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Huntsman Cancer Institute celebrates \$2 million contribution from Susan G. Komen for the Cure®

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Susan G. Komen for the Cure® honored in naming ceremony at Huntsman Cancer Institute

A dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the Huntsman Cancer Institute Thursday, November 15 in the newly named Susan G. Komen Patient Waiting Room. The Susan G. Komen for the Cure organization received this honor in recognition of its significant contributions in the fight to end breast cancer.

Since 1997, Komen has allocated more than \$2 million towards research at Huntsman Cancer Institute. This funding was made possible because of the donations the local Utah affiliate has sent to headquarters for research. In the last two years alone, Huntsman Cancer Institute has received more than half a million dollars in the form of three separate research grants. In addition, current funding supports a program for younger women with a high risk for developing breast cancer, either because of family history or known genetic susceptibility.

Representatives from both the research team and the high risk clinic were present at the dedication, including Dr. Randall Burt, Senior Director of Prevention and Outreach and director of the Familial Colon Cancer Clinic and co-director of the Family Cancer Assessment Clinic at Huntsman Cancer Institute.

Dr. Burt remarked that, "We rely on donations from organizations like Susan G. Komen to decrease suffering and death from breast cancer through research, patient care, and the education which trains the next generation of doctors to prevent, detect, treat, and cure this terrible disease. Many of our employees volunteer for the Komen organization and participate in events. We are fully behind these efforts." He added that: "It will not be too many years before women no longer have to die from breast cancer."

Lynn Erdman, Vice President of Community Health for Susan G. Komen for the Cure flew in

from Dallas to represent the national organization. An oncology clinical nurse specialist, she has helped care for thousands of women and men with breast cancer. Erdman thanked the Huntsman Cancer Institute and the Komen Utah Affiliate and said, “Our mission is to decrease late-stage diagnosis of breast cancer. Find it, treat it, beat it, and defeat it.”

Also present at the ribbon cutting were breast cancer survivors, Komen board members, donors, volunteers, and staff. Lisa Schneider, current board president and one of the key volunteers responsible for the first Komen Salt Lake City Race for the Cure in 1997, cut the ribbon. Every year, the Komen Utah Affiliate provides between \$500,000 and \$750,000 in grant funding to local nonprofits to support their breast care programs. This funding benefits the uninsured, those living in remote communities, minority groups, and patients requiring hospice care, among others.

In addition to this significant local impact, the Utah affiliate sends approximately \$200,000 annually to the national headquarters, which is responsible for allocating research funds to institutions like Huntsman Cancer Institute, which has received multiple grants thanks to the fine work of its scientists and its reputation for conducting groundbreaking research.

About Susan G. Komen for the Cure® and the Komen Utah Affiliate:

Nancy G. Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer forever, and in 1982, that promise became Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The Utah Affiliate is part of the world’s largest and most progressive grassroots network fighting breast cancer. Through events like the Race for the Cure, the Utah Affiliate has invested \$4.76 million in community breast cancer programs in the state of Utah.

For more information, call 801-733-4815 or visit www.komenutah.org.