

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, as we enter the holiday season, the Catherine Peachey Fund extends our warm gratitude to everyone helping us to forward breast cancer research in Indiana. This includes Peachey Fund supporters, volunteers, advocates, physicians and researchers, and everyone across Indiana who shares our passion and commitment to improving treatments, outcomes, and prevention of breast cancer. 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 the second half of 2022. To follow us all year long, please visit heroesfoundation.org.

What's Happening in Research



\$70,000: Male Breast Cancer Research at the IU Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center, Led by Hari Nakshatri, PhD, Anna Maria Storniolo, MD, and Josh Manghelli, DO

Relatively little is known about the biology of the normal breast in men, how cancer develops from very few cells of the breast, and what catastrophic genomic changes initiate breast cancers in men. Current treatments for male breast cancer are based on drugs that work on breast cancers in women. The Peachey Fund gift of \$70,000 will allow researchers to create an initial infrastructure to begin exploring this disease. This gift will be used for laboratory reagents to create cell lines, procuring patient tumors for animal studies, cost associated with procuring and maintaining animals, drug screening studies and partly support a technician to conduct these experiments.



\$45,000: Nakshatri Breast Cancer Breakthroughs Fund

The Catherine Peachey Fund provided Dr. Harikrishna Nakshatri, PhD, with the first philanthropic gift to his research, launching a career and research partnership that has led to scientific breakthroughs in understanding the normal breast, the drivers of triple-negative breast cancer, and the way breast cancer affects women of diverse racial and ethnic groups differently. The Catherine Peachey Fund is celebrating Dr. Nakshatri's election as a fellow of the American Associations for the Advancement of Science by creating a fund in his name, with an initial \$45,000, that will provide the same necessary philanthropic seed funding he received from Peachey to the research leaders of tomorrow.



\$3,000 Education Sponsorship: Pink-4-Ever Ending Disparities 2022 Breast Health Summit

The Pink-4-Ever Ending Disparities Breast Health Summit, held in Indianapolis, is two powerful days of engagement, education, and action toward the mission of eliminating breast cancer disparities for black women. The Summit brings together breast cancer survivors, caregivers, health care professionals, health policymakers, and other community members. Research is the driving force behind the Pink-4-Ever initiatives and the Peachey Fund is a proud ally in supporting their mission.

Program Spotlight



WOMEN'S GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE

Catherine Peachey Breast Cancer Research Award at the Women's Global Health Institute at Purdue University

In 2021, The Purdue Women's Global Health Institute (WGHI) and the Catherine Peachey Fund established a new research program that would support breast cancer research projects led by Purdue faculty. The program provides research funding annually.

Proposals from a variety of disciplines, proposals addressing prevention or early detection, and proposals having potential collaborations with clinicians or other collaborations outside Purdue are welcome. The funded project is expected to gather preliminary data to submit competitive applications to external funding agencies, or to seek support from an outside organization

(e.g., companies, foundations, etc.) for continuation of the research.

As in 2021, the Peachey Fund was so impressed with the proposal submissions that we elected to fund two projects again in 2022. Announcing our 2022 Catherine Peachey Breast Cancer Research Awards at the Women's Global Health Institute at Purdue University:



\$15,000: Early Breast Cancer Evaluation in High-Risk Subjects Using Advanced MRI Modalities, Led by Joseph V. Rispoli, PhD

Breast magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) has gradually become more available as a diagnostic tool for evaluation of treatment response, preoperative staging, tissue perfusion, and biopsy guidance. The aim of this study is to develop a comprehensive imaging protocol using both an in-house and a commercially available flexible coil to investigate the sensitivity and specificity of advanced MRI methods for early breast cancer detection in high-risk subjects with dense breast tissue or family history of breast cancer.



\$15,000: Targeting FGFR to Prevent Obesity-induced Metastatic Recurrence in Breast Cancer, Led by Michael K. Wendt, PhD

Fibroblast growth factor receptor (FGFR) signaling is suggested as a promoting factor in obesity-induced breast cancer recurrences. This study will utilize Wendt's newly developed mouse model to study the role of diet-induced obesity (DIO) on systemic breast cancer dormancy and metastatic outgrowth. Using this novel approach, they aim to investigate the role of FGFR signaling in obesity-mediated breakage of the tumor dormancy. Their long-term goal is to elucidate the molecular mechanism behind the crosstalk between obesity and breast cancer progression.

What's Happening in the Community



Many thanks to these organizations that are helping the Catherine Peachey Fund to forward breast cancer research in Indiana:

- Carmel High School Girls Soccer Team's 2022 Pink Out Game, benefitting the Catherine Peachey Fund (August)
- Guerin Catholic High School and Cathedral High School 2022 Girls Soccer Cancer Awareness Game, benefitting the Catherine Peachey Fund (September)
- Penn and Beech, Carmel, Scents for a Cause Fundraiser (October)

Save the Date: Wine Tasting With Peachey 2023

Wine Tasting with Peachey will be **Monday, June 19, 2023** at the Indiana Design Center in Carmel. We will again partner with Peace Water Winery to bring you our biggest and best event yet! We welcome anyone interested in supporting this event to contact Stephanie Leshar (slesher@heroesfoundation.org) to learn about sponsorship opportunities. 100% of our sponsor dollars are used to forward breast cancer research in Indiana. We also welcome silent auction item donations for additional fundraising. Cheers!

