Background on the MRS/METAvivor Metastatic Breast Cancer Engagement Conference:

Metastasis is the spread of cancer from its primary location to a secondary location or organ in the body. For example, breast cancer can metastasize or spread from the breast to create new metastatic tumors in the liver and bone. There is no cure for breast cancer metastasis, and metastatic breast cancer is classified as a terminal illness in the United States.

The Metastatic Breast Cancer Engagement Conference will take place June 22-23, 2018 at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, FL. This one of a kind conference is being organized and run as a collaborative effort by metastatic breast cancer patients of METAvivor Research and Support Inc. and researchers and oncologists of the Metastasis Research Society and Sentinel Node Oncology Foundation.

Overall Goal: engage patients with researchers and clinicians together to improve stage IV (most severe) metastatic breast cancer patient-desired outcomes and quality of life.

Conference Objectives:

1. Engage and educate stakeholders (patients, clinicians, researchers) in translational metastasis research and clinical comparative effectiveness research (CER). CER compares the benefits and harms of different treatment options or interventions that are already available to improve patient outcomes and quality of life relatively quickly.

2. Collectively set research priorities for patient-centered translational metastatic breast cancer research (a path forward for new treatments)

3. Collectively set priorities for patient-centered metastatic breast cancer clinical comparative effectiveness research (CER - a path forward for existing therapies)

4. Develop a sustainable model for patient engagement in breast cancer metastasis research

This conference was funded in part through a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award (6102-MRS).

Description of how the Metastatic Breast Cancer Engagement Conference Meets Each of the five Patients Included charter criteria below:

1. Patients or caregivers with experience relevant to the conference’s central theme actively participate in the design and planning of the event, including the selection of themes, topics and speakers.

Creation: In 2015, researchers of the Metastasis Research Society (MRS) and metastatic breast cancer patients of METAvivor Research and Support Inc. (METAvivor) entered in to a Strategic Partnership for Metastatic Cancer Research. The partnership began with the goal of improving metastatic breast cancer patient outcomes by educating metastatic breast cancer patients about cancer metastasis research. Patients of METAvivor and researchers of the MRS are the main collaborators and lead organizers of the Metastatic Breast Cancer Engagement Conference.

Design/Planning/Execution: The steering committee for this conference overseeing its creation and execution is comprised of two oncologists, two PhD-level researchers, two non-profit
directors (one from the MRS and the other from METAvivor), and importantly, six stage IV metastatic breast cancer patient advocates. Patients attend all steering committee meetings and have been and will continue to be involved in every aspect of the conference including but not limited to location selection, speaker selection, topic selection, logistics, resource planning, planning and hosting associated webinars, networking event planning, and providing peer-to-peer support education. Eight patients are also participating as speakers/panelists in the conference.

2. Patients or caregivers with experience of the issues addressed by the event participate in its delivery, and appear in its physical audience.

There are eight experienced male and female metastatic breast cancer patient advocates serving as panelists/speakers in the conference program. Patients are also invited to attend and participate in all conference sessions and events. Many patients and some of their caregivers and family members have registered for the conference.

3. Travel and accommodation expenses for patients or carers participating in the advertised programme are paid in full, in advance. Scholarships [3] are provided by the conference organisers to allow patients or carers affected by the relevant issues to attend as delegates.

The travel and lodging fees for the duration of the conference for all patient speakers/panelists in the program and patient steering committee members are being covered by the conference. Coverage of these costs can occur in advance upon request.

Travel Awards/Scholarships: Organizers are offering up to ten travel and lodging awards to patients that require financial support to attend the conference. Awards will be granted based on need following an application review process. The application is open and free to all patients on the conference website. These awards are funded through a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award (6102-MRS).

Visit the travel award page for more information and to apply for a patient travel award by April 27, 2018 here: [https://www.metastasis-research-conferences.org/conference/mbc-conference-patient-travel-awards](https://www.metastasis-research-conferences.org/conference/mbc-conference-patient-travel-awards)

4. The disability requirements of participants are accommodated [4]. All applicable sessions, breakouts, ancillary meetings, and other programme elements are open to patient delegates.

The hosting institution, Moffitt Cancer Center, is well versed in accommodating patient needs and is compliant with handicapped requirements.

All conference space and restrooms at the venue within Moffitt are handicapped accessible. Attendees are able to email Kate Bankaitis, PhD at katebankaitis@gmail.com with any questions or information regarding their special needs/requirements. This is listed clearly
on the page describing the conference venue: https://www.metastasis-research-conferences.org/conference/mbc-conference-venue.

Patients are encouraged to attend and participate in every single conference event listed in the program. Their voice is central to the success of the conference.

5. Access for virtual participants is facilitated, [5] with free streaming video provided online wherever possible.

Every resource produced from this conference has been and will continue to be posted on the conference website free for the public. This includes all associated webinars and the actual conference talks with slides themselves (with speaker consent).

Pages for posting resources as they become available:
   Webinars and conference session recordings: https://www.metastasis-research-conferences.org/conference/mbc-webinar-and-conference-recordings

   Additional resources: https://www.metastasis-research-conferences.org/conference/mbc-additional-projects-outputs