



METAVIVOR

Metastatic Breast Cancer | Research | Advocacy | Support

Increasing Research Funding for Metastatic Breast Cancer

REQUEST

METAvivor urges Congress to:

- Provide the **National Institute of Health (NIH) with at least \$51 billion in funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027.**
- Fund **Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) with \$1.5 billion for FY 2027.**
- Restore **\$150 million in funding for the Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program** within the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, and continue to include “metastatic cancers” as a condition eligible for study through the Program.

WHY WE'RE HERE

Metastatic breast cancer (MBC) is stage IV breast cancer that has spread beyond the breast to other parts of the body. It is a treatable terminal diagnosis, but it is not curable. People with MBC face unique challenges in accessing timely, affordable, and effective treatment.

- 168,000 women in the U.S. are currently living with MBC, and 2,670 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2026.
- This year, 42,140 women and 530 men will die from MBC.
- Only 32% of people diagnosed with MBC live longer than 5 years.

MEETING AN URGENT NEED

Every 12 to 13 minutes someone in the United States dies from breast cancer.

Almost all breast cancer deaths are from Stage IV (metastatic) breast cancer. Science has yet to discover the reason cancer metastasizes, and we don't have effective treatments to permanently arrest metastatic growth.

The biggest obstacle is lack of funding: from 2014 to 2020, only 13% of all breast cancer research dollars were devoted to MBC research.

In 2025, it is estimated that over **316,000 Americans were diagnosed with breast cancer.** Only about 6% of diagnoses are Stage 4 MBC *at the time of diagnosis.*

An estimated 30% of all people with early-stage breast cancer will eventually go on to develop metastatic breast cancer.

Scientists know that research specifically focused on metastasis is crucial to significantly reduce the breast cancer mortality rate.

Investing in metastatic breast cancer research is the **ONLY PATH** to saving lives. With dedicated funding, we can unlock the science of metastasis, develop effective treatments, and give patients more time with their families.

We urge Congress to increase federal research funding for metastatic breast cancer now, because every 12 minutes, another life is lost, and we cannot afford to wait.

METAvivor is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization that funds vital research to help improve the longevity and quality of life for MBC patients. As passionately committed patients ourselves, we rally public attention to the urgent needs of the MBC community, help patients find strength through support and purpose, and make every dollar count as we work with and fund researchers seeking to extend and improve the quality of care for MBC patients.