

## COVID-19 Action Fund Update

*“As I am not a year out since my last treatment for breast cancer, I had questions regarding COVID-19. The Helpline answered all my questions. This is a scary time for people.”*  
— Breast Cancer Survivor

In just the first four months of the pandemic, Komen’s Breast Care Helpline received requests for help from nearly 4,000 individuals. Thanks to generous donors like you, the COVID-19 Action Fund is helping us meet the urgent needs of the breast cancer community during this uncertain time. Thank you!

## Last Chance to Triple Your Gift



Thanks to the Matching Gift Challenge made possible by a generous group of donors and Komen’s long-time partner, Bank of America, you can still have your gift TRIPLED and support the important research that will lead to new treatments and cures. **Please send your gift by October 31** to take advantage of this amazing opportunity.

## Compassionate Storytelling Meets Real Inspiration and Support

Komen’s Real Pink™ podcasts feature candid conversations with survivors, researchers, physicians and more. Find answers to your toughest questions and clear, actionable steps to live a better life, longer.

Subscribe to *Real Pink* through your podcast app, or visit [realpink.komen.org](http://realpink.komen.org).

## Clinical Trials Lead to Research Breakthroughs

Your support helps people live longer!



We recently sat down with Dr. Sherene Loi, a former Komen Career Catalyst Research grantee, to learn more about the importance of clinical trials and a recent research breakthrough. Dr. Loi is an oncology professor and head of the Translational Breast Cancer Genomics and Therapeutics Laboratory at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Victoria, Australia.

**Komen:** Why are clinical trials so important?

**Loi:** All of our major medical advancements have come from clinical trials. Rigorous comparison of a new treatment against the standard therapy is the best way to get an unbiased evaluation if a new therapy is effective and safe.

**Komen:** What benefits can patients expect from participating in a clinical trial?

**Loi:** By participating in a clinical trial, patients are potentially getting access to a therapy that may work better than the standard of care. They also get a dedicated team of nurses, research assistants and doctors looking after them. It’s been shown that patients who are in clinical trials do really well because of that extra care. **And participants are contributing to the future of breast cancer research and potentially more cures.**

**Komen:** What breakthrough came from the HER2Climb clinical trial?

**Loi:** The HER2Climb study evaluated a new tyrosine kinase inhibitor called tucatinib in combination with capecitabine and trastuzumab versus a placebo with capecitabine and trastuzumab. Researchers wanted to know if tucatinib could slow tumor activity in brain metastases. The study showed the addition of tucatinib dramatically reduced the risk of disease progression, improving overall survival rates. **The risk of dying in this study was reduced by a third** if you received standard treatment plus tucatinib. This is a great result for breast cancer patients, particularly HER2-positive breast cancer patients who may have brain metastases as their only site of disease and have extremely poor quality of life. **The chance to live longer is a really meaningful result for patients.**

**Thanks to your generosity, Komen-funded work has played a role in every major breakthrough in the last decade. Help us do more by sending a gift today!**

**“All of our major medical advancements have come from clinical trials.” — Dr. Sherene Loi**

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KOMEN

FALL 2020

TOGETHER

Your support brings us one step closer to ending breast cancer



## Uyen Found Her Strength Facing Breast Cancer

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES LIFESAVING TREATMENTS POSSIBLE

Pursuing a career in epidemiology fit Uyen Do’s interests, but it didn’t prepare her for the personal experience of becoming a breast cancer statistic. One in eight women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime. For Uyen, that diagnosis came just after her 31st birthday.

“In 2008, I felt chest pains and something unusual in my breast. I really had no clue what would happen and was terrified.” Two weeks later, Uyen was diagnosed with stage II invasive ductal carcinoma.

Her treatment included a mastectomy, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, adjuvant hormonal therapy, surgeries and hospitalizations. The experience tested her beyond what she could’ve imagined, but also cemented her career path. Twelve years later, Uyen is a clinical project manager and strives to use her education and experience to lead and teach others.

(Uyen Found Her Strength, continued on p. 2)

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STAY CONNECTED



Thank you for standing with us during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month!



## President's Column

UNITED WE STAND!



Dear Friend,

In a year that has been unlike any other, I am so grateful that you have continued to stand with us in the fight to end breast cancer. Especially now, during **National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**, your commitment to stopping this devastating disease is needed and appreciated.

