



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reprogramming Cancer Cells Provides New Approach to Treatments for Triple Negative Breast Cancer

Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation and Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation Team Up to Fund Joint Breast Cancer Grant

New York, NY, October 28, 2013 — New research into much-needed treatments for triple negative breast cancer will soon be underway with a new joint research grant from the Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation (SWCRF) and Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation (TNBCF).

The joint SWCRF/TNBCF grant will enable a collaborative team of scientists from New York City's Mount Sinai Medical Center and the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Miami to apply the principles of reprogramming to triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) cells. The research focuses on reprogramming nonfunctioning genes in triple negative breast cancer cells to make them more responsive to hormonal therapy and reduce their ability to metastasize. For this matching grant, each foundation will contribute \$50,000 per year for the next three years.

The research is particularly important since TNBC is a subtype of breast cancer so called because it lacks the receptors—estrogen, progesterone and human epidermal growth factor (HER2)—known to fuel most breast cancers. Most treatments today are aimed at these receptor cancers, and TNBC is more difficult to treat and often more aggressive.

“We are pleased to be collaborating with TNBCF on this important grant, because there is an urgent clinical need for new therapies for triple negative breast cancer,” said Jonathan Licht, M.D., Chief Scientific Officer of the SWCRF. “We share their drive to find new treatments, and to diminish the threat to women with this type of cancer.”

“We are honored to collaborate with the Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation on funding this innovative research that will hopefully lead to a successful treatment for triple negative breast cancer,” said Hayley Dinerman, Acting Executive Director and Co-Founder of TNBCF.

The collaborative team from Mount Sinai includes Samuel Waxman, M.D. (Founder and CEO of the SWCRF and a researcher at Mount Sinai), Ming-Ming Zhou, Ph.D., and Eduardo Farias, Ph.D. Arthur Zelent, Ph.D., is from the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Miami.

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 more than \$85 million to support the work of more than 200 researchers across the globe. For more information, visit 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.

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