



ADVANCING MORE BREAKTHROUGHS

TOGETHER



**IMPACT
REPORT**

GRASPCANCER.ORG

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I was honored to participate in the very first GRASP Poster Walkthroughs session in 2019, and since then I've always participated when I attend a conference where sessions take place. Every single time, I learn a nugget that helps me understand the disease and my diagnosis more, as well as staying abreast of drugs that are coming so that I can make suggestions to my doctors.

**ABIGAIL JOHNSTON | METASTATIC BREAST CANCER PATIENT
ADVOCATE & GRASP ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER**

A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDERS



Dear Friend of GRASP,

We launched GRASP in 2019 based on the simple idea that cancer research can advance faster and better if the silos between patients and the scientific community are removed.

Since then, our organization has grown into a movement. In 2022, more than 600 people participated in our Poster Walkthroughs, which bring together a small group of people, including a scientist, an experienced advocate (mentor) and 3-4 patient advocates to discuss posters at cancer research conferences. Our reception at SABCS 2022 conference brought together over 100 people, including patient advocates, basic scientists, oncology clinicians, and industry members. We gave talks to international audiences, from Argentina to the Philippines. And we made in-depth connections, from GRASP Huddles that matched researchers with patient advocates to networking opportunities that created a pipeline for partnerships that will grow awareness for our mission, increase our financial capacity and enhance our programming.

We are encouraged by the change that we are seeing, as several organizations now recognize the power of collaboration between patients and scientists. GRASP is unique in bringing these groups together as equal partners – and, as women living with metastatic cancer, we could not believe more deeply in the mission.

We hope you too find inspiration in reading about our successes over the past year, and our plans for the future. One of the most exciting developments of 2022 has been the decision to strengthen our organization for meaningful growth.

This growth is possible thanks to our community – scientists and advocates alike – who have reached across the lab bench in an effort to make faster progress. We are grateful to you, as well as the donors, partners and team members who have worked to make GRASP a leader in the research advocacy space and recognized across the world.

Thank you for your commitment. As new frontiers emerge in cancer research, we are spurred on by the knowledge that our efforts will save lives. Together, let's honor the contributions of patient



advocates who have gone before us by partnering to advance more breakthroughs!

With warm regards,

Christine Hodgdon & Julia Maués
Co-Founders

MEET OUR TEAM



Christine Hodgdon
Co-Founder



Julia Maués
Co-Founder



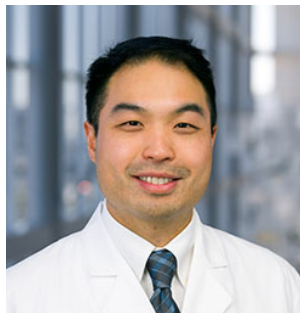
Marlena Murphy
Program Manager

GRASP BOARD OF ADVISORS



ADVOCATE

Beth Burnett
MBC Alliance



SCIENTIST

Isaac Chan, M.D., Ph.D.
UT Southwestern



ADVOCATE

Debbie Denardi
Independent Patient Advocate



ADVOCATE

Abigail Johnston, Esq.
Independent Patient Advocate



SCIENTIST

Corrie Painter, Ph.D.
Precede Biosciences,
Count Me In



SCIENTIST

Hillary Stires, Ph.D.
Friends of Cancer
Research



ADVOCATE

Jasmine Souers
The Missing Pink
Breast Cancer Alliance



ADVOCATE

Stephanie Walker
Independent Patient Advocate

WHO WE ARE



OUR MISSION

Changing how we approach science, so we can change lives.

Our patient-led program connects and empowers patients, clinicians, and researchers to exchange ideas and learn from each other – so we can drive more meaningful and fundable research and make faster progress to improve treatments that will end cancer.

GRASPCancer.org/About

OUR PLEDGE

Committing to an **#InclusionPledge** to eliminate barriers in cancer care.

GRASP pledges not to participate in any advocacy initiatives – from panels and advisory boards to planning committees and programs -- that fail to include the experience of people of color.

OUR PROGRAMS

Connecting advocates & cancer researchers to advance breakthroughs.

As a diverse and growing network with a shared vision, we work in three main ways to break through siloes so patients, clinicians and researchers can learn from each other.

POSTER WALKTHROUGHS

Learning exchanges between scientists & advocates at conferences

HUDDLES

Freestanding discussions about cancer research & patient experiences

NETWORKING

Opportunities for scientists & advocates to connect

GRASP provides a welcoming space where one isn't kept in the box of patient, or the box of researcher. It's about building community to collectively make progress.

