

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Florida Breast Cancer Coalition Research Foundation Grants Close to \$200,000 to Help Fund Two DoD Concept Awards”

Hallandale, FL (April 22, 2009) - The Florida Breast Cancer Coalition Research Foundation (FBCCRF) has taken another huge stride in the fight to end breast cancer. The FBCCRF scientific committee recently approved the funding of two DoD concept awards, granting close to \$200,000 to two research projects, one at the University of Florida (Gainesville) and the other at Florida State University (Tallahassee).

\$90,000 was awarded to fund the PRAME Gene in Tumor Progression research project led by Virginia Urquidi from the University of Florida. This project will conduct research of the PRAME gene, which has been associated with melanoma and some other hematopoietic cancers, as well as aggressive breast cancers. The Principle Investigators (PIs) proposed examining tumor cell lines that express the PRAME gene to determine exactly what mechanisms may make breast cancers more aggressive.

The second award of \$90,000 went to the Interactive Role of Stroma in the Development of Human Breast Carcinoma research project led by Qing-Xiang (Amy) Sang at Florida State University. This project will conduct research of the stroma around a breast tumor or in which a breast tumor may grow. The PIs allude to the point expressed by many authors that states that the stroma – the matrix in which the tumor grows - , may in fact be more important than was previously thought. The PIs propose looking for differences in the stroma between epithelial cells in a collection of breast tissues, using genomic and proteomic approaches.

These grants are funded by FBCCRF through money raised by the sales of the Florida specialty End Breast Cancer license plate. Through these research projects, education, and with the help of the local community, FBCCRF is committed to ending breast cancer forever.

About the Florida Breast Cancer Coalition Research Foundation

The Florida Breast Cancer Coalition Research Foundation (FBCCRF) is a 501 (c) (3) grassroots organization with the mission to end breast cancer through education, advocacy, and research. FBCCRF works statewide to raise awareness and mobilize Floridians to ensure sufficient public funding for breast cancer research, quality health care for all without fear of discrimination and an environment free of carcinogens. We are the only organization in the State of Florida with the End Breast Cancer license plate. All monies stay in the State of Florida to support advocacy, education, and research programs for Florida residents.

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