hudson, OH and is a Vice President and Member of the Board at Harwick Standard Distribution Company. He is extremely involved in the community and in breast cancer advocacy, serving not only TNBCF, but also as an advisor to the Susan G Komen Northeast Ohio Affiliate. In fact, “Night 4 Pink”, an event at his Hudson, OH restaurant, Downtown 140, has raised tens of thousands of dollars for TNBCF. He became involved with the organization when one of his dearest friends, Nancy Ochsenhirt, was diagnosed with the disease. (http://www.downtown140.com/night-4-pink.html)

Triple negative breast cancer accounts for about 15 percent of all breast cancers, and is often more aggressive than other forms of the disease, while also disproportionately striking some populations such as women under 40, African Americans and Latinas. Unlike other breast cancers, triple negative breast cancers lack three specific proteins, or receptors, and as a result generally do not respond to existing targeted medicines commonly used to treat the disease. Since no targeted treatment exists yet, women with triple negative breast cancer usually receive surgery, chemotherapy or radiation.¹ Treatment options remain limited if these interventions are not effective. Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation is focused solely on this dangerous form of breast cancer and is investing in research to find a targeted therapy.

“From the hospital to Capitol Hill, we are standing with triple negative patients and their families and working toward a targeted therapy,” said Kurt. “We are tireless in this quest and I look forward to the day we can report that the big scientific breakthrough we seek is here.”

About Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation
The Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation was founded in 2006 in honor of Nancy Block-Zenna, a young woman who was diagnosed at age 35 with triple-negative breast cancer and died two and a half years later in 2007. In response to Nancy’s diagnosis, her close friends launched the Foundation. Our mission is to raise awareness of triple-negative breast cancer and
to support scientists and researchers in their effort to determine the definitive causes of triple-negative breast cancer, so that effective detection, diagnosis, prevention and treatment can be pursued and achieved. For more information about TNBCF, visit www.tnbcfoundation.org.

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