

FEBRUARY 1, 2016

METASTATIC BREAST CANCER ALLIANCE CONVENED RESEARCH TASK FORCE MEETING IN DALLAS TODAY AIMED AT IMPROVING LENGTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH METASTATIC DISEASE

Dallas – February 1, 2016 – Metastatic breast cancer (MBC) is cancer that originated in the breast but has spread to other parts of the body, such as liver, lung, bones and brain. It causes >40,000 deaths every year in the U.S., a number that has remained unchanged for three decades.

This alarming fact is driving the advocate-led Metastatic Breast Cancer Alliance (“the Alliance”) to convene 60 experts from patient advocacy, academia, industry and government to discuss barriers in MBC research and possible solutions to better coordinate and accelerate research and translation to help patients sooner.

"As a person living with MBC each day, I'm grateful for the scientists and experts who have taken time out of their busy schedules to help guide the Alliance in the most thoughtful directions for MBC research," commented Shirley Mertz, President of the Metastatic Breast Cancer Network and Co-Chair of the Research Task Force.

Dr. Danny R. Welch, Professor and Chair of Cancer Biology at the University of Kansas Cancer Center noted at the start of the meeting that "My career has been focused on research on metastasis and putting an end to breast cancer. I have never seen as much energy, collaboration and excitement to work together - across academic, patient advocacy, industry and government sectors- as I have by working with this Alliance."

"As Co-Chair of the Alliance Research Task Force, along with Shirley Mertz, we've been working with these experts for the last eight months [by phone and webinar] discussing barriers to MBC research," said Stephanie Reffey, Managing Director, Evaluation and Outcomes at Susan G. Komen, today. "These prior meetings culminated in today's "Think Tank" in Dallas, where we are devising specific, actionable projects the Alliance can lead to accelerate MBC research."

In 2014, the Alliance released its *Changing the Landscape for People Living with Metastatic Breast Cancer* Report, which analyzed 224 clinical trials, 2281 funded research grants, 7900 MBC patient responses to surveys and 175 literature articles on quality of life and epidemiological studies.

"Our research of the scientific landscape found a number of gaps and challenges in lab research and clinical trials impeding progress in scientific research," said Chair of the Alliance, Dr. Marc Hurlbert. "After today, the Alliance's task is to now facilitate a cooperative effort to review the objectives from this meeting and develop actions that can be taken in the immediate term. Given the toll MBC takes on patients and their caregivers, we have a responsibility to waste no time acting on the direction from this important meeting."

Representatives at the meeting in Dallas included:

Advocate Nonprofits: Breast Cancer Research Foundation, BreastCancerTrials.org, Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation, Inflammatory Breast Cancer Research Foundation, Metastatic Breast Cancer Network, Patient Advocates In Research (PAIR), Research Advocacy Network, Susan G. Komen, Theresa's Research Foundation

Academic Institutions: Baylor College of Medicine, Broad Institute, Dana-Farber/ Harvard Cancer Center, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Institute of Cancer Research (UK), Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, NYU School of Medicine, Salk Institute for Biological Studies, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, University of California San Francisco, University of Kansas Cancer Center, University of Michigan, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, University of Southern California, University of Washington School of Medicine, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Government: U.S. Food and Drug Administration, National Cancer Institute

Industry: Eli Lilly and Company, Genentech, Novartis Pharmaceutical Corporation, Pfizer Worldwide Research & Development

About the Metastatic Breast Cancer Alliance

The Metastatic Breast Cancer Alliance is led by advocates and, since forming with 15 groups in October 2013, has grown to be the largest breast cancer alliance in the U.S. with 40 of the leading cancer charities, advocacy groups and individuals and pharmaceutical industry partners. The Alliance vision is to transform and improve the lives of people living with metastatic breast cancer. The Alliance's work focuses on three outcomes:

1. Advancing progress in scientific research
2. Increasing understanding of the disease and access to information and support
3. Building awareness of how metastatic disease differs from early stage breast cancer

More information about the Alliance is available at www.mbcalliance.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mbcalliance/>

Twitter: @mbcalliance #MBCResearch

YouTube: www.youtube.com/mbcalliance

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