The difference between caring and curing is you.

Since its inception, Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation (LSCRF) has raised nearly $30 million to support innovative contributions to the understanding, research and treatment of breast cancer. Our administrative costs are less than 6%, so that there are more funds available for the research and education projects that we support. With each dollar donated, LSCRF’s fight to cure breast cancer continues. Each dollar donated makes a difference in advancing the understanding and standard of care of breast cancer. That difference is you.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Play for the Cure Golf Outing
Monday, June 16th, 2014
Westmoreland Country Club, Wilmette, IL

Summer Cocktail Party
Thursday, July 10th, 2014
Studio Paris, Chicago, IL

Fall Benefit Luncheon
Tuesday, October 14th, 2014
Hilton Chicago, Chicago, IL

Light the Way to Find a Cure
October, Chicago, IL

Check www.lynnssage.org or facebook.com/LSCRF for updates on these events or call 312.926.7133
Addressing a Disparity in Care for Chicago’s Women

The Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation (LSCRF) is proud to partner with Melissa Simon, MD, MPH, The George H Gardner professor of clinical gynecology and vice chair of clinical research in the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Preventive Medicine and Medical Social Sciences at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. For a period of three years, philanthropy from LSCRF will support expansion of Dr. Simon’s innovative patient care and education initiative which is designed to decrease significant breast cancer disparities for Chicago’s low-income, medically underserved women of color.

When research from the Sinai Urban Health Institute (SUHI) in Chicago demonstrated that African-American women die of breast cancer at a disproportionate rate, Dr. Simon and her mentor and colleague Steve Whitman, PhD, felt compelled to make a difference. The resulting “Helping Her Live” program focuses on medically underserved neighborhoods to provide routine mammography, follow-up of abnormal mammograms, timely cancer treatment, and patient care navigators to help narrow the gap in breast cancer care for women of color.

SUHI and Dr. Simon have designed and implemented community navigation initiatives in several racially/ethnically diverse communities, including North Lawndale, Humboldt Park and Garfield Park on the west side of Chicago; Chinatown; and suburban DuPage County. They have developed a variety of outreach methods, including workshops, community forums and health fairs, presentations to local churches, schools and food pantries, and the establishment of a hotline and referral system for women in need. To date, funding from LSCRF has supported the hiring of two additional community health educators (CHE)/navigators and expansion of the program into Chicago’s southwest side.

Since funding began in September, the team has been very active, conducting community workshops, participating in woman-to-woman outreach activities, and fielding calls through the newly established hotline and community partner referrals. During that time, 117 women were recruited to share demographic information and further the research effort. Of these women, 86% were 40 years old or older, 33% were African-American, 52% were Mexican, and 8% were Other Hispanic. 52% reported never having a mammogram or not having a mammogram in the past two years. 59% reported being completely uninsured.

Clients are assigned a CHE/navigator who provides assistance with scheduling (and re-scheduling when necessary) appointments, ensures the client attends her appointments, and provides support to the client to help her overcome any barriers that may stand in the way of her completing her mammogram. Finally, the navigator ensures that the client receives the results of her mammogram before the request can be closed. While seeking healthcare services can be frightening for anyone, these knowledgeable and compassionate navigators guide women through the entire process and help ease their stress along the way.

Dr. Simon expects recruitment and completed mammograms to grow steadily on the southwest side as the year continues.

“I am deeply grateful to LSCRF for taking a leap of faith to fund the type of work that is not confined to a lab, clinical space or clinical trial. This work is being conducted in the community—where the impact may seem less tangible to those who haven’t experience such a need—but where its importance is tremendous to those affected,” said Dr. Simon.

She hopes this important work will ultimately be replicated for other populations and areas of healthcare.

Dr. Simon has dedicated her impressive decade-long career at Northwestern to the noble mission of population health—that is, eradicating existing health disparities and providing every individual equitable opportunity to achieve health and well being regardless of background, religion, culture, race, ethnicity, and income. She recently received an endowed professorship at Northwestern University, a great honor in academia which demonstrates a respect and appreciation for her work and mission to improve the delivery of healthcare and patients’ engagement in the healthcare system.

