



METAVIVOR

Metastatic Breast Cancer | Research | Advocacy | Support

2025 Annual Report



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Letter From the President

Kelly Shanahan, M.D.



Dear METAvivor supporters,

As someone living with metastatic breast cancer (MBC) since 2013 and who has been volunteering with METAvivor for most of that time, I am immensely proud of all we have been able to accomplish, especially in these uncertain times. I am so grateful to everyone who has supported us this past year, whether through fundraisers or donations, volunteering, or sponsoring programs.

2025 saw us clean up our internal processes with the help of our new administrative team, making us more efficient and responsive. Major kudos to our board members who led the revamping of our website – it is much more functional now, and I hope you'll check it out at metavivor.org.

We remain true to our mission and three major pillars: research, advocacy, and support.

Thanks to your support we were able to:

- Award \$3.55 million in research awards, across 4 categories: 3 Translational Awards at \$450,000 each; 1 Quality of Life award at \$200,000; 1 Advisor's Award at \$200,000; and 9 Early Career Awards at \$200,000 each. I am most excited about the Early Career Awards, as this can be the first big grant bright, young investigators receive, leading to larger grants, and encouraging them to stay in the field of metastasis research.
- Continue to strengthen our leadership in the policy advocacy space, joining coalitions such as One Voice Against Cancer. Our Stage IV Stampede brought people living with and impacted by MBC to Capitol Hill, where we advocated for policies to improve our lives.
- Continue to grow our peer-to-peer (P2P) support network, by training peer leaders, starting a virtual metastatic lobular MBC support group, and providing continuing education to our P2P leaders to enhance their ability to meet the needs of their groups.

MBC doesn't take a break, and neither do we. In 2026 we plan to continue to grow our network of supporters and donors. Look for a survey to gauge your interests so we can improve our newsletter, social media posts, and websites to provide the trusted content you want. We are excited to introduce our newest program R.I.S.E. – Reach. Inform. Support. Empower – a hybrid way to connect with underrepresented communities through in-person and virtual events, sharing the facts about MBC, updates on research we have funded, helping everyone advocate for the best care possible, and providing community.

We cannot do anything without you. On behalf of the entire METAvivor team, thank you. Together we are stronger, and together we will continue to work *until no one dies of MBC*.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly".

Kelly Shanahan, M.D.
President, METAvivor Board of Directors

About METAvivor



METAVIVOR

Metastatic Breast Cancer | Research | Advocacy | Support

METAvivor is dedicated to the specific journey of women and men living with stage IV metastatic breast cancer. METAvivor has always solely focused on funding research to benefit those whose breast cancer had already metastasized. While more and more people have taken up the cry for more metastatic breast cancer research, METAvivor's peer and patient reviewed research process continues to ensure rigorous evaluation and funding of the most promising ideas.

Executives

Kelly Shanahan, M.D.
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*Founder, Director Emeritus,
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Kimberly Luker
Judy Greiman
Sharon Anderson
Kate Watson
Wang Shein
AJ Veach

Scientific Advisory Board

Dr. Jill Bargonetti, PhD
*City University of New York (CUNY)
Graduate Center & Hunter College;
Weill Cornell Medical College*

Dr. Stuart S. Martin, PhD
*Greenebaum Cancer Center;
University of Maryland, Baltimore*

Dr. Danny R. Welch, PhD
*University of Kansas Medical Center;
NFCR Metastasis Research Center*



Vision

Our vision is to advance research and policy *until no one dies of MBC.*



Mission

Focusing exclusively on stage IV metastatic breast cancer (MBC), to improve the lives of people living with MBC by funding research, advancing federal policies through advocacy, and facilitating a community of peer-to-peer support.