I hope as you read through this issue of *KOMEN TOGETHER*, you will be inspired by the courageous personal stories of Uyen and Kristin, and filled with hope while reading about the research breakthrough shared by Dr. Sherene Loi. It's because of you that Komen is able to support individuals throughout their breast cancer journeys and fund the kind of innovative research that will lead us to the treatments and cures we need.

To help us do even more, please take advantage of the exciting opportunity to have your gift **TRIPLED** by the Matching Gift Challenge made possible by a generous group of donors and Komen's long-time partner, Bank of America. **We can't do this alone!**

Breast cancer is the most common cause of cancer death for women ages 20 to 59 in the U.S. Please continue your support so we can give real help and hope to the mothers, sisters, aunts and friends who are depending on us.

With gratitude,

Paula Schneider  
President and CEO  
Susan G. Komen®

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**“I want to share my story because I want to provide hope to people in the same situation.”**

Your generosity gives hope to people like Uyen.

“Clinical therapies saved me from this deadly disease. I want to share my story because I want to provide hope to people in the same situation.”

Uyen is grateful for the support of family, friends and coworkers who helped her through the ups and downs of her breast cancer journey. Like so many other people whose lives have been touched by breast cancer, she found sharing her story with the people around her and in the Komen community helpful.

Thanks to your generosity, Komen is able to support women like Uyen throughout their breast cancer journeys. Millions of people each year visit [komen.org](http://komen.org) for accurate, evidence-based information or call the Komen Breast Care Helpline at 1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) for psychosocial support and assistance.

**“Strangely, I have always had an awareness of breast cancer, but I never thought that I could be one of its statistics.”**

— Uyen

## I SHOWED CANCER WHO'S BOSS!

With every donation, you're saving a life

by Kristin Moya

Without your generosity, I might not be where I am today . . . *alive!*

I know that because my life hasn't been anything like other 26-year-olds'. My “normal” life was interrupted on August 9, 2016, when I was diagnosed with stage I breast cancer at age 22. I was too young to have friends who had received a breast cancer diagnosis. But when I went on the Komen website, I found stories from other women who had courageously faced breast cancer. Even women my age. That's how I knew I could too!

**From their stories, I found my courage.** I vowed to reach the finish line and get the cancer out of me. Reaching that goal was easier said than done . . .

My cancer was progressing rapidly, so my doctors recommended an aggressive treatment plan, including chemo and a double mastectomy. Even in the two weeks that passed between my diagnosis and the first step — surgery to implant a chemotherapy port into my chest — the disease had spread to my lymph nodes. My cancer was now stage 2B.

You should know that I'm a very positive person. Even the prospect of losing my breasts didn't bother me. Going into chemo, my biggest fear was losing my nearly waist-length hair. I didn't want to be seen as “the sick girl.” I never really cried until I watched the first clump of hair swirl down the drain. By my 23rd birthday that fall, I was bald.

The treatments to raise my white blood cell count caused so much pain, I was ready to give up. I told my family it was time to let me go. The love and support of my family and friends helped me push through.

After eight rounds of chemo, a double mastectomy and a near-deadly staph infection, I still wasn't done. A PET scan after my mastectomy revealed I had thyroid cancer. But I was ready to fight that too. Nothing could compare to what I'd already been through.

Today, every scar on my body reminds me of how strong I am. It's a beautiful feeling to be alive!

**Thank you for donating to advance research and help us learn more about breast cancer. With every gift, you're helping to save a life just like mine.**



Kristin, age 26, is a two-time cancer survivor.

## There's Never Been a Better Time to Make a Planned Gift

**CARES Act expands tax deductions for charitable giving**

Have you been considering making an above and beyond gift to Susan G. Komen to help find the cures for breast cancer and help end this deadly disease once and for all?

**There has never been a better time to make your gift.** Due to the recent CARES Act, your special planned gift this year provides you with a greater tax deduction. In 2020 only, for those who itemize their deductions, the CARES Act allows for charitable contributions to be deducted up to 100% of adjusted gross income.

To learn more, or to get started, please visit [komen.planningyourlegacy.org/cares-act](http://komen.planningyourlegacy.org/cares-act).

