Dr. Susan Love Foundation for Breast Cancer Research challenges the status quo to end breast cancer and improve the lives of people impacted by it now through education and advocacy. The Foundation drives collaborative, cutting-edge research with nontraditional partners, brings to light the collateral damage of treatment and seeks ways to diminish it, and interprets science to empower patients. Fast, flexible, and project-based, the Foundation actively engages the public in scientific research to ensure that it produces accurate and meaningful results.
Dr. Love began her career in the 1970s as one of ten women in her medical school graduating class—and she has been leading the charge for women ever since.

In 1980, she became the first female general surgeon on the staff of Boston’s Beth Israel Hospital. In that role, she regularly offered treatment information and options to breast cancer patients at a time when they were routinely kept in the dark about their surgical choices. When radical mastectomies were the norm, Dr. Love was one of the few medical professionals who championed the use of more conservative lumpectomies. She also helped establish Boston’s Faulkner Breast Center, the first American facility to specialize in breast disease.

In 1990, Dr. Love published the bestselling Dr. Susan Love’s Breast Book, now in its 6th edition, which The New York Times called “the Bible for women with breast cancer.” She also helped establish the National Breast Cancer Coalition, which helped influence the federal government to increase research funding for breast cancer from $90 million to $420 million per year.

Dr. Susan Love started Dr. Susan Love Foundation for Breast Cancer Research

Recognized for her fierce intellect, unrelenting tenacity, and laser-like focus, Dr. Susan Love is our quintessential Chief Visionary Officer. For the past 20 years, she has dedicated her career to the eradication of breast cancer and pioneered some of the world’s more innovative research. From spearheading a partnership with NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory to mapping the breast ductal system, to harnessing the power of artificial intelligence to develop a handheld, self-reading ultrasound for breast cancer screening in underserved populations, Dr. Love’s goal remains simple and clear: to end breast cancer.

New York Times Bestseller, Dr. Susan Love’s Breast Book
Mapping Ductal Carcinoma In Situ with 3D Ultrasound

Ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), stage 0, non-invasive breast cancer, is being diagnosed more often since the onset of mammographic screening. While mammography shows suspicious areas in the breast, much of the DCIS in the duct does not have calcifications and cannot be seen or felt by the surgeon. This makes it difficult for the surgeon to know how much of the breast to remove during surgery. This uncertainty can lead to repeated operations to obtain clear margins, poor cosmetic outcomes, and, for some patients, even mastectomy. Local recurrences are usually areas missed by the initial excision rather than new disease. Being able to see the extent of the disease would allow surgeons to be more effective and provide better outcomes for women.

The Microbiome Study of the Breast Ducts

In 2008, when the National Institutes of Health (NIH) began the Human Microbiome Project, the entire breast was left out! Since 2012, the Foundation has been investigating the population of bacteria and viruses that exist in the nipple aspirate fluid of the breast duct and looking for the potential role they may play in causing or preventing breast cancer. Since 2014, we have collaborated with Dr. Delphine Lee, MD, PhD, chief of dermatology at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. In 2015, we began investigating the bacteria and viruses present in ductal fluid collected from 48 women – half with breast cancer and half without. In 2016, this study was further expanded by joining forces with NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Using their genomic sequencing technique, we were able to analyze the DNA in the ductal fluid of the women in the study and found that the community of microorganisms in women without breast cancer not only differs significantly from that of women with breast cancer, but these women with no history of breast cancer had higher levels of certain microbes.

These initial findings are exciting because it uncovers the first step to understanding whether certain bacteria and viruses can cause breast cancer, just as certain viruses and bacteria can lead to cervical, stomach and liver cancers. We are taking the next step by joining forces with Dr. Jenny C. Chang, MD, Director, Houston Methodist Cancer Center, to explore whether the microbiome is unique in each milk duct of the breast and how it relates to the microbiome of the gastrointestinal tract.

Self-Reading Portable Ultrasound

Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among women, especially young women, in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). In 2016, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded a $3 million grant to Dr. Susan Love Foundation for Breast Cancer Research to continue development of a technology aimed at addressing this serious issue for women’s health. The three-year UH3 Phase II exploratory cooperative agreement supports work to further test a computer assisted diagnosis triage (CADt) software product that can triage palpable breast lumps and identify those that are suspicious. This technology, when used in conjunction with handheld ultrasound units by local health aides, will quickly determine which lumps are benign and those which might be malignant and should be biopsied. The $3 million Phase II award comes after a successful $1 million Phase I for an award total of $4 million.
REACH AND DEMOGRAPHICS

SOCIAL MEDIA
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- 1,320 Followers
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- 500 Mobile App Downloads

BLOGS
- Research Worth Watching: Going Beyond Sex & Gender
- We Are NOT Mice!
- A Call to Action for Diversity in Research Studies
- Disrupting Medical Care in Low-to Middle-Income Countries

IN THE NEWS
- Daily Beast Article: How NASA’s Search for Aliens Helped Detect Breast Cancer
- Dr. Susan Love Maker's Pioneer Video
- Fred Hutch: Q&A: Dr. Susan Love

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The Army of Women is a flagship program of the Dr. Susan Love Foundation for Breast Cancer Research. This groundbreaking initiative connects more than 390,000 women and men, with or without breast cancer, to researchers committed to solving important breast cancer questions. The goal of the Army is to forge partnerships between members and the scientific community.

Visit www.ArmyofWomen.org

ImPatient Science®, a series of educational videos designed to answer questions that patients frequently ask related to the biology of breast cancers, the body’s defense systems, and the pros and cons of treatment options.

Dr. Susan Love Foundation for Breast Cancer Research is the only breast cancer foundation to earn a four star Charity Navigator rating, putting it in the top 12% of charities in terms of fiscal performance, accountability, and transparency.

Dr. Susan Love Foundation for Breast Cancer Research is the reigning first place nonprofit from Los Angeles Magazine’s 2019 GIVELA challenge.
LEADERSHIP

CHRISTOPHER CLINTON CONWAY
Chief Executive Officer

Christopher Clinton Conway is an accomplished and globally engaged nonprofit leader serving iconic nonprofit institutions and high-net-worth individuals in pursuit of meaningful impact and lasting change. Mr. Conway launched his career assisting Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter pursue an innovative global health agenda at The Carter Center of Emory University, and has built his practice as a fundraiser and legal advisor across healthcare, international development and high profile cultural nonprofits. Immediate past President & Executive Director of The Joffrey Ballet, Mr. Conway also held key development positions at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), and, most recently, with the internationally renowned Doheny Eye Institute in forging a new, strategic affiliation with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

LEAH ESHRAGHI
Senior Director of Clinical Research

MICHELLE WOODHILL
Director of Development

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