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**Patty Brisben Foundation Awards Over \$350K to Women's Sexual Wellness Initiatives**

CINCINNATI (May 24, 2018) – The Patty Brisben Foundation for Women's Sexual Health (PBF) is working to improve and strengthen women's sexual health and wellbeing through research and education. A non-profit organization established by Pure Romance founder and chairwoman Patty Brisben; the mission of PBF is to advocate for women's sexual health by funding research, providing education, partnering with community organizations, and connecting individuals to resources. Since their inception in 2006 PBF has awarded over \$2 million dollars toward research and educational efforts in line with the Foundation's mission.

In 2018, grant money was awarded to programs and research which aligned with PBF's four focus areas:

- Vulvovaginal Pain Disorders
- Impact of Perimenopause and Menopause on Sexual Health
- Intimacy-Related Sexual Dysfunction After Cancer Treatment
- Libido and Sexual Desire

PBF is proud to announce the following recipients of the 2018 grant awards:

- **Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center – Cincinnati, OH**
  - Research in Primary Ovarian Insufficiency (POI) which is otherwise known as early menopause. POI affects 1 in 10,000 young women before the age of 20 and a better understanding of the condition may lead to better treatments and an improved quality of life for patients.
- **Cancer Family Care – Cincinnati, OH**
  - Ongoing support for a proven effective counseling program for women. The aim of the counseling sessions is to support women who are coping with the impact of cancer on their sexual well-being.
- **Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center – New York, NY**
  - A research study investigating the benefit and efficacy of a new treatment for premenopausal breast cancer patients experiencing vasomotor symptoms (VMS). Hot flashes and sexual dysfunction are two examples of VMS symptoms caused by abrupt menopause experienced by up to 90% of premenopausal breast cancer patients undergoing endocrine therapy.
- **Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center – New York, NY**
  - An educational effort aimed at improving physician patient communication and thereby patient outcomes for female cancer survivors. Chemotherapy and the removal of ovaries can impact sexual function and addressing these issues with survivors is critical for their overall wellness and quality of life after treatment. This program seeks to improve the process of screening patients for these issues as an effort to improve outcomes.

- **Gia Allemand Foundation – Boston, MA**
  - Expansion of a program which aims to educate and support women of reproductive age after they are faced with surgical menopause. Removal of the ovaries is often a lifesaving treatment however it permanently impacts survivors of reproductive age. Expansion of this program will allow facilitators reach more women and keep their materials up to date with current methods and research.
  
- **Trustees of Indiana University – Bloomington, IN**
  - Create educational materials based on research currently being conducted at the university. Traditionally, sexuality education materials for women have been developed based predominantly on the experience of white women. This project will create materials that reflect the experiences of African American women related to sexual response and function.
  
- **Center for Sexual Pleasure and Health – Pawtucket, RI**
  - Development and implementation of behavioral health intervention for women experiencing Chronic Pelvic Pain. This is an extremely prevalent condition associated with adverse mental health, sexual satisfaction and quality of life outcomes among women. Effective treatments are understudied, and this program aims to adapt evidence-based practices to treat this condition.
  
- **Pendleton Place for Children and Families – Greenville, SC**
  - Support for an existing program which empowers teen girls in transitional foster care to make healthy decisions regarding relationships and sexuality. Foster care youth have higher rates of negative sexual health outcomes than the general population and this program aims to reverse that trend through support and sex positive education.

To learn more about the impact and efforts of the foundation visit our website <http://pattybrisbenfoundation.org/> or follow us on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram. We would love to have your support at one of our upcoming events which you can find [HERE](#).