



Susan G. Komen

Research Grants – Fiscal Year 2015

This research grant was approved for FY2015 Research Programs funding. This grant will be funded upon the execution of grant agreements between Komen and the grantee institutions.

Graduate Training in Breast Cancer Disparities at Lombardi Cancer Center

Investigator(s): Lucile Adams-Campbell, Ph.D.

Lead Organization: Georgetown University

Grant Mechanism: Graduate Training in Disparities Research Grants **Grant ID:** GTDR15330383

Public Abstract:

The primary goal of the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Center Komen training grant is to increase the number of formally trained breast cancer disparities researchers and to increase the pipeline of minority scientists, particularly African-Americans and Hispanics, in this field. Georgetown University currently has an Interdisciplinary Program in Tumor Biology which has now included a new track in Health Disparities with a focus in Breast Cancer (BCHD). The purpose of this track is to provide master level and doctoral level students an opportunity to receive formal coursework training in breast cancer related disparities along with their proposed research interest.

We plan to identify and select three students (at any one time) who will receive training until they obtain a masters or doctoral degree from Georgetown University or the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). We have partnered with UDC, a Historical Black University for more than a decade which has resulted in a joint program in Tumor Biology at Georgetown and Cancer Biology, Prevention and Control at UDC which to date has been successful based on our graduates.

All students in this program will be mentored by Dr. Adams-Campbell, a population-based scientist, in collaboration with one other mentor from the BCHD mentoring team, such as a bench scientist or physician scientist. The mentoring approach represents a team science approach and a framework for the better understanding of the breast cancer disease process and the mechanism or causes of the various outcomes. This approach also helps students to understand how normal healthy cells are changed in human cancer and how breast cancer may be treated and prevented specifically in minority populations.



In addition to the formal training in the classroom, students will be able to select a topic of interest. Below are some potential areas of focus on breast cancer disparities that students will work on during their training:

Black Women's Health Study of Breast Cancer etiology; Diet and Physical Activity in African American Breast Cancer Survivors; Obesity, Metabolic Syndrome and Breast Cancer Prevention in Black and Latina women.

The role of environmental exposures to metals in the development of obesity and breast cancer in minority populations.

Understanding breast cancer initiating cells (BCIC) in basal breast cancer of African American women.

Adjuvant Chemotherapy and Adherence among Black Cancer Survivors; Exercise intervention in Black and Hispanic breast cancer survivors.

Role of the BP1 homeobox gene in triple negative breast cancer; The role of the BRCC2 tumor suppressor gene in early onset breast cancer in Latinas.

Developing novel anti-cancer therapies for African American women with triple negative breast cancer.

