

# 100 Voices of Hope

A team of advocates, research physicians and laboratory scientists working toward the common goal of eradicating breast cancer—one voice at a time.

Fall 2009

vol. 2

## Progress Report

One hundred voices may soon be erupting into 100 cheers. Your funding has led to the identification of a potential new biomarker in the blood serum of women with advanced cancer. Dr. George Sledge and his research team reported that while verifying the presence of certain types of mRNA in the serum of women with advanced breast cancer, they were surprised find the molecule U6. “Without *100 Voices of Hope*, we simply would not have studied this m-RNA and U6 simply would not be known,” Dr. Sledge told a group of 35 at a September gathering.

The research team compared 20 serum samples from women with advanced breast cancer to a “control” group of 20 serum samples from women who have never had breast cancer. Drs. Hari Nakshatri and Ivan Mircea emphasized the critical role of this control group in research and the essential role it played in revealing U6, a small RNA. They were able to detect higher level of U6 RNA in the serum of cancer patients compared to serum from the “control” group. Until their discovery, U6 has never been known to play any role in cancer. “When we find something, it’s there for a reason,” Dr. Sledge explained. Continued research is necessary—not only to validate their initial findings, but to determine if chemotherapy affects the presence of these biomarkers in the serum of patients who are in remission. The team foresees clinical trials to target these biomarkers to potentially detect recurrence and enhance treatment for breast cancer.

For now, an additional 40 serum samples—half normal and half cancerous—will be used to duplicate the initial experiment to validate the presence of cancer-related microRNA and U6. If initial findings are confirmed, the group will publish their information so that it can be shared with researchers around the world, and apply for grant funding to continue their research using serum samples from women experiencing remission.

## 100 Voices in the News

You can check out the 100 Voices article in the IU Foundation magazine, *Imagine* on-line at [imagine.iu.indiana.edu/articles/fall09/100-voices-of-hope.html](http://imagine.iu.indiana.edu/articles/fall09/100-voices-of-hope.html) or if you would like a copy of the magazine, please email your request to Theresa Vernon at [tm5@iupui.edu](mailto:tm5@iupui.edu).

## 2009 Campaign Goal

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to all of the whispers, voices, and SHOUTS thus far. We are happy to report that we are one-third of the way to our campaign goal—we’ve raised \$30,000 to date! However there is much work to be done to meet our \$100,000 goal by year-end. 100 Voices of Hope has already made a difference. We have been instrumental in jumpstarting new research that is already showing incredible results. Won’t you help us meet our goal? **Don’t forget to renew your donation this year.**

1. Please make your check payable to IU Foundation/Breast Cancer Research and be sure to write “100 Voices of Hope” on the memo line. You can mail your check to: IU Simon Cancer Center, c/o IU Foundation, P.O. Box 660245, Indianapolis, IN 46266-0245.
2. Or visit our secure website at [cancer.iu.edu/giving](http://cancer.iu.edu/giving) and click the “give now” button. Click “Add to list” under the Breast Cancer Research listing and proceed to check out on the left side of the page. Be sure to write “100 Voices of Hope” in the comments box of this section.

Please mark your calendar for our final meeting of the year. Join us for a champagne toast and hors d'oeuvres as Dr. Sledge and members of his IU Simon Cancer Center research team share their new hunches for 2010. **RSVP to Theresa Vernon at (317) 278-2120 or [tm5@iupui.edu](mailto:tm5@iupui.edu) if you can attend.**

**Thursday, December 17, 2009  
6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Meridian Hills Country Club  
7099 Spring Mill Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46260**

*A special tribute to voices we have lost:*

Sophie Carmichael  
Cherri Colby  
Barb Kowlowitz  
Ellen Lorch



*For these women and their families,  
please help us continue working to  
eradicate breast cancer,  
one voice at a time.*



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