



SOUTH CENTRAL

MELISSA BONDY, PHD

Baylor College of Medicine

Houston, TX

" I have been fortunate to be involved in all aspects of the Komen mission. With Komen support, my research is identifying genes to identify which women's breast cancer will recur or metastasize, especially in lower risk patients, and also in women of different ethnic groups. "

Melissa Bondy, Ph.D., M.S., began her training at MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC) in the Department of Pediatrics and currently has her faculty appointment in the Department of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine, and she is Associate Director for Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences in the Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center. In addition she holds the Dan L. Duncan Professorship and she is a McNair Scholar.

Dr. Melissa Bondy's research focuses in genetic and molecular epidemiology, and she is at the forefront of developing innovative ways to assess the roles of heredity and genetic susceptibility in the etiology of cancer, primarily brain and breast cancer. In addition to leading the largest multi-national family study of glioma patients, Dr. Bondy has on-going research in breast cancer to study molecular predictors of survival after treatment for breast cancer. When Dr. Bondy was at MDACC, she developed a large Mexican-American cohort study in Harris County, Texas, that was designed to identify risk factors (e.g. smoking) associated with disease patterns in this understudied population. Continuing with her strong interest in health disparities, she launched a collaborative study with researchers at the Arizona Cancer Center and investigators in Mexico in academic centers at the University of Sonora in the state of Sonora and at the University of Guadalajara in the state of Jalisco. The partnership was formed to address the hypothesis that the age-specific patterns of aggressive breast cancers differ between women of Mexican descent living in the US from those cases of women residing in Mexico and that the differences are at least partly explained by factors associated with acquisition of behavioral characteristics associated with the US culture.

Dr. Melissa Bondy received the Julie and Ben Rogers Award for Excellence in Cancer Prevention in 2007. That year, she also joined Komen's Scientific Advisory Board, on which she served until 2010, when she became a Komen Scholar.

SNAPSHOT

Komen ID

- SAB member 2007-2010
- Komen Scholar since 2010

Komen Research

Validate a model for estrogen receptor-negative, early stage breast cancer to predict risk: recurrence, metastasis, response to treatment, overall survival (based on race/ ethnicity, age of onset, screening behaviors).

Education

- BA (Physiology) - The University of Texas, Austin, TX
- MS (Epidemiology, Environmental Science) - The University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, TX
- PhD (Epidemiology) - The University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, TX

Keywords

epidemiology; risk factors; predictors of survival, outcomes and recurrence in early stage breast cancer