



LESLIE SIMON BREAST CANCER BREAKTHROUGH AWARD RECIPIENT SELECTED

Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation Announces New Research Grant

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (January 1, 2014) – The Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation (TNBC Foundation) announced that it has selected Mark Pegram, MD to receive its Leslie Simon Breast Cancer Breakthrough Award. The grant will provide \$100,000 to investigators in Dr. Pegram’s laboratory who are working to find targets for new therapies for triple negative breast cancer.

“Everyone in the triple negative breast cancer community understands the importance of identifying targeted therapies,” said Hayley Dinerman, Executive Director of the Foundation. “We are very pleased to support this innovative research which could be critical to improving the treatments, and most importantly, the outcomes for this sub-type of breast cancer.”

Dr. Pegram, director of the Breast Oncology Program at the Stanford University Women’s Center and co-director of the Molecular Therapeutics Program at Stanford, is an established leader in the field of translational research related to breast cancer and played a major role in the development of Herceptin to treat HER2 positive breast cancers. Triple negative breast cancers, however, do not over express the HER2 gene and lack receptors for the hormones estrogen and progesterone. As a result, current targeted therapies are not effective in treating this breast cancer subtype. A major goal of TNBC research is to identify specific abnormalities that drive the growth and spread of the cancer cells so that they can be targeted with new agents or drugs. Dr. Pegram and his team have discovered two novel proteins, NF45 and DKC1, that play a role in helping TNBC survive and are now testing possible therapeutic agents in mouse models.

“Our goal is to use this pre-clinical data as the basis for clinical trials, which will lead to new treatment options for women suffering from triple negative breast cancer,” said Dr. Pegram. “We are very grateful to the TNBC Foundation for their support.”

The Leslie Simon Breast Cancer Breakthrough Award is named for Leslie Simon, an exceptionally courageous spirit who lost her seven-year battle with breast cancer in 2006.

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.

Contacts:

Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation:

Hayley Dinerman

201-259-1591

hayley@tnbcfoundation.org