

PRESS RELEASE

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New Foundation Funds \$2.3 Million for BRCA Prostate Cancer Research

Funded research includes grants to U.S. and international academic institutions: projects include research, screening, treatment, and outreach efforts for men with BRCA genetic mutations.

CHICAGO (June 30, 2023) —

On June 30, 2023, the BRCA Research & Cure Alliance (CureBRCA) announced plans to fund \$2.3 Million for five important research endeavors. The BRCA Research & Cure Alliance believes that the knowledge uncovered by this research could be the key to understanding prostate cancer risk, prevention and interception, and bringing hope to the multitude of people who carry BRCA mutations and are at risk for prostate cancer. Collectively, the BRCA-related prostate cancer research projects include: large global collaborative studies addressing prevention, multi-institutional screening efforts, and outreach to identify and provide more resources for male carriers of prostate cancer risk associated genetic *BRCA1/2* variants.

The BRCA Research & Cure Alliance (CureBRCA) is a new nonprofit foundation, launched in 2022, through the generous philanthropy of Michael and Tanya Polsky. Chief Science Officer, Heather H. Cheng, MD PhD, led the competitive scientific peer review process of many worthy proposals. The top 20% of applications were selected for funding:

- Rosalind Eeles, PhD; The Institute of Cancer Research. U.K.
“BRCA1 And BRCA2 Mutation Carriers - Prostate Cancer Screening And Treatment Outcomes”
- Ephrat Levy-Lahad, MD; Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Israel
“Presymptomatic Awareness of Germline Pathogenic BRCA Variants and Associated Outcomes in Male BRCA carriers with Prostate Cancer”
- Daniel W. Lin, MD; University of Washington
“Prostate Cancer Screening for People at Genetic Risk for Aggressive Disease (PATROL)”
- Katherine Nathanson, MD; University of Pennsylvania
“Expanding The Spectrum of BRCA1/2 Pathogenic Variants”
- Kenneth Offit, MD, MPH; Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
“Targeting BRCA1/2 Modifiers of Risk for Prostate Cancer”

About BRCA

BRCA1 and *BRCA2* are genes that code for proteins that are important in repairing damaged DNA. People have two copies of each of these genes, with a copy inherited from each parent. If someone inherits a damaging (pathogenic variant, also known as a mutation), there is an increased risk for developing cancers. More is known about the risks for women, but there is less awareness about the risk to males of cancers such as of the prostate, male breast, and pancreas. While there are potentially life-saving health interventions that can be offered to women, there is much less awareness, genetic testing, and research around the cancer risks for men. The mission of CureBRCA is to transform this by bringing together experts in the field to work together towards increasing awareness and genetic testing for men, and by funding collaborative research to help propel knowledge and progress.

About the BRCA Research & Cure Alliance (CureBRCA)

The BRCA Research & Cure Alliance (CureBRCA), is registered as an Illinois not-for-profit private foundation, and its mission is to advance the knowledge, prevention, and treatment of individuals and families who are affected by *BRCA1*

and *BRCA2* gene mutations. There are only a few foundations in the country, with a concentrated focus on BRCA. "We hope that by creating CureBRCA, we can educate, support research, and bring together the world's best experts, to help find better ways to diagnose, prevent, and treat cancers caused by BRCA mutations", said its Founder, Michael Polsky.

CureBRCA's organizational structure is unique and non-typical of other nonprofits because it is not formally partnered with any outside entity or institution. The Founder's believe this approach of gathering collective wisdom from a very diverse set of knowledgeable stakeholders, has the potential to break down scientific barriers and information silos, and will promote knowledge sharing across disciplines, providing input on the strategy to address the unattended questions inherent in BRCA related cancers. "Together, we will accomplish more, and move the science forward at a faster pace, than any one of us could accomplish alone", said its Founder, Tanya Polsky.

For additional information, visit www.curebrca.org.

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