

# THE PEACHEY EFFECT

*The Official Newsletter of The Catherine Peachey Fund*



## **A Note of Gratitude from Stephanie Rufenbarger Leshner, Program Manager, The Catherine Peachey Fund:**

Friends, I am thrilled that in the second year of a pandemic, the Catherine Peachey Fund has been able to make a meaningful impact in forwarding breast cancer research in Indiana – and we've had fun along the way! I am also overwhelmed with gratitude for you, our supporters, and the continued trust that you put in us to be good stewards of your generous donations. You are the reason that we can continue our mission of funding research that is best positioned to move from the bench to the clinic. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Please enjoy the highlights of the research that we have funded in 2021, as well as a recap of our events. To follow us all year long, please visit [heroesfoundation.org](https://heroesfoundation.org).

## **What's Happening in Research**

### **Disparities in Genetic Testing: \$15,000 from the Catherine Peachey Breast Cancer Prevention Fund Endowment**

Led by Tarah Ballinger MD & Nawal Kassem MD, Indiana School of Medicine and Lisa Hayes JD, Executive Director Pink-4-Ever Ending Disparities, the disbursement will provide funding for statistical analysis and data presentation comparing rates of family testing in those testing positive for any pathogenic mutation in patients of black versus white race.

### **A Culturally Informed, Multi-theory Approach to Testing Messaging for a Future Intervention to Increase Black Women's Intentions to Participate in a Breast Cancer Clinical Trial: \$14,000**

Led by Kathi Ridley-Merriweather, MA, Communication and Minority Outreach Coordinator with the Susan G. Komen Tissue Bank at the IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center, this study will address the historical underrepresentation of black women in medical research and clinical trials.

### **Evaluating the Impact of Complex Extracellular Matrix Proteins Using a High-throughput Magnetically Actuated 3D Microtumor Environment for More Precise Breast Cancer Drug Screening: \$15,000**

Led by P.I. Luis Solorio, PhD, Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering at Purdue University, the objective of this work is to use their recently developed 3D drug-screening platform to evaluate the effect of the ECM biochemical composition and mechanical properties on metastatic breast cancer growth and cancer drug responsiveness.

### **Understanding the Role of Obesity in Facilitating Resistance to HER2-targeted Therapies: \$15,000**

Led by P.I. Mike Wendt, PhD, Purdue University Center for Cancer Research, the aim of this project is to investigate how STAT3 contributes to metastasis and development of drug resistance in obesity-associated breast cancer.

### **Susan G. Komen Tissue Bank Intern Program: \$10,000**

Led by Anna Maria Storniolo, MD, Indiana University School of Medicine, the Catherine Peachey Fund again provided full funding for the annual Komen Tissue Bank intern program.

### **Increasing the Tumor Penetration of Cancer Drugs to Improve the Treatment of Metastatic Tumors: \$45,000**

Led by Joseph Ipe, PhD, Indiana University School of Medicine to understand the factors that regulate how drugs penetrate tumors to help improve the effectiveness of many FDA-approved drugs.

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### What's Happening in the Community

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#### Wine Tasting With Peachey

On June 21st, Wine Tasting With Peachey, Uncorked by Bright Ideas, went virtual once again. But while we were apart – our community still came together, hosted porch parties, bid on auction items, and helped us raise \$35,000 for breast cancer research in Indiana. Thanks to our sponsors, donors, and participants for your continued support. We couldn't do what we do without all of you. Please plan to join us in person on **June 20, 2022** for next year's Wine Tasting With Peachey. Stay tuned for details on what we hope will be our biggest and best event yet.

#### Pink Out Games

In August and September, the Carmel High School and Guerin Catholic High School girls' soccer teams held their annual Pink Out games to raise awareness and support for the Catherine Peachey Fund. The games have become a beloved tradition for the players and their families. "It just reiterates how much cancer is a part of all of our lives. We all have been affected by it," said Stephanie Leshner, Program Manager. "These games are happening because people are so touched by the cause. They love someone who has suffered and they want to do something to help."



#### Evereve Shopping Event

On October 7th, the Catherine Peachey Fund held its annual shopping event at the Evereve store in Clay Terrace Mall. Shoppers were treated to champagne, chocolate, and other treats as they tried on the latest fall trends. Evereve generously donated 15% of sales from the event to the Catherine Peachey Fund. Thanks to Evereve and all who participated.



#### The Peachey Fund Featured In Podcast Episodes

The Heroes Foundation featured both Stephanie Leshner and Connie Rufenbarger in June and October episodes of their Summits Podcast. To hear their messages, along with many other episodes, tune in to the Heroes Foundation YouTube channel.

**To follow our research contributions and events all year long, please visit:**

**[heroesfoundation.org/projects/the-catherine-peachey-fund/](https://heroesfoundation.org/projects/the-catherine-peachey-fund/)**