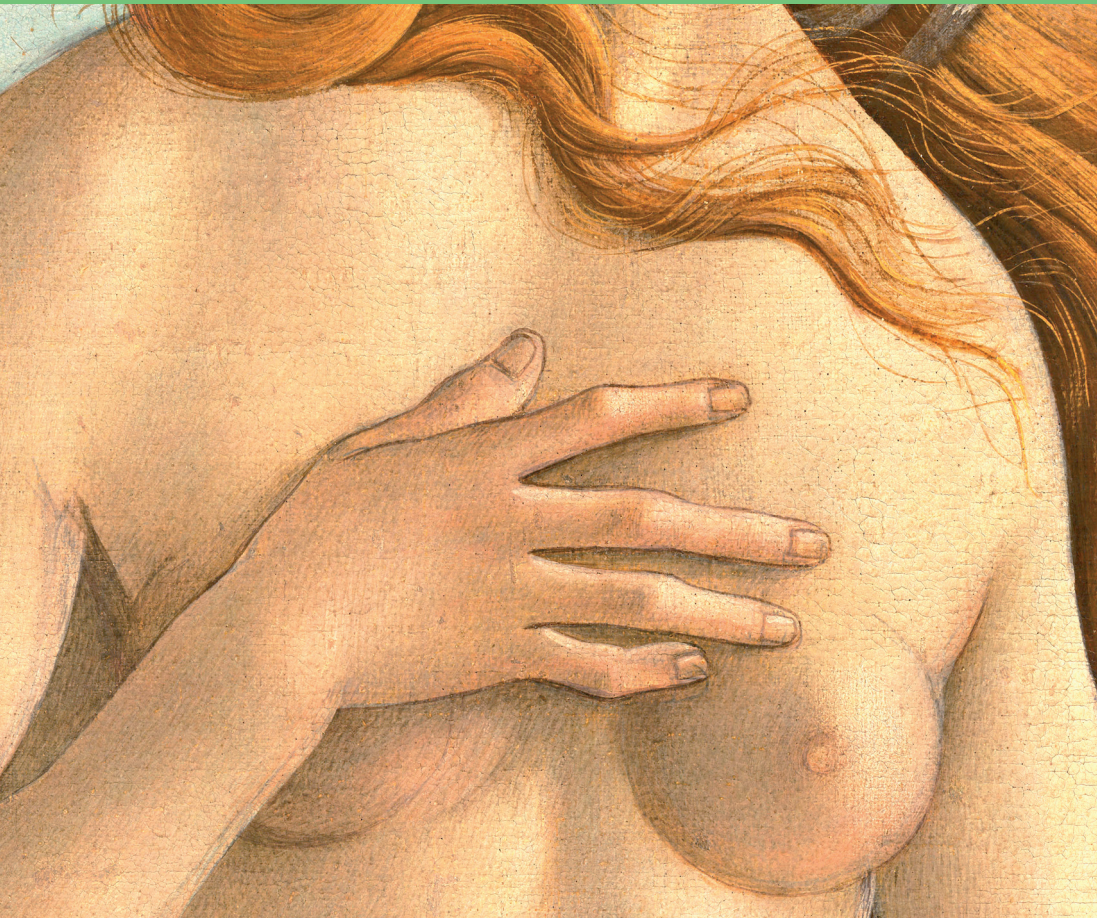


Breast Cancer threatens lives



Discover the PATH Biobank



Why breast cancer survivors founded a biobank

I was diagnosed with breast cancer in January 2000 – a standard tumor, medium risk. For the systemic therapy, my doctors brought in the big guns. It was a „one size fits all“ approach and „the stronger the treatment, the better,“ though it was already known that many patients do not benefit from chemotherapy.

Molecular tumor biology and gene expression profiles were still in their infancy at the time of my diagnosis. Similarly, biobanks were only first being talked about. Had the medical consensus in 2000 been what it is today, I likely would have been spared my chemotherapy treatment, an experience I would have gladly done without. This is only one of the many reasons I became a founding member of the „Foundation PATH – Patients' Tumor Bank of Hope“. PATH is a non-profit biobank run by survivors and intended for the sole purpose of supporting breast cancer research. For over 15 years, I have been volunteering my time for this patient-driven biobank, the only one of its kind in the world. Since 2008 I have served as its chairwoman.

