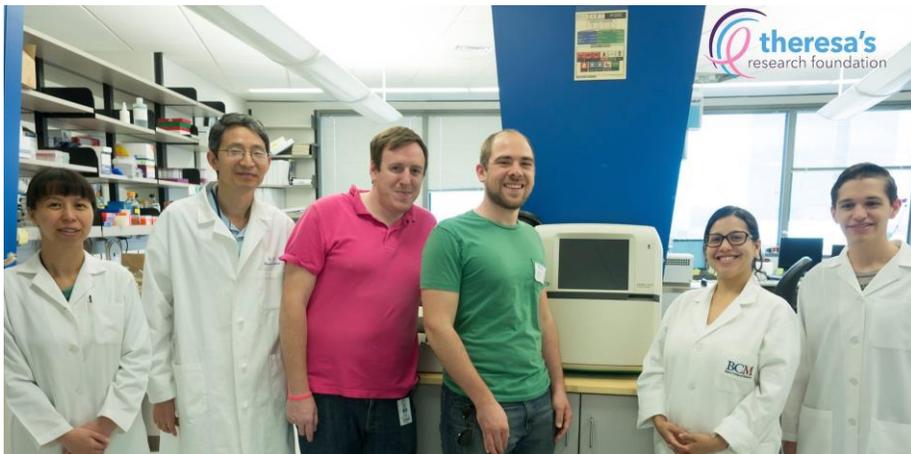


The mission of Theresa's Research Foundation is to specifically fund research that provides better treatment options, improves quality of life for metastatic patients and will one day lead to a cure.



theresasresearch.org
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Showing off the new imaging equipment (purchased with a donation from TRF) in the Smith Breast Cancer Center lab: Dr. Yi Li (second from left) and his staff along with Josh Newby (third from left), Executive Director for TRF and Chuck Deters (third from right), TRF Board Member.

TRF Funds Equipment Used for Metastatic Breast Cancer Research

Earlier this year, Theresa's Research Foundation donated funds to the Smith Breast Center at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston for the purchase of a brand new state-of-the-art imaging system. The *Bio-Rad ChemiDoc Touch* machine is used by metastatic breast cancer researchers to separate and analyze proteins, an important part of the study of tumor progression.

For the MBC labs at Baylor, this new equipment replaced an antiquated X-ray developer that was broken more often than not. According to Smith Cancer Center researcher Alyssa Johnston, the *Bio-Rad ChemiDoc Touch* not only increases the speed and accuracy by which protein data is analyzed but also allows multiple verification points which saves time and money. "This donation by Theresa's Research Foundation has already had a positive effect on the quality and quantity of our data," added Johnston.

Advancements in MBC Research Presented at Annual Conference Co-Sponsored by TRF

For a second consecutive year Theresa's Research Foundation co-sponsored the **Metastatic Breast Cancer Research Conference**. This year's conference was held in September at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and was jointly sponsored by the Baylor College of Medicine and the Lester and Sue Smith Breast Center.

Clinicians from around the country presented information on many topics including current treatment protocols, treatment of MBC in underserved populations, mechanisms for resistance to Her2-targeted therapy, management of brain metastasis, matching drugs to biology in MBC, gene fusions in breast cancer and estrogen receptor gene mutations. These are just a few of the many research-based updates provided at the two-day conference.

The *Metastatic Breast Cancer Research Conference* is an annual event for forums and collaboration on basic science as well as clinical and survivorship issues that relate to the development and treatment of metastatic breast cancer.

See pictures from the conference on Page 2.

News Briefs

Theresa's Research Foundation was invited to be a member of the **Metastatic Breast Cancer Alliance** which consists of 37 leading cancer charities and advocacy organizations who have joined forces. TRF Executive Director Josh Newby now serves on the Executive Board of the MBC Alliance.

Dr. Matthew Ellis, director of the Smith Breast Center at Baylor which receives contributions for research from TRF, received the **Stand Up To Cancer 2015 Laura Ziskin Prize** to advance studies of the defective DNA repair mechanisms in breast cancer. Stand Up To Cancer's mission is to accelerate the pace of groundbreaking translational research that can get new therapies to patients quickly and save lives now.

Dr. Ellis was also the recipient of the 2015 **American Society of Clinical Oncology's** Gianni Bonadonna Breast Cancer Award, an honor given annually to an oncologist for outstanding contributions to basic or translational research in breast cancer and exceptional mentoring abilities.

Funding donated by TRF to the **Siteman Center** was used in the continuing research on protein interactions in breast cancer tissue conducted by **Dr. Cynthia Ma, MD, PhD**, Division of Oncology, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO.

In July 2015 the **National Cancer Institute** officially designated Baylor as a comprehensive cancer center, the agency's highest level of distinction. Only 45 of the nation's 1,500 cancer centers have obtained this elite status. The Siteman Center in St. Louis also holds this designation. TRF has donated funding for metastatic breast cancer research at both Baylor and the Siteman Center.

See the YouTube video of our Co-Founder's story

[Theresa's Dream](#)

What is Metastatic Breast Cancer?

