



**Susan G. Komen**

**Research Grants – Fiscal Year 2015**

This research grant was approved for FY2015 Research Programs funding. This grant will be funded upon the execution of grant agreements between Komen and the grantee institutions.

**Boston University Mentoring and Training in Cancer Health Disparities (MATCH)**

**Investigator(s):** Tracy Battaglia, M.D.

**Lead Organization:** Boston University, B U Medical Campus

**Grant Mechanism:** Graduate Training in Disparities Research Grants      **Grant ID:** GTDR15331228

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**Public Abstract:**

Background: At Boston Medical Center (BMC), the largest safety-net institution in New England, the breast cancer disparities observed nationally are acutely experienced where over 60% of the women seen for breast related concerns are racial/ethnic minorities and 60% are publically insured. Addressing these disparities is a principal concern across the Boston University Medical Campus and BMC, providing a rich opportunity to train college graduates in research methods. Tracy Battaglia and the Women's Health Unit have become national leaders in studying cancer care improvements designed to help women who have delays in their cancer care. As a National Center of Excellence in Women's Health, the Unit has clinical, research and education resources devoted to caring for women who are at risk for poor breast cancer outcomes.

Objectives: The goal of the Boston University Mentoring and Training in Cancer Health Disparities (MATCH) program is to train representative graduate public health students to become experts in breast cancer disparities research and make improvements to cancer care that target low-income women.

Methods: Three trainees from the Boston University School of Public Health graduate program will be selected each year for the MATCH program based on their eligibility, including motivation, as judged by



the Breast Cancer Patient Advisory Group, academic qualifications as judged by the MATCH research team, and being reflective of the Boston Medical Center patient population, which is 66% racial/ethnic minority. Program components include:

(1) Classes toward a degree in research methods at the Boston University School of Public Health, (2) Career Mentorship to ensure future potential to work in breast cancer disparities research, (3) Hands-on experience in the conduct of team-based, patient-centered disparities research, and (4) Community engaged research methods training integrated with our Breast Cancer Patient Advisory Group. Trainees will engage with our Breast Cancer Patient Advisory Group to gain a patient perspective as they develop their research project, deal with problems that may come up during their research, and report their findings to the community.

Projected Outcomes: Graduates of the MATCH program will complete an independent research project for publication, such as a journal article, and develop the skills needed to pursue their research career to end breast cancer disparities.

