

Grant Awards to Help Patients in Need, Underserved Populations

The American Society of Breast Surgeons Announces Grant Awards that will Impact and Save Lives of Breast Cancer Patients and Help Others with Breast Issues

COLUMBIA, MD, UNITED STATES, May 10, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- At the 2018 American

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Beth Boyd, RN, Chairman of the ASBrS Foundation

Society of Breast Surgeons (ASBrS) Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL, the American Society of Breast Surgeons Foundation announced winners of its grant awards and scientific awards. Each year the Foundation <u>funds grants</u> for breast cancer and breast health research, community outreach, education, and conferences; it also sponsors the Keynote Speaker and Scientific Awards at the Annual Meeting. The grants provide critical support for underserved populations.

"Our grants make a difference in the lives of thousands of patients in need each year and support research that can

make an impact for years to come," said Beth Boyd, RN, Chairman of the ASBrS Foundation. "We're honored to support these great programs that help men and women affected by breast cancer and other breast issues, saving lives and improving their quality of life."

To help us reach more patients in need, <u>please make a donation</u> to the ASBrS Foundation.

Congratulations to the following 2018 award recipients:

Research Grant:

Program Title: Leveraging Cognitive Science to Identify Biomarkers of 'Chemobrain' Recipient: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Sensory Neuroscience, Attention, & Perception Laboratory, Milwaukee, WI

Grant Focus: Cognitive dysfunction following chemotherapy is very common but, to date, has been poorly characterized due to the nonspecific nature of the neuropsychological tools used to measure it in the clinic. As many as 50% of treated breast cancer patients report problems with attention and other cognitive abilities, referred to as "chemobrain." The objective of this research project is to improve the description of chemobrain symptoms by adapting sensitive tests of human behavior from cognitive psychology. Outcomes are expected to have a significant impact by (a) establishing the first quantitative metric by which chemobrain can be diagnosed, and (b) providing behavioral and neurological biomarkers by which patients can be warned of their vulnerability to chemobrain symptoms in advance of chemotherapy (possibly leading to auxiliary cognitive rehabilitation therapies that can guard against chemobrain symptoms).

Community Outreach Grant:

Program Title: Mammography Outreach in Motion: Improving Care to Rural American Indian Women Recipient: St. Vincent Healthcare, Billings, MT

Grant Focus: Cultural, economic and familial hardships, poverty, substance abuse, and life circumstances interfere with the ability of American Indian populations in Montana to seek breast cancer screenings and follow-up care even when diagnosed. Also, missed appointments continue to be a problem, partly due to the challenges of living in remote rural areas and lack of transportation. The program includes having a Healthcare Disparities Coordinator and Mobile Mammography Unit provide health education, screening, and outreach to 2,900 women, including American Indian women on two nearby reservations.

Conference Grants:

Program Title: Raising Awareness of Breast Cancer in those Aging with Developmental Disabilities Recipient: The Association on Aging with Developmental Disabilities (AADD)

Grant Focus: Barriers to screening, such as anxiety, lack of understanding of the test, limited access to transportation, and the need for extra staff to accompany some patients from group homes to health care appointments, often exist amongst individuals with developmental disabilities. The AADD will host education sessions May 21-22, 2018, in St. Charles, Missouri for medical professionals and aging individuals with developmental disabilities on the topic of breast cancer and aging with a developmental disability. These sessions will enable individuals served and families to make informed decisions about breast cancer-related issues, including accessing screenings, and to provide an opportunity to participate in designing a vision for all people with developmental disabilities who are aging.

Program Title: 2018 Project Pink'd Sexual Wellness Conference

Recipient: Project Pink'd

Grant Focus: Research shows 9 out of 10 struggle with social, physical or emotional distress as they transition from breast cancer treatment to survivorship care. In fact, 70% have a sexual dysfunction two years after diagnosis. The facilitated workshop will be focused on sexual wellness education specific to breast cancer survivors, empowerment of breast cancer survivors in medical and intimate partner contexts in regards to sexual wellness, building community among breast cancer survivors and healthcare professionals who serve them, and assessing female sexual function among attendees.

Education Grants:

Program Title: Prevention and Early Detection of Breast Cancer Among Hispanic Women

Recipient: El Puente - Hispanic Ministry, Jefferson City, MO

Grant Focus: Many families are underinsured or uninsured. This fact, along with language and cultural challenges, often results in Hispanic women in counties in central Missouri not receiving the breast health information and care they need. The goal of this program is to address some of the gaps in the prevention and early detection of breast cancer among Hispanic women.

Program Title: JRMC Breast Health Patient Education

Recipient: Jewish Renaissance Medical Center, Perth Amboy, NJ

Grant Focus: The two urban communities of Perth Amboy and Newark are medically underserved areas (MUA), and they include significant cohorts of low-income women who remain un- or underscreened and are at great risk of breast cancer. The program will include breast self-exam training, breast cancer screening awareness education, and facilitating ways to overcome barriers to screening.

George Peters Award – for best presentation by a fellow

Recipient: Alison Barron, MD - Mayo Clinic Rochester, MN

Presentation: Predicting non-sentinel lymph node metastases in patients with a positive sentinel lymph node after neoadjuvant chemotherapy

Scientific Presentation Award - best presentation by a fellow, resident or trainee Recipient: Austin Williams, MD - University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA Presentation: Is Age Trumping Genetic Profiling in Clinical Practice? Relationship of Chemotherapy Recommendation and Oncotype DX Recurrence Score in Patients <50 versus >50 and Trends Over Time.

About the ASBrS Foundation

The ASBrS Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization founded in 2005 to improve the standard of care for breast disease. The Foundation is committed to continually improving the practice of breast surgery by serving as an advocate for surgeons who seek excellence in the care of breast patients. This mission is accomplished by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and by promoting education, research, and the development of advanced surgical techniques. Learn more about us at www.breastsurgeonsfoundation.org.

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