TRACI BETHEA, PHD | ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
LOMBARDI COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

GRASP RECEPTION AT THE 2022 SAN ANTONIO BREAST CANCER SYMPOSIUM



CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN PATIENTS, SCIENTISTS & CLINICIANS

BY BOB RITER
MALE BREAST CANCER PATIENT ADVOCATE



The GRASP Reception at the 2022 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium was, above all, a celebration. On an immediate level, it was a celebration of seeing friends, in person, after nearly three years of pandemic-related isolation. On a deeper level, it was a celebration of GRASP's mission and what it has accomplished in such a short time.

Attendees included breast cancer advocates, scientists, and clinicians. That, by itself, is



somewhat unusual for a social event at a scientific conference, but what especially stood out was

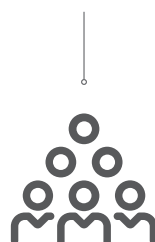
the sense of equity in the room. We were all equal partners. It wasn't an event for advocates or an event for scientists. It was an event that celebrated the partnership between the two. Phrases that I kept hearing throughout the evening were, "You should meet ..." or "Let me introduce you to ..." Many advocates and researchers have an interest in a specific type, treatment for, or situation relating to breast cancer, but we almost never have the opportunity to meet one another – in person - with similar interests. In my case, I was introduced to two groups of researchers interested in male breast cancer. Similar conversations were taking place all around me.

This was the first GRASP reception, but the many smiling faces suggest that it won't be the last.

COMING TOGETHER

The GRASP reception at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium brought together patients, clinicians and researchers.

Around
80
ADVOCATES
IN ATTENDANCE



Around
60
SCIENTISTS
IN ATTENDANCE

POSTER WALKTHROUGHS



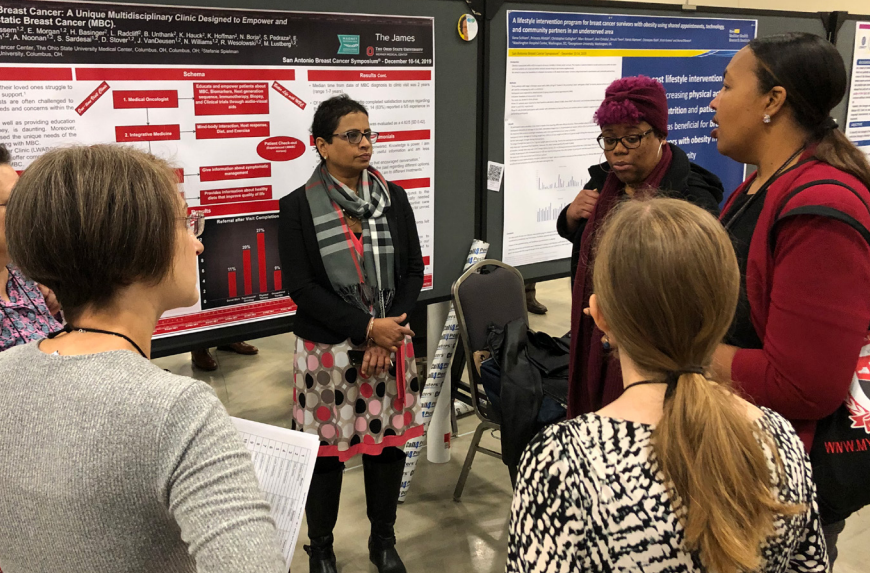
EXPLORING SCIENCE & EXCHANGING IDEAS, ONE EXPERT TO ANOTHER

GRASP's Poster Walkthrough program helps advocates better understand the science behind the latest cancer research presented at scientific conferences, while offering researchers the opportunity to hear from another group of experts – patients themselves. Each small group session matches a scientist with an experienced advocate mentor and 3-4 patient advocates to explore scientific posters being presented at a cancer research conference. Our Poster Walkthroughs were held at four major conferences in 2022.



BY THE NUMBERS	JUNE 2022 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO®) Annual Meeting	SEPTEMBER 2022 Metastatic Breast Cancer Research Conference	NOVEMBER 2022 Metastasis Research Society Biennial Congress	DECEMBER 2022 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium
ATTENDEES TOTAL	187	117	90	213
ADVOCATES	97	55	47	104
MENTORS	33	21	16	40
SCIENTISTS	33	21	16	39
POSTER AUTHORS	24	20	11	30

WHAT PARTICIPANTS ARE SAYING



The interaction between the researchers, clinicians and patient advocates in my session was incredible. We all learned from each other. The poster author said, 'Oh, I never thought about that,' and the clinician said, 'I learned so much today.' For us patient advocates, just to be able to participate in clinical trials or research was exciting.

