

Susan G. Komen for the Cure Position on Animal Testing

While Susan G. Komen for the Cures does not conduct research, it does fund innovative and responsive research projects in leading institutions worldwide. Komen for the Cure has a long history of funding groundbreaking research to fulfill its mission to end breast cancer forever. The organization funds scientific research as well as community breast health education and outreach programs across the country through our 122 domestic Komen Affiliates. Our research portfolio addresses areas such as survivorship, cancer cell biology and cancer etiology.

Susan G. Komen for the Cure has strict controls to maintain the integrity of the grant application and review process. Komen's Grant Program adheres to a blinded, peer-review process that is recognized by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). All research funded by Komen's Research Program is developed and conducted under the direction of the primary investigator who is applying for the grant.

The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires that any new pharmaceutical compound be tested on at least two different animal models to be considered for approval for use in humans. Therefore, some investigators must conduct animal testing in order to comply with FDA regulations for drug development. In order to be eligible for Komen research grant funding, investigators must provide proof of pre-approval of study design and animal care methods from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at the institution where they will be conducting research. In accordance with U.S. federal law, the IACUC may permit some investigators to use laboratory animals, usually genetically bred mice, in their search to identify more effective ways to prevent and treat breast cancer. Researchers are also required to file an Investigator Assurance Statement to ensure all procedures are in compliance with National Institute of Health (NIH) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations.