

A BREATH of HOPE

L U N G F O U N D A T I O N



Greetings from A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation where surprising and wonderful things continue to take place...

Last Friday, A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation's executive director, Nancy Torrison met with Vice President Biden and his senior adviser Don Graves, U.S. Representative Rick Nolan and a small group of Minnesota cancer leaders to discuss the *Cancer Moonshot 2020*. With stage 4 lung cancer patient, Katherine Bensen present to share her real-life

story, the two women had an amazing opportunity to state and emphasize the often-obscured facts about lung cancer to the group.

Facts:

1. Lung cancer claims more American lives than breast, colon and prostate cancers combined, yet screening is not available to most citizens and lung cancer research is disproportionately funded;
2. Twice as many women die of lung cancer each year as compared to breast cancer. It should be noted that the **total** number of women lost to breast cancer is about the same number as **nonsmoking women** lost to lung cancer. We screen for only one of these cancers; and
3. Lung cancer patients suffer additional anxiety when they feel judged and blamed for their diagnosis. The smoking stigma hurts both smokers and nonsmokers who have lung cancer. It serves no purpose and delays progress in improving the survival rate of 17%.



Today marks the beginning of **Lung Cancer Awareness Month (LCAM)**! We're so happy to have been chosen as the **MN Wild Charity of the Month** and we offer our thanks to [Innovative Office Products](#) and the Minnesota Wild for supporting the fight against lung cancer!

Today marks the start of a world that will turn white with lung cancer ribbons, awareness messages and screening reminders.

If only.

Join us this *Knowmber* to bring awareness to the world's deadliest cancer: Tell a friend what you know, [share your story](#) with our staff, [become a volunteer](#) at ABOH, [make a donation](#) to your favorite lung cancer nonprofit (hint - we think we're it), [join us at an event](#) or a MN Wild game. Together, we will **SHUT OUT LUNG CANCER**.

To make LCAM more interesting, A Breath of Hope's good friend, **Mary Jane Benjamin has offered a \$5000 match** for donations made in November. And - to add an element of fun to this campaign, we will be doing daily drawings from the pool of people who make donations this month. Stay tuned for the winners of Wild, Guthrie and Timberwolves tickets, as well as gift cards to cool Twin Cities restaurants.



The *A Breath of Hope Research Fellowship Program* recognizes and supports outstanding researchers who are in the first five years of their first faculty position. Fellows are selected early in their careers based on their demonstrated potential for making significant contributions to the lung cancer field. The award is \$150,000 and is meant to encourage and retain talent in the lung cancer field.

Today we are proud to announce the winner of the **2016 Women & Lung Cancer Fellowship**: Amanda Redig, MD, PhD, Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Dr. Redig is pursuing a career as a translational investigator and thoracic oncologist. Her primary career goal is to help transform the way we treat lung cancer. While she notes the incredible privilege of seeing the advances in biotechnology, genetics and molecular biology during her medical education, she has also been witness to the sorrow, helplessness and senseless losses among her own patients with advanced lung cancer. This experience coupled with an inquisitive spirit motivate her to improve the survival rate of lung cancer.

The primary objective of Dr. Redig's lung cancer research is to utilize primary tumor specimens and clinical outcomes from patients with a) EGFR TKI naive NSCLC and b) acquired resistance to erlotinib to quantify genomic complexity as a biomarker; develop predictive models to further characterize acquired resistance; and assess genomic complexity to identify clinically meaningful hallmarks of the disease in women.

Congratulations Dr. Redig and welcome to the A Breath of Hope family!

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