2025 Research Grants

Translational Awards	Institution
Characterizing the TME and SEMA7A Expression in TNBC Metastasis to Improve Targeted Therapy	Tracy Lyons University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Leveraging Normal Lung Cells to Fight Metastatic Breast Cancer	Jessica Christenson University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Quantifying and Controlling Tumor Cell Re-Dissemination in Metastatic Breast Cancer	David Entenberg Albert Einstein College of Medicine

QOL Awards	Institution
Phase 2 Study of ctDNA-Guided Temporary Treatment De-Intensification in Exceptional Responders with Metastatic Breast Cancer	Ilana Schlam Dana Farber Cancer Institute - Harvard Medical School

Advisors Award	Institution
Mitochondrial tRNA Fragments as Modifiers of Metastasis	Danny Welch Department of Cancer Biology, Kansas University Medical Center

2025 Research Grants, Contd.

Early Career Awards	Institution
Targeting Neuronal Dopaminergic DRD4 Signaling in Brain Metastatic Breast Cancer	Jonathan Barra Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Targeting eIF4A to Treat TNBC Liver Metastases	Na Zhao Baylor College of Medicine
Mapping and Modulating the Brain Tumor Microenvironment (TME) to Unlock Therapeutic Potential in Breast Cancer Brain Metastases (BrMets)	Maxine Umeh-Garcia UC Davis
Improving Anti-PD1 Efficacy by Activated T Cell-Derived EVoids in Metastatic Breast Cancer	Mengying Hu The Ohio State University
Blocking Axon Injury Signaling to Prevent Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy	Jorge Gomez Deza Temple University / Fox Chase Cancer Center
Targeting the Tumor Secretome to Reverse Immune Exclusion in Breast Cancer Liver Metastases	Michelle Williams University of Pittsburgh
Next-Generation Exosome Vaccines for Treating Metastatic Breast Cancer	Hua Wang University of Illinois
1523: Biomarker-Driven Approaches to Optimize Craniospinal Irradiation for Breast Cancer Leptomeningeal Disease	Stephanie Yoon City of Hope
Sacituzumab Tirumotecan to Treat Patients with Brain Metastases from Triple-Negative Breast Cancer – BERLIN Trial	Kahn Adriana Yale University

Advocacy

→ Groundswell 2025

METAvivor was thrilled to hold its second annual GroundSwell virtual advocacy event in February. Over a two-week period, over 100 METAvivor advocates from around the country participated in advocacy conversations with Members of Congress, educating them about MBC and the unique needs and realities of those living with the condition. This spring advocacy event, held in the first months of a new Congressional session, offered the perfect opportunity to educate new Members of Congress about MBC, foster connections to Hill offices and among advocates, and lay the groundwork for our fall Stampede Hill Day in October.

78 Congressional Meetings	76 Attendees
17 States Represented	100% Meetings confirmed
Stampede Overview • 78 confirmed meetings • 100% meetings confirmed • 76 attendees • 17 States represented • 30 Senate meetings • 48 House Meetings • 58 Democrat offices • 20 Republican offices • 0 Independent offices 	

