

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 2011

vol. 5

Progress Report

Since inception in 2008, not only have we successfully raised \$375,000 for breast cancer research at the IU Simon Cancer Center, but also we have funded four research projects! See the difference that we have made:

-  The first research project in 2009 focused on micro-RNA, or microscopic breast cancer markers that circulate in blood. By working on this project Hari Nakshatri, PhD, lead investigator, made the discovery that the micro-RNA, U6, was present in breast cancer patients. Dr. Nakshatri's findings are tremendous as researchers have never documented this discovery until now. Without the funding from 100 Voices of Hope this discovery would have never been made.
-  In 2010, 100 Voices of Hope allowed Dr. Nakshatri to confirm the presence of U6 in women with estrogen-sensitive breast cancer. Through this validation, Dr. Nakshatri has been awarded an additional \$368,000 grant from the National Cancer Institute to learn if U6 is produced by the cancer cell or changes the cell undergoes in the liver or lung. Ultimately he hopes that U6 can be a useful marker to determine more quickly presence of cancer.
-  This year, 100 Voices of Hope funded two research projects. The first focuses on identifying genes that will predict late recurrence of breast cancer. Breast tissue taken at the time of diagnosis will be compared with tissue from women who are taking hormonal therapies at five and 10 years out from initial diagnosis to determine which genes are involved in late recurrence.
-  The second project in 2011 focuses on 20 known proteins on the surface of triple negative breast cancer cells that may play a role in cell proliferation and survival. Each protein marker will be studied to determine which are the most active with the goal of developing drugs to knock them out.

Upcoming Event

Yoga Nidra Fundraiser, October 11, 6–9 p.m. Woodlawn Country Club, Indianapolis, IN

Last year, Mary Beth Gadus, Laura Hague and Carrie West hosted a yoga nidra event to kick-off the 100 Voices of Hope fundraising season. It was such a popular event, we've decided to hold another this year. The practice of yoga nidra (loosely translated "conscious sleep") is an extended period of deep purposeful relaxation. Yoga nidra incorporates breathing, visualization and stillness. The result helps the body heal physically, emotionally and mentally. Specific details to come, but be sure to save the date!

2011 Campaign Goal

This year let's try to reach the \$500,000! As you can see from the research updates, already your contribution has made a difference. Won't you help keep the momentum going? Please renew your gift today to help fund yet another hunch (or two!) that will make a difference in your life or in the life of someone you know.

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 www.cancer.iu.edu/100voices and click the "give now" button.