Today, most breast cancer cases are curable. Yet many women still develop aggressive forms of cancer with tragic outcomes. And even the hormonereceptor-positive tumortypes with good prognoses can suddenly metastasize many years after the initial diagnosis. Since the time of my own diagnosis, I have seen many women and friends die from breast cancer. This is why I support cancer research as a volunteer for PATH Biobank.

PATH has three board members, all of whom are breast cancer survivors.

Ulla Ohlms, Chairwoman of PATH

Who we are

PATH was founded by breast cancer survivors as a non-profit organisation
PATH has seven sample source sites in Germany – all are certified breast cancer centres
PATH has a centralised data base and project management team in Munich, Germany

Our Mission is to support breast cancer research wherever we can

What PATH Biobank offers

- Biomaterial and data from more than 11,500 breast cancer patients
- All molecular subtypes
- Fresh frozen tumor and adjacent tissue
- 8.700 tumor samples
- 881 samples with follow-up events (224 local recurrences, 657 distant metastases)
- 17.000 pretherapeutic blood serum samples
- Sample storage in the gas phase of liquid nitrogen, minus 160 °C
- High quality and standardised sampling and processing according to uniform SOPs
- Corresponding FFPE tissue samples
- Broad informed consent and high data security
- Extensive annotation of data
- Follow-up data from 76% of all patients (e.g. survival rates and event status)
- Follow-up time from 4.3 years (median) to 8 years
- All procedures are approved by responsible ethics committees

How to use PATH Biobank as a research resource

- Researchers of both academic and corporate institutions are welcome
- Researchers request samples or data by submitting a brief research proposal
- PATH checks the availability of the requested samples
- Requests are reviewed by independent specialists
- A bilateral, signed Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) is part of every cooperation
- PATH requests a cost recovery fee for samples, data and logistics
- PATH organizes the handling and transport of the samples and provides the biomaterial with double pseudonymized data



Prof. em. Dr. Dr. Axel Ulrich, Director of the Department of Molecular Biology; Max-Planck Institute for Biochemistry, Martinsried, Germany, Lasker Award 2019 (for research on the antibody Trastuzumab)

„There is a shortage of fresh frozen tumor samples for breast cancer research. That is one reason why I encouraged the founding of PATH Biobank. I am glad that breast cancer survivors have taken the initiative and – through PATH – are making a major contribution to advancing cancer research. The PATH Biobank is well-stocked, professionally managed and, as a patient-run tumor bank, independent from individual interests.“



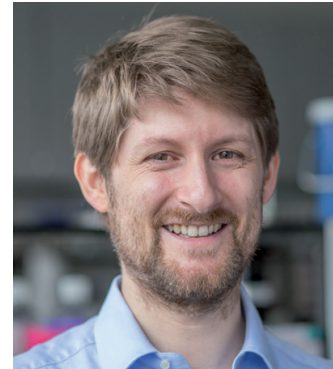
Dr. Manjiri Bakre, PhD, Founder and CEO of OncoStem Diagnostics, Bangalore, India, 'Health Tech Innovator of the Year' 2020

„What we really appreciated about PATH was their willingness to work with us even though they had never worked with any companies in India before this. They were both fair and thorough in vetting us as per the GDPR guidelines (Europäische Datenschutzgrundverordnung). They saw value in our study and were helpful to answer questions!“



Dr. Karolina Palucka, MD, PhD, Professor, Associate Director for Cancer Immunology, Deputy Director, JAX Cancer Center, The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine, Farmington, CT, USA