→ Stage IV Stampede & Summit 2025: Elevating the MBC Voice

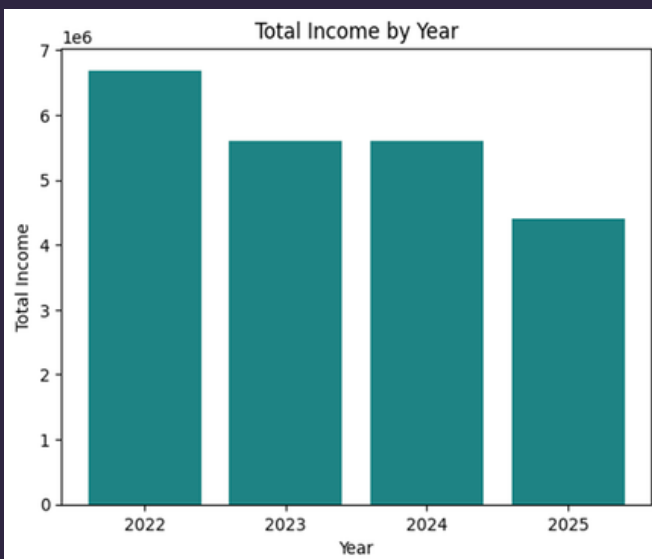
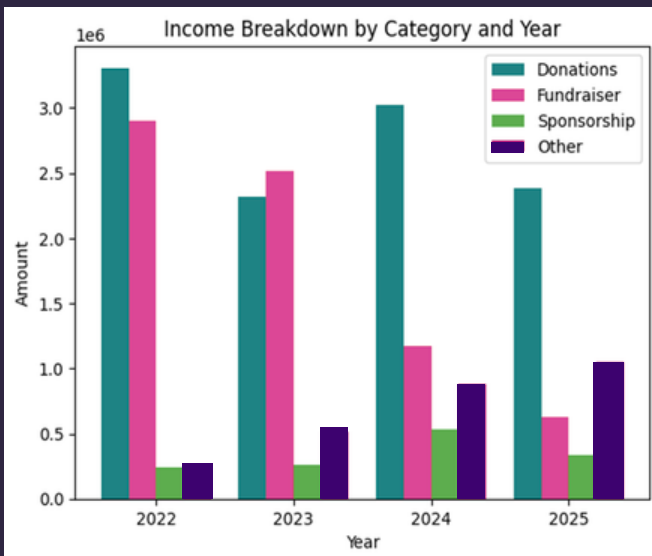
Despite a government shutdown, METAvivor advocates from around the country came to Washington, DC for two days of learning and advocacy in early October at the Stage IV Stampede & Summit. Advocates marched down Independence Avenue to Capitol Hill, joining forces with others from their states to meet with Members of Congress and their staff. The Hill Day was a tremendous success, featuring 78 congressional meetings with offices from both sides of the aisle and representation from 17 states. Voices of MBC patients, caretakers, and loved ones both informed and inspired lawmakers and their staff to support legislation that would improve patient access to care and increase financial support.

→ Advocacy Partnerships

In 2025 METAvivor deepened our engagement with partners in the cancer, patient advocacy and provider communities. As a steering committee member for the newly formed Alliance for Breast Cancer Policy coalition, and with new memberships in the One Voice Against Cancer Coalition and the Ad Hoc Group for Medical research, METAvivor is amplifying the perspective of those battling MBC, and joining forces with diverse partners to ensure that we present the strongest possible voice for patients, caregivers and families.

Income

While the broader philanthropic environment has seen a general decline in foundation giving, we are proactively adapting our strategy to ensure continued growth and sustainability. We are expanding our focus to include private grant opportunities, strengthening corporate partnerships, and increasing investment in year-round digital fundraising campaigns to diversify revenue streams and better engage our donor community.



2022

→ \$6,687,570.41

2023

→ \$5,607,707.28

2024

→ \$5,606,936.99

2025

→ \$4,396,380.50

Strategic Planning



PILLAR | RESEARCH

Guiding Principle

Prioritize innovative and patient-centered approaches that focus on improving quality of life, extending survival, and advancing understanding of the unique biology and treatment challenges of metastatic disease.

Outcome

Improved treatments, extended survival, and enhanced quality of life for stage IV metastatic breast cancer patients.



PILLAR | ADVOCACY

Guiding Principle

Amplify patient voices to drive equitable access to care, promote policy changes that prioritize research funding for MBC, and ensure support for the unique needs of metastatic patients.

Outcome

Equitable access to care, increased MBC research funding, and policies that address the unique needs of metastatic breast cancer patients.



PILLAR | SUPPORT

Guiding Principle

Foster a compassionate and inclusive community that provides emotional, practical, and peer-to-peer support tailored to the unique challenges faced by patients and their families.

Outcome

A strengthened community where patients and families feel supported, empowered, and connected, improving their overall well-being and resilience that leads to growing our network of peer-to-peer support groups.

METAvivor 2.0

In 2025, we introduced a fully redesigned website focused on accessibility, clarity, and impact. With streamlined navigation, a modern, user-friendly design, and a broader range of resources, the new platform better supports our community and strengthens how we connect with donors, partners, and those we serve. Click below to visit metavivor.org.

[Visit Our New Site](https://metavivor.org)



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