DEBBIE DENARDI
BREAST CANCER PATIENT ADVOCATE

We have talked for so long about the importance of bidirectional engagement between scientist and patients. GRASP actually made such meaningful interactions possible in multiple scientific venues. With each event, I have been enriched in so many ways as a scientist and a clinician, learning so much through these conversations with patient partners.

MARYAM LUSTBERG, MD
DIRECTOR OF THE BREAST CENTER, CHIEF OF BREAST MEDICAL ONCOLOGY, YALE CANCER CENTER



Working with GRASP has helped me identify research priorities and develop research questions that are relevant and important to patients. Young researchers in my lab have also benefited incredibly by the feedback from patients and researchers during the GRASP Poster Walkthroughs.

MEENAKSHI ANURAG, PHD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DAN L DUNCAN COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER,
BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



HUDDLES

SHAPING CANCER RESEARCH THROUGH PATIENT VOICES

GRASP Huddles are freestanding, in-depth discussions about cancer research and patient experiences. Each Huddle matches a researcher with a mentor and 4-5 patient advocates who have first-person experience in a specific area to explore a research project. Several of our Huddles were held in 2022, providing patient perspectives that can help researchers shape projects while keeping advocates up to date on what's coming in the research world.

MARCH 2022

Heather McArthur, MD

UT Southwestern



Dr. McArthur explored data from the PEARL trial, which measured the feasibility and efficacy of combining pre-operative pembrolizumab with radiation therapy in early-stage triple-negative breast cancer.

JULY 2022

Senthil Damodaran, MD

MD Anderson

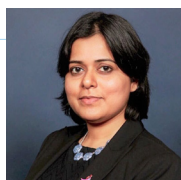


Dr. Damodaran examined an open-label, phase 2, multicenter study of lasofoxifene combined with abemaciclib for treating pre- and postmenopausal women with locally advanced or metastatic ER+/HER2- breast cancer and an ESR1 mutation after progression on prior therapies.

JULY 2022

Meenakshi Anurag, PhD

Baylor College of Medicine

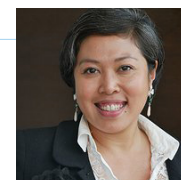


Dr. Anurag discussed a study on a gene co-expression network analysis revealing a male breast cancer-specific transcriptional module.

JULY 2022

Carmela Caballero, MD

BIG Against Breast Cancer



Dr. Caballero and the advocates explored patient perspectives on the omission of surgery for selected early-stage breast cancer.

JULY 2022

Traci Bethea, PhD

Georgetown University
Lombardi Comprehensive
Cancer Center

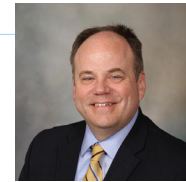


Dr. Bethea presented some of her work and preliminary data, including a feasibility study of exposure to environmental chemicals among Black and Hispanic breast cancer survivors, using silicone wristbands for passive sampling; a pilot study of personal care product use and exposure to environmental chemicals among these populations; and a trial on the effect of culturally tailored, internet-delivered cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia in Black women who are cancer survivors.

JULY 2022

Matthew Goetz, MD

Mayo Clinic

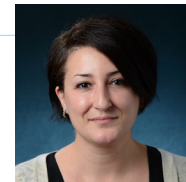


Dr. Goetz examined a scientific poster based on data from the ELAINE 1 study that measured the efficacy of oral lasofoxifene versus intramuscular fulvestrant for the treatment of postmenopausal women with metastatic ER+/HER2- breast cancer with an ESRI mutation.

OCTOBER 2022

Jessica L. Christenson, PhD

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus



Dr. Christenson and patient participants discussed her project on preventing metastatic outgrowth by targeting paracrine interactions between breast cancer metastases and the lung epithelium.



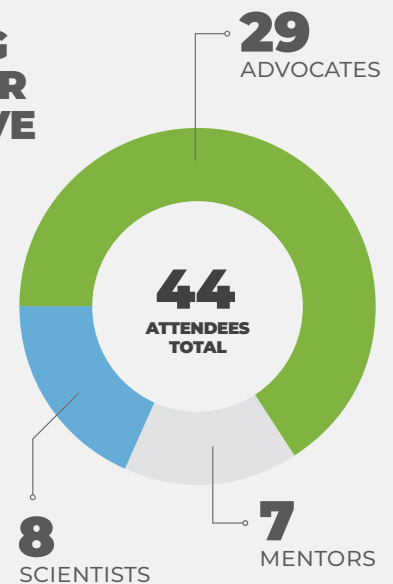
GRASP Huddles are an amazing opportunity for me to talk about, ‘Here are my ideas. What do you think? What’s useful?’ Participants’ insight has been awesome and really helped me hone in on some of my research ideas.

