



SAMUEL WAXMAN CANCER  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION



SAMUEL WAXMAN CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION AND TRIPLE-NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER  
FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE JOINT \$400,000 GRANT FOR TRIPLE-NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

**New York, NY – December 29, 2015** – The Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation (SWCRF) and the Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Foundation (TNBCF) today announced their partnership in a two-year grant in the amount of \$400,000 to scientists collaborating on research to produce less-toxic treatments that target cancer stem cells to minimize recurrence of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC) and identify early detection and treatment of pregnancy-associated TNBC.

“We are delighted to partner again with the Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Foundation,” said Samuel Waxman, M.D., founder and CEO of the SWCRF. “Our combined strengths in research and advocacy greatly enhance the pace of our common goals to develop more effective, less-toxic treatments for women living with TNBC and to someday find a cure.”

The SWCRF and the TNBCF will each contribute \$100,000 per year over a two-year period beginning January 2016. The funds will be allocated to researchers working on two TNBC investigations. Drs. Gary Nolan, of Stanford University, and Ming-Ming Zhou and Samuel Waxman, of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai are collaborating on research applying a combination of a minimally toxic derivative of Vitamin A with specific molecular inhibitors to reprogram TNBC cells in mice with the goal of testing the therapy in clinical trials. The researchers’ project incorporates findings pertinent to cancer metastasis from research by Dr. Robert A. Weinberg of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in the areas of cancer stem cells and Epithelial Mesenchymal Transition.

The second project funded by the grant is led by Doris Germain, Ph.D., whose work at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai aims to enhance early detection and treatment of TNBC tumors that emerge among women more often within one to six years of giving birth. Dr. Germain’s research targets a plasma protein that promotes the growth of TNBC cells upon being activated during the shrinkage of women’s mammary glands after they stop breast feeding. Pending further mice model studies, the project intends to test milk samples of expectant mothers to identify high-risk candidates for TNBC and to screen for potential treatments of triple-negative, pregnancy-associated breast cancer (PABC).

Triple-Negative Breast Cancer is a particularly aggressive subtype of breast cancer characterized by tumors that lack three receptors known to fuel most breast cancers: estrogen, progesterone and HER-2. As a result, commonly used breast cancer treatments that target these receptors, such as Tamoxifen, are ineffective in treating TNBC so the need for alternative therapies is great. TNBC has a high incidence of recurrence, accounts for 20 percent of all breast cancer cases and disproportionately affects African-Americans, Latinas, Ashkenazi women and women with the BRCA1 gene.

### **About Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation (SWCRF)**

The Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation is an international organization dedicated to curing and preventing cancer. The Foundation is a pioneer in cancer research and its mission is to eradicate cancer by funding cutting-edge research that identifies and corrects abnormal gene function that causes cancer and develops minimally toxic treatments for patients. Through the Foundation's collaborative group of world-class scientists, the Institute Without Walls, investigators share information and tools to speed the pace of cancer research. Since its inception in 1976, the Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation has awarded approximately \$90 million to support the work of more than 200 researchers across the globe. For more information visit [www.waxmancancer.org](http://www.waxmancancer.org)

### **About Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation (TNBCF)**

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 TNBCF. The Foundation's mission is to be a credible source for triple negative breast cancer information, a catalyst for science and patient advocacy groups, and a caring community with meaningful services for patients and their families. For more information about TNBCF, visit [www.tnbcfoundation.org](http://www.tnbcfoundation.org).

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