

# 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.

Summer 2009

vol. 1

## 2008 Progress Report

Mary Beth Gadus, Mary Maxwell, Mary Murray, Dr. George Sledge and the IU Simon Cancer Center research team met on July 8 to discuss the findings of the first project funded by 100 Voices of Hope. Thus far, the research team has revealed 35 micro-RNA (miRNA) that are consistently circulating in breast cancer patients—21 of them are found in significant quantities. In particular one miRNA, called Mir-21, is found in estrogen-positive breast cancer patients. These miRNAs are now the focus of an investigation to determine if they are also present in blood samples of breast cancer *survivors*. If so, the presence of the miRNA may suggest that the cancer still exists in an individual when the disease is undetectable.

Based on this preliminary evidence, Dr. Sledge theorizes that if an individual were known to have microscopic disease, then a recurrence prevention protocol could be developed. His hope is that these findings result in a test for women who have completed treatment for breast cancer, allowing therapy to continue and potentially preventing another tumor from forming.

Dr. Sledge says the next step will be to obtain additional samples from the Komen Tissue Bank to find further evidence of these miRNAs.

## 2009 Campaign Goal

100 Voices of Hope has already made a difference. We have been instrumental in what soon could be potential treatment protocols. Our goal in 2009, is to find another 100 Voices to fund another research idea. Won't you help?

1. Renew your donation this year. Please pledge your gift by October 31.
  - o Voice: to become a voice you must be one of 100 people that donates \$1,000
  - o If you do not mean for a voice, you can recruit 10 friends to donate \$100 each to fund voice in your honor.
2. Send letters or an email to friends and family asking them to participate. We can provide a template letter as well as 100 Voices of Hope return gift envelopes.
3. Encourage 'whispers.' Find 10 friends willing to give \$100 to accumulate a 'voice' in honor of a person who cannot make the \$1,000 gift this year.
4. Host a luncheon, tea party, or cocktail party to talk to help inform your friends about 100 Voices of Hope. We will provide a 100 Voices representative, fundraising talking points, gift envelopes.
5. Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or events by asking friends to give to 100 Voices in lieu of gift.
6. Distribute 100 Voices of Hope brochures to friends and family members who might be interested.
7. Invite your friends to attend the September 100 Voices of Hope gathering. Let them become inspired too! So many people's lives have been touched by cancer.

Be sure to mark your calendar for our next meeting. We will hear Dr. Sledge and his IU Simon Cancer Center research team present the progress on our research project and share ideas on the new hunches for 2009. Please RSVP to Theresa Vernon at (317) 278-2120 or tm5@iupui.edu if you would like to attend. We encourage you to invite your spouse, sister, mother, friend—or anyone who might be interesting in hearing about our common goal.

**Monday, September 21, 2009**  
**6:30pm**  
**Springmill Medical Clinic**  
**200 W. 103<sup>rd</sup> Street**  
**Light refreshments provided.**

We would like to pay special tribute to the voices we have lost. It is this reason that we are working toward our goal to eradicate breast cancer, one voice at a time.

In memory of:  
**Sophie Carmichael**  
**Cheri Colby**  
**Barb Kowlowitz**  
**Ellen Lorch**



**INDIANA UNIVERSITY**  
MELVIN AND BREN SIMON CANCER CENTER