

# SPARC METASTATIC BREAST CANCER CHALLENGE

## A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND INITIATIVE

### ABOUT THE SPARC MBC CHALLENGE

The **S**eeding **P**rogress **a**nd **R**esources for the **C**ancer Community: Metastatic Breast Cancer Challenge (SPARC MBC Challenge) aims to empower advocacy groups, hospital networks, support groups, and other organizations worldwide as they initiate projects to address the unique challenges facing women with metastatic breast cancer. Grants were awarded to organizations that proposed projects focused on **closing the gap in information, support, awareness, and policy between metastatic breast cancer and early breast cancer**, as well as helping reduce the number of women diagnosed at the metastatic stage of breast cancer. In addition to the grants, the SPARC MBC Challenge will follow the progress and results for all funded projects, provide mentorship support to the awardees and facilitate networking and sharing of best practices among the organizations that were selected to address the challenges facing the metastatic breast cancer community globally.

### ABOUT METASTATIC BREAST CANCER

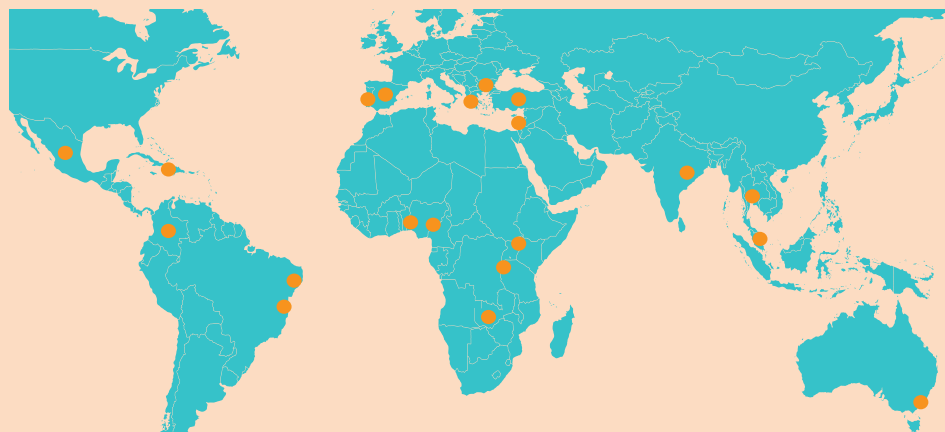
Metastatic breast cancer (Stage IV) is the **most advanced stage of breast cancer**, where the disease has spread beyond the breast to other parts of the body and for which there is no cure.<sup>1</sup> Metastatic breast cancer is associated with a multitude of significant consequences impacting the patient, caregivers, the healthcare system, and society.<sup>2,3</sup> Despite the burden of metastatic breast cancer, there are **fewer patient and community resources** available for women with metastatic breast cancer compared with early-stage disease, often leaving these patients alone and alienated at a time of greatest need.<sup>3</sup>

### ABOUT THE AWARDEES

Awardees were selected through a **competitive application process** overseen by an **external, multidisciplinary selection committee** formed by UICC and chaired by Dr. Fatima Cardoso, director of the Breast Unit of the Champalimaud Cancer Center in Lisbon, Portugal.

In total, **20 organizations** from **18 countries** have been selected to receive grants amounting to \$760,000 (USD).

These include:



**These organizations are implementing a diverse range of projects that provide resources and support for women with metastatic breast cancer and their loved ones, increase awareness of metastatic disease, and influence policies within their local communities.**

Funding was provided to UICC by Pfizer as an educational grant. | For more information about the SPARC MBC Challenge, please visit [www.uicc.org](http://www.uicc.org).

1. American Cancer Society. Detailed Guide: Breast Cancer. <http://www.cancer.org/acs/groups/cid/documents/webcontent/003090-pdf.pdf>. Accessed September 14, 2015.

2. Coughlin SS, Ekwueme DU. Breast Cancer as a Global Health Concern. *Cancer Epidemiol.* 2009 Nov;33(5):315-8. doi: 10.1016/j.canep.2009.10.003

3. Mayer M, Grober S. Silent Voices: Women with Advanced (Metastatic) Breast Cancer Share Their Needs and Preferences for Information, Support, and Practical Resources. <http://www.lbbc.org/sites/default/files/LBBCsilentvoices.pdf>. Accessed September 14, 2015.