TRACI BETHEA, PHD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF
ONCOLOGY GU LOMBARDI
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER



BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS FOR PATIENT-INCLUSIVE RESEARCH

Participation in GRASP Huddles more than doubled in 2022, laying the groundwork for ongoing collaborations that can support future cancer research projects and grant funding applications.





NETWORKING

MAKING CONNECTIONS THAT ACCELERATE CANCER RESEARCH

GRASP's networking service connects scientists and advocates, based on their interests, expertise and experience, drawing on our database of members and a passion for amplifying work that holds promise. In 2022, our team worked to raise awareness for our patient-led program, with the goal of expanding our rich network and educating more people on the power of including patient voices in cancer research.

GRASP AROUND THE WORLD

FEBRUARY 2022

Dallas, TX | University of Texas
Southwestern Medical Center

GRASP co-founders Julia Maués and Christine Hodgdon visited the lab of Dr. Isaac Chan, a medical oncologist and researcher at UT Southwestern Medical Center, and met with every member of his lab for one-on-one discussions about their career goals. A member of our Advisory Board, Dr. Chan has become a very important partner and ensures that GRASP's patient advocates are prominent voices in his lab.



GRASP Co-founders with members of the Chan Lab

APRIL 2022

The Rising Tide Foundation for Clinical
Cancer Research



RISING TIDE[®]
Foundation for Clinical
Cancer Research

Before launching a request for proposals for research projects on cancer-related pain, this international foundation sought patient input on which clinical research topics could make the greatest impact. GRASP brought together a group of patients to interview people in their community, and present their findings to help Rising Tide prioritize topics related to chronic pain management.

SEPTEMBER 2022

Atlanta, GA

Georgia Tech, Wallace A. Coulter

Department of Biomedical Engineering

GRASP Program Manager Marlena Murphy visited the lab of Dr. Ahmet F. Coskun at Georgia Tech to learn about his work with triple-negative breast cancer cells. A systems biotechnologist and bioengineer, Dr. Coskun harnesses multiplex imaging to increase the scientific understanding of the biology of single cells.



What happens when @KalinskyKevin connects @ahmetfcoskun with GRASP's own @MarlenaDM? She visits @ahmetfcoskun's lab, looks at TNBC cells and takes pictures of shrimp eggs under microscope. #ILoveBeingAnAdvocate



9:27 PM · Sep 30, 2022



The 6th Southeast Asian Breast Cancer Symposium 2022
VIRTUAL FORUM

SEPTEMBER 2022

Manila, Philippines

Southeast Asian Breast Cancer Symposium (SEABCS)

GRASP co-founder Julia Maués joined this annual gathering of cancer survivors, patient advocates, health professionals, researchers, and policy makers and gave a virtual presentation with the international breast cancer community on the importance of involving patient advocates in cancer research.



Attendees of the 2022 MRS Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina

NOVEMBER 2022

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Metastasis Research Society Biennial Congress (MRSBC)

GRASP was honored to support the 2022 meeting of this international society, with our Co-founder Christine Hodgdon and Board Member Debbie Denardi attending to give a talk to researchers from several countries on the importance of involving patient advocates in cancer research.



EDUCATION

TRAINING OUR COMMUNITY & REACHING OUT TO THE NEXT GENERATION

GRASP is committed to giving our patient advocates the tools to effectively elevate their voices in a safe and supportive community – and to inspiring a new generation of scientists to search for innovative cures that are informed by patient voices and experiences. In 2022, we laid a foundation for work that we are excited to further nurture in coming years.

OUR LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS IN 2022



APRIL 2022

Digital Privacy Webinar The Light Collective

As a 501c3, The Light Collective was founded by a team of patient activists, coders, health experts, and data journalists in the wake of the Cambridge Analytica data breach to represent the rights, interests, and voices of patient communities in healthcare technology. Through this joint webinar, GRASP members were educated on the digital rights and data privacy of vulnerable patient groups seeking safe spaces for patient support communities on social media.

