



## **TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW RESEARCH GRANT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (January 1, 2014)** – The Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation announced that it has awarded a research grant to J. Chuck Harrell, PhD and Charles Perou, PhD of the Lineberger Cancer Center of the University of North Carolina. The \$100,000 grant will fund Dr. Harrell’s work studying the role of angiogenesis, the ability of tumors to form blood vessels, in promoting the growth and spread of one subtype of triple negative breast cancer (TNBC).

“Understanding the ways in which triple negative breast cancers grow is crucial to improving our treatment for this disease,” said Hayley Dinerman, Executive Director of the Foundation. “We know that Dr. Perou has been a leader in identifying the different subtypes of breast cancer, and we are very pleased to support his work and that of a very promising young investigator in his lab.”

Dr. Harrell’s current work focuses examining how one type of TNBC, known as the claudin-low subtype, forms blood vessel-like structures. Harrell has found that the claudin-low cells are able to develop tube-like features that look and function like blood vessels. His goal is to identify the genetic programs responsible for forming these structures and then target them to see if chemotherapy or anti-vascular agents can block their activity. Depriving the cancer of its blood supply can stop its growth and ability to spread to other sites.

“We now know that there are several subtypes of TNBC,” said Harrell. “and that these blood vessel like features are characteristics of what is known as claudin-low type. By stopping these structures from forming, we can potentially stop the growth of these cancers.”

**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).

**Contacts:**

Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation:

Hayley Dinerman

201-259-1591

[hayley@tnbcfoundation.org](mailto:hayley@tnbcfoundation.org)