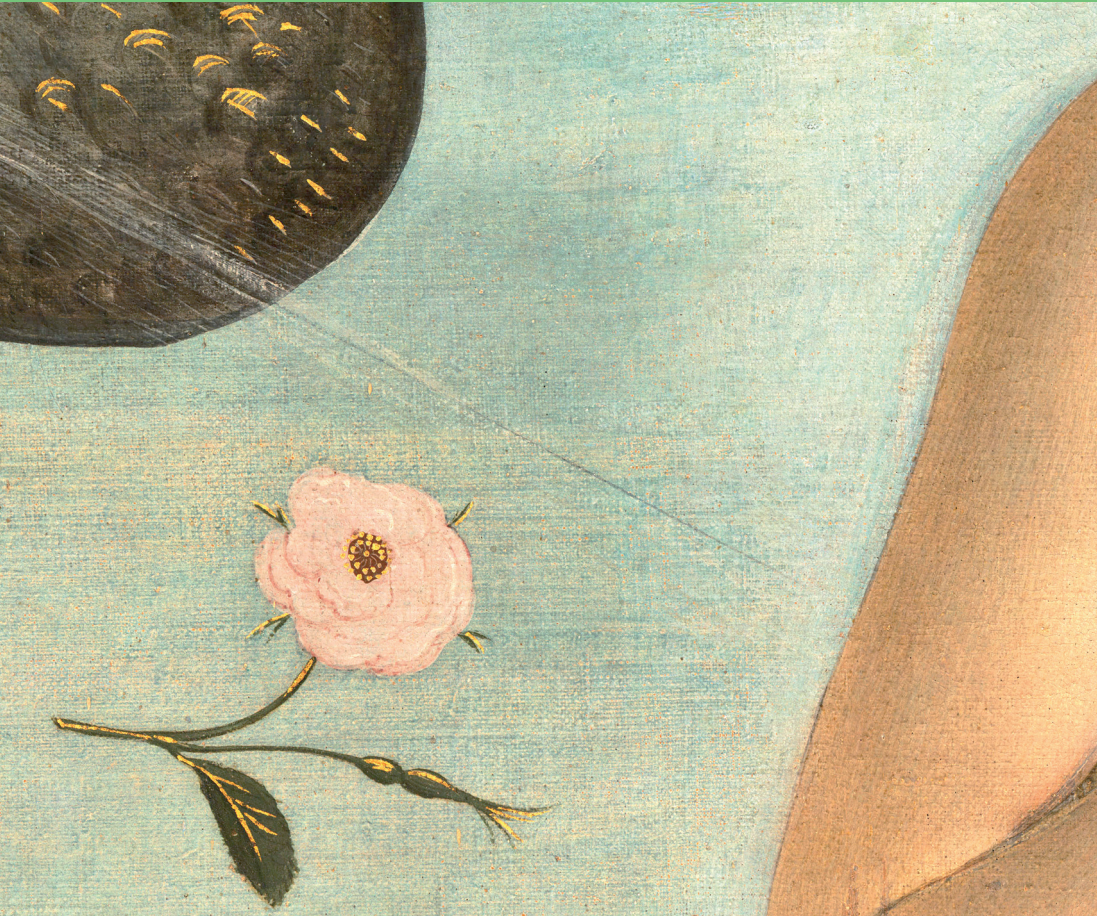
„PATH Biobank has been an outstanding provider of critical tissues. The fresh frozen breast cancer tumor samples they provide have proven to be an important resource, essential to our studies. We are delighted at the opportunity to extend our collaboration. PATH maintains a high level of professionalism and engagement, proving themselves to be a valuable partner in research.“



Prof. Dr. Bernd Bodenmiller, Director of the Department of Quantitative Biomedicine; University of Zurich, Associate Professor of Quantitative Biomedicine in the Department of Biology; ETH Zurich, Friedrich-Miescher-Award 2019, Switzerland

„The patient founded PATH biobank is a partner one can truly trust and built on. PATH organized for us the collection of breast tumor samples for single cell analysis. They planned and organized all biobanking efforts in a highly professional manner, and ensured the steady collection of top quality samples over many years. PATH also supported us in legal aspects and to this day, keep the patient data up to date. This support of PATH was key for our publication in Cell and with their help, we engaged in several follow-up projects.“

Contacting PATH



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