



## News Release

### For Immediate Release

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### **Cancer Research Accelerated at Triple Negative Breast Cancer Symposium**

*Experts explore future treatments for this aggressive form of breast cancer*

**SAN ANTONIO, December 7, 2010** – The Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation® (TNBCF) awarded two grants, each in the amount of \$75,000, to James Ford, MD, associate professor of Medicine and Genetics, Division of Oncology, Stanford University School of Medicine and Shridar Ganesan, MD, Ph.D., assistant professor of Medicine & Pharmacology, Investigator, Cancer Genomics and Molecular Oncology, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey at the fourth annual Triple Negative Breast Cancer Symposium held here today. The annual Symposium is the world's only triple negative breast cancer scientific meeting and is sponsored by TNBCF, Susan G. Komen for the Cure® and The Breast Cancer Research Foundation®. It is held each year before the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium.

“The Triple Negative Breast Cancer Symposium is an important catalyst toward finding a new treatment, or even a cure for triple negative breast cancer,” said Eric P. Winer, MD, chief of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Women's Cancers Division, Komen's chief scientific advisor and a TNBCF medical advisory board member. “Typically, research in this field moves more slowly than we would like because experts are scattered throughout the world. The Symposium helps to accelerate the research progress by providing thought leaders with a forum to gather and discuss the next steps needed to develop new treatments.”

Dr. Ganesan's study is designed to evaluate the expression of the 53BP1 protein and its role in the development of resistance to platinum drugs and PARP inhibitors in triple negative breast cancer. Dr. Ford's study is designed to discover the mechanism of resistance to PARP inhibitors using triple negative breast cancer tumor samples from a clinical trial using this novel class of drugs.

Drs. Ford and Ganesan competed with four additional researchers for these prestigious grants. For the first time, Symposium attendees chose grant recipients by ranking the proposals they deemed most promising.

“I am honored that my peers chose to fund my research proposal,” said Dr. Ford.

Dr. Ganesan added, “It’s gratifying to know my work may contribute to our understanding and management of triple negative breast cancer.”

Triple negative breast cancer accounts for about 10 to 20 percent of all breast cancers, and is often more aggressive than other forms of the disease. 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.<sup>1</sup>

Other Symposium highlights included a research presentation by Andres Forero, MD, of the University of Alabama at Birmingham Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Forero shared recent findings of his team’s ongoing work to develop a targeted therapy for triple negative breast cancer. The team, along with 14 of the 16 members of the Translational Breast Cancer Research Consortium, will soon open a Phase II clinical trial using TRA-8, an antibody that targets the human death receptor 5, plus Abraxane to treat metastatic TNBC. The research is supported by a Susan G. Komen for the Cure Promise Grant, co-funded by TNBCF.

### **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](http://www.tnbcfoundation.org).

### **About Susan G. Komen for the Cure**

Nancy G. Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer forever. In 1982, that promise became Susan G. Komen for the Cure and launched the global breast cancer movement. Today, Komen for the Cure is the world’s largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energize science to find the cures. Thanks to events like the Komen Race for the Cure<sup>®</sup>, we have invested more than \$1.5 billion to fulfill our promise, becoming the largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to the fight against breast cancer in the world. For more information about Susan G. Komen for the Cure, breast health or

breast cancer, visit [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org), call 1-877 GO KOMEN, or find us on your mobile device at m.komen.org.

### **About The Breast Cancer Research Foundation**

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation was founded in 1993 by Evelyn H. Lauder as an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to funding innovative clinical and translational research. The Foundation supports scientists at top universities and academic medical centers worldwide conducting the most advanced and promising breast cancer research that will help lead to prevention and a cure in our lifetime. Currently, more than 90 cents of each dollar donated to the Foundation goes directly to breast cancer research and awareness programs. For more information about BCRF, visit [www.bcrfcure.org](http://www.bcrfcure.org).

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<sup>1</sup> Guide to understanding triple negative breast cancer. Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation Website. <http://www.tnbcfoundation.org/understandingtnbc.htm>. Published 2009. Accessed October 7, 2010.