Metastatic Breast Cancer, or Stage IV, is a complex and advanced form of breast cancer in which the disease has spread beyond the breast into other body systems. It is very hard to treat. "Patients with advanced breast cancer stand to benefit the most from advances in treatment," said Dr. Matthew Ellis, director of the Smith Breast Cancer Center at Baylor. Less than 7% of breast cancer funding goes to support metastatic breast cancer research. With very little funding allotted specifically for MBC, more research resources are needed in order to **Change the Odds**.

Survivor Spotlight; Frankly Speaking

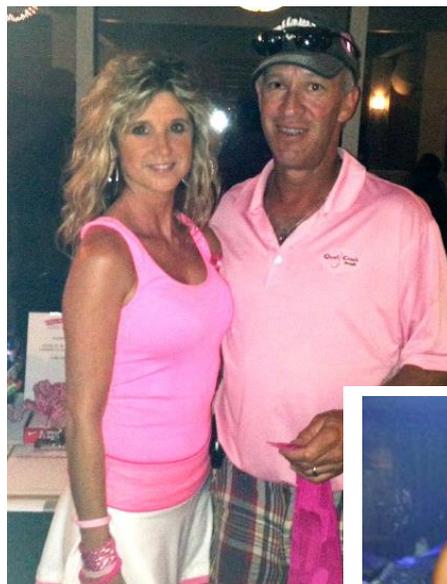
The day before her 50th birthday in 2012, Oakville, Missouri resident Cheryl Timpe found out that she has Stage IV cancer. That news came after a twelve-year remission. In 2000 Cheryl had been diagnosed with Stage II breast cancer, and subsequently went through a bilateral mastectomy, chemotherapy, and radiation, followed by reconstruction. One year later she had a liver resection to remove a tumor. A liver biopsy determined that Cheryl has a gene mutation that makes her a higher risk for cancer.

For ten years Cheryl was treated by Dr. Matthew Ellis at the *Siteman Cancer Center*. After Dr. Ellis' departure from St. Louis to become director of a cancer research center in Houston, Dr. Cynthia Ma became Cheryl's doctor. Early on, Dr. Ellis told Cheryl that her cancer would probably come back. Cheryl said at first she was mad at him for saying this, but then came to appreciate Dr. Ellis' honesty and openness about her disease.

Another remark by Dr. Ellis that Cheryl still carries with her followed her initial treatment when he told her that although the active cancer was removed there are cancer cells that lay dormant in her body. Speaking candidly and with humor Cheryl said, "I've made myself crazy at times trying all sorts of things to prevent the cancer from becoming active. I've drunk baking soda dissolved in water, and you wouldn't believe the amount of blueberries I've eaten."

To this day, Cheryl says she hates the word *metastatic*. "People don't really understand what metastatic breast cancer is and don't realize what everyday life is like for an MBC survivor. I've had to explain to some of my friends that my cancer cannot be cured," said Cheryl. She credits her friends and family with supporting her through this experience, in particular her mother and sister and her husband Michael. Cheryl's father lost his own battle with lymphoma cancer in 2011, six years after he was diagnosed.

A Dental Assistant by occupation, Cheryl has worked with the same dentist for 27 years. Recently at work she felt a crack in her back which turned out to be a broken rib. Her doctor found a tumor in her rib and lesions on her liver. So again, Cheryl underwent chemotherapy and radiation. Anyone who has been



Cheryl and Michael Timpe participating in the *Theresa's Research Foundation Golf Tournament* in 2013 in Sunset Hills, MO (left) and vacationing in Las Vegas in 2015 (below).



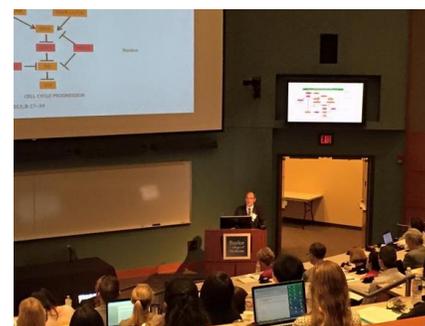
I've made myself crazy at times trying all sorts of things . . . you wouldn't believe the amount of blueberries I've eaten.

touched by cancer knows that survivors cope in varying ways. Over the years having treatments alongside others undergoing the same, Cheryl said she began to build walls rather than get close to fellow patients. "In the past I became friends with others with MBC, and then they passed away. I sometimes get a guilt feeling and ask why I am still here?"

Vacations are one of the things that offer Cheryl a good respite from the struggle with cancer. Preparing for a recent trip to Las Vegas with Michael, Cheryl said she loves to go on vacation to get away from it all. As difficult as this disease is, Cheryl continues to find beauty and joy in each day. "It never leaves your mind, but I do view every day as a blessing from God. I don't take anything for granted."



2015 Metastatic Breast Cancer Research Conference. Left: Dr. Yi Li, Associate Professor at Smith Breast Center. Above: TRF Board President Linda Morrissey and Vice-President Randy Newby. Right: Dr. Matthew Ellis, Conference Director.



Theresa's Research Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization and has provided funding for Metastatic Breast Cancer research to the following: Lester and Sue Smith Breast Center at the Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX; Washington University and the Siteman Cancer Center, St. Louis, MO; and the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS. Donations may be made at https://www.razoo.com/story/Therasas-Research-Foundation?referral_code=share or by mailing checks to Theresa's Research Foundation, P.O. Box 638, Godfrey, IL 62035.