She continued, “Because of the Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation’s funding, we are able to continue and improve this program, bolstering the range of women being helped. This social justice mission hits not only at the heart of my daily work, but also at the core of why I’m at an academic medical center like Northwestern, which encourages positive change and makes it a reality.”
Our Heartfelt Thanks

We extend our appreciation to the many benefactors who gave generously to the Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation in 2013.

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation’s (LSCRF) spring newsletter. As chair of LSCRF, I am so honored to represent the next generation of this accomplished group, which has become a renowned leader in the fight against an illness that still claims far too many lives. LSCRF has raised $30 million to support innovative breast cancer research, education and patient care initiatives, and, in 2015, we will celebrate our 30th anniversary. While $30 million in 30 years is a significant accomplishment, I am asking for your help…to allow us to accomplish much more for the many more that need us.

As much as LSCRF is a beautiful and touching story about life, loss, lasting friendships and love, it is also a flourishing business. We are in the business of raising money and affecting positive change. With an 18-year career in the investment business, I know about money, saving it, and using it wisely. My goals as chair are to keep our costs low, to continue to evaluate our bylaws and operating principles, to keep our board members actively engaged and participating in our mission, and to help elevate our board to national prominence by increasing our technological footprint.

While our mission remains the same today, the state of healthcare and research continues to evolve, and so must our approach. We must focus on building the LSCRF brand. How do we do that? Simply by raising as much money as we can and using every $1 to further the cause. Each $1 we raise helps Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, and the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University to bring more humane care to patients. More specifically, each $1 we raise helps the Lynn Sage Comprehensive Breast Center provide improved breast care services for more than 70,000 patients per year, regardless of health insurance status. Each $1 we raise provides seed funding for research initiatives that delve into risk factors, cutting edge research, potential prevention, and other questions regarding breast cancer. Each $1 we raise supports important community health initiatives like Dr. Melissa Simon’s. Each $1 that LSCRF donates to breast cancer research yields nearly $8 for the Lurie Cancer Center from the National Cancer Institute and other granting agencies. Each $1 we raise funds fellowships at Northwestern University in areas such as breast surgery, medical oncology and breast reconstruction to ensure that increasing numbers of patients will have access to professionals with advanced training in breast cancer treatment. In essence, every $1 you donate helps the collective Northwestern Medicine remain at the forefront of breast cancer care.

As chair, I am committed to a strong and disciplined focus on fundraising that will allow LSCRF to grow and, ultimately, make a difference in the lives of women and men impacted by this terrible disease. I hope you will join our cause and help us to make a meaningful difference. If you would like to make a gift today, please visit www.lynnsage.org or call (312) 926-4274.

Thank you,

Ashley Hemphill Netzky
Chair, Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation

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RESEARCH INITIATIVES

- Impact of Pin 1 and CDK Inhibition in Triple Negative Breast Cancer Migration
  Principal Investigator: Jacqueline Jeruss, MD, PhD

- Diet, Estrogen, and Breast Cancer
  Principal Investigator: Hong Zhao, MD, PhD

- The humanized mouse mammary fat pad for testing breast cancer prevention drugs
  Principal Investigator: Seema Khan, MD

- Killing Breast Cancer through “Death Induced by CD95R/L Elimination” (DICE)
  Principal Investigator: Marcus Peter, PhD

- Investigating the Mechanisms of CD44s Splice Isoform in Breast Cancer Metastasis
  Principal Investigator: Chonghui Cheng, MD, PhD

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

- Breast Cancer Treatment Handbook, 7th Edition
- Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University Lynn Sage International Travel Grant for annual Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium
- Fellowships in Pathology, Hematology/Oncology, Breast Surgery and Breast Imaging Fellowship

PROGRAM INITIATIVES

- Survivorship
- Addressing the Disparity of Care in Chicago Lawn Community