

# 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.

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## **Progress Report—2009 research project**

Last year, the goal of the research project funded by 100 Voices of Hope was to identify various micro-RNAs that relate to metastatic breast disease. Thanks to 100 Voices of Hope funding, the IU Simon Cancer Center researchers have reported that while indentifying three to four meaningful mRNAs in the serum of women with advanced breast cancer, they were surprised to find higher level of U6 mRNA 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. “Without *100 Voices of Hope*, we simply would not have studied this mRNA and the connection with U6 simply would not be known,” said Dr. Sledge.

At this point, the 2009 project is ahead of the iTRAC schedule set last spring, with an expected completion date of February 2011. Lead investigator, Dr. Hari Nakshatri, awaits the final 17 out of 100 samples to validate the initial findings. If initial findings are confirmed, the group will publish their information so it can be shared with researchers around the world, and teach them something never before known about cancer.

## **Progress Report—the new 2010 research project**

The goal of the 2010 research project is to optimize the meaningful microRNAs identified in the 2009 research project, specifically the U6 in relation to ER-positive and ER-negative breast cancers. The IU Simon Cancer Center research team hopes to determine the affects of treatment on these biomarkers. The team foresees clinical trials to target these biomarkers and to potentially detect recurrence and ultimately enhance treatment for breast cancer patients. By using the highly sensitive and quantitative method developed by Dr. Sapna Deo from the Department of Chemistry this method can measure mRNA in both tissues and serum. With this method, Dr. Deo will be able to link a probe to the U6 and measure quantitatively what role the U6 plays. Most importantly, this method can be immediately transferred to clinical diagnostic labs and can be performed by experienced technicians. As more and more cancer-related mRNAs are reported in the literature, the research team will develop specific probes for each of these mRNAs to ascertain whether it will be a relevant target for a potential treatment. An iTRAC schedule has been set with the first update meeting scheduled for July.

## **100 Voices of Hope Benefit Recital**

With the goal of funding a voice for her mother, Rebekah Alexander will be traveling from Boston to perform a benefit recital for 100 Voices of Hope. Please join us Friday, May 28, 8 p.m., at the Indiana Historical Society Basile Theatre for an evening of Hindemith, Brahms and Schumann as performed by Rebekah & friends. Suggested donation is \$10 at the door. Please help spread the word to make this 100 Voices of Hope event a success!

## Publication

The attached link is the article published in *BMC Systems Biology Journal* authored by IU researcher and 100 Voices of Hope team member, Yunlong Lui. In the article, Yunlong thanks 100 Voices of Hope for the gift to breast cancer research that made it possible to collect the data for his article.

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/qc/1752-0509/4/S1/S2>

## 2010 Campaign Goal

Over the past two years 100 Voices of Hope has raised a stunning \$235,000 for breast cancer research at the IU Simon Cancer Center. Already your contribution has made a difference in the lives of women with metastatic breast cancer. Won't you help keep the momentum going? Once again, we would like to fund yet another hunch in 2011 by raising an additional \$100,000 this year. **Ways to help:**

1. Invite friends to 100 Voices of Hope gatherings.
2. Send letters or emails to friends and family asking them to participate this year. We can provide a letter template for you as well as gift envelopes designated for 100 Voices of Hope.
3. Encourage 'whispers' by asking 10 friends or family members to donate \$100 to fund a voice in your honor or in honor of a loved one.
4. Host a luncheon to help get the word out. We will be sure an IU representative is at your event.
5. Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries or special events by asking friends to make a donation to 100 Voices of Hope in lieu of a gift.
6. Renew your gift! You can make your check payable to IU Foundation/100 Voices of Hope and mail to: IU Simon Cancer Center, c/o IU Foundation, P.O. Box 660245, Indianapolis, IN, 46266-0245. 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.

