



**Susan G. Komen
Research Grants – Fiscal Year 2014**

This research grant was approved by Komen's national board of directors for FY2014 Research Programs funding. This grant will be funded upon the execution of grant agreements between Komen and the grantee institutions.

Breast cancer in young women

Investigator(s): Ann Partridge, M.D.

Lead Organization: Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Grant Mechanism: KS

Grant ID: SAC100008

Public Abstract:

When young women are diagnosed with breast cancer, they are more likely to suffer both physically and emotionally than older women. Many prior studies have tried to evaluate the reasons for this in various groups of women, however there are rarely enough young women in any given study to learn about their unique issues. Recognizing that there are substantial limitations to the prior research, and especially given that most studies have not had enough 'young women with details regarding their disease, treatment, and medical and psychosocial outcomes, we started a large prospective study focused on young women with breast cancer. We have been asking women since 2006 to participate in this research in an effort to learn more about breast cancer in young women so that we can help to improve how they do in both the short and long run, both medically and emotionally. To date, we have enrolled over 1,000 women in our 8th year of the study and we have evaluated many issues using information provided by the women today regarding their disease presentation and characteristics; fertility concerns, surgical decision-making, and distress, coping, body image, and sexual functioning in the year after treatment. As the cohort matures, we will be able to evaluate later outcomes as well as evaluate for unique tumor biology and genetics of this large cohort of young women. To our knowledge, this is the only study of its kind and successful completion of this project will uniquely advance our understanding of breast cancer in young women and leads areas to target for intervention which will lead to reductions in breast cancer morbidity and mortality in this vulnerable population.