MAY 2022

Classroom Outreach Melissa B. Davis, PhD

Dr. Davis, who serves as Scientific Director of the International Center for the Study of Breast Cancer Subtypes at Weill Cornell, talked to a ninth grade Honors Biology class at Global Impact STEM Academy in Fairburn, Georgia about her background and research relating to triple-negative breast cancer. Dr. Davis's expertise includes social and biological factors in disparate health outcomes for cancer patients and TNBC-specific risk in African Americans.





LOOKING AHEAD

RAISING AWARENESS OF THE POWER OF PATIENT-INCLUSIVE RESEARCH

As our network continues to expand, we are seeing more organizations increase their focus on an inclusive research paradigm. Join us at an upcoming conference, and get involved in making meaningful connections and exchanges that can accelerate cancer research.

LOOK FOR GRASP AT THESE UPCOMING MEETINGS*

AUGUST 2023 – PARK CITY

Theresa's Research Foundation Metastatic Breast Cancer Research Conference (MBCRC)

FEBRUARY 2024 – SAN ANTONIO

Advancing the Science of Cancer in Latinos (ASCL) Conference

SEPTEMBER 2023 – PITTSBURGH

Advanced Breast Cancer (ABC) 7th International Consensus Conference

MAY 2024 – BERLIN

European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Breast Cancer

NOVEMBER 2023 – LISBON

International Invasive Lobular (ILC) Symposium

JUNE 2024 – CHICAGO

American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO®) Annual Meeting

DECEMBER 2023 – SAN ANTONIO

San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS)

*As of July 2023



GRASP is considering a program for Spanish-speaking patient advocates and researchers to build up this shared community in other countries.

DEBBIE DENARDI

GRASP ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER & BREAST CANCER PATIENT ADVOCATE





IN MEMORIAM

HONORING THE MEMORY AND LEGACY OF ADVOCATES WE HAVE LOST

The emblems below were awarded to posters of distinction at conferences where GRASP held Poster Walkthroughs in 2022. Even as we advance breakthroughs together, too many advocates who have become cherished colleagues and collaborators in the patient-inclusive research movement have run out of time. We are committed to honoring their legacies and memories as we continue to work together to make faster progress towards ending cancer.

American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO®) 2022



Brian "Redz" Anderson



Kemisha Brown



Tiffany Foust



David E. Glenn



Monica Hill



Sherone Jones

Metastatic Breast Cancer Research Conference 2022



Erica Griffiths



Theresa Newby Harpole



Bob Holden



Amy Foster



Elaine Prejean



Carol Sarnese

Metastasis Research Society 2022 Biennial Congress

San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS) 2022



Grace Evelyn Johnson



Marina Kaplan



Leigh Pate



Kathryn Petrides



Barbara Shanahan



Briana Sykes

FUNDERS & PARTNERS



YOUR DEDICATION & GENEROSITY FUELS OUR MOVEMENT

GRASP programs and growth are made possible through the ongoing support of our funders and partners, who share our belief in the importance of patient-inclusive research to drive faster progress toward cures for cancer.

WITH THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS



**Karen
De Fiebre**

sanofi

Seagen®

Genentech
A Member of the Roche Group

 **GILEAD**

Lilly | ONCOLOGY

WITH THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

- ABC Global Alliance
- Advocate Collaborative
- American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO®)
- Breastcancer.org
- The Chan Lab
- Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation
- Chrysalis Initiative
- COR2ED
- De-Bi
- European Society for Surgical Oncology (ESSO)
- For the Breast of Us
- Kidney Cancer Foundation
- KRAS Kickers
- Living Beyond Breast Cancer
- Lobular Breast Cancer Alliance (LBCA)
- The Lee/Oesterreich Laboratory
- The Light Collective
- LUNGevity
- Metastasis Research Society (MRS)
- Metastatic Breast Cancer Alliance
- The Missing Pink Breast Cancer Alliance
- National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCCS)
- OncoAlert
- The Patient-Centered Dosing Initiative
- Patient Power
- PeerView
- Project Life
- Rising Tide® Foundation for Clinical Cancer Research
- San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS)
- Theresa's Research Foundation
- Tigerlily Foundation



GET INVOLVED

JOIN THE MOVEMENT TO ADVANCE MORE BREAKTHROUGHS

Not a GRASP member yet? Join us in the effort to break silos between the different groups involved in cancer research. Sign up today to join our network and get access to upcoming events – along with opportunities to connect with researchers, advocates and partner organizations in your fields of interest.

[GRASPCancer.org/Join-us](https://grasp.org/Join-us)



Click to Join our Network!



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