Training of patient navigators in the Philippines to support metastatic breast cancer patients and identify their unmet needs.

Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer in the Philippines, yet the national health insurance system only supports treatment for women with breast cancer at early stages and there is no national breast cancer screening programme. Women who can't afford check-ups hardly ever discover breast cancer in its early stages and only go to a doctor when cancer is incurable. The ICANSERVE Foundation would like to initiate trained patient navigators in cities that don't have any and strengthen their role in cities that do. ICANSERVE would like patient navigators to go beyond helping newly diagnosed patients but to also closely monitor, educate and provide access to support services for those who have had breast cancer so they are vigilant and prepared, and also those patients with late stage and metastatic breast cancer. The project will result in a listing of unmet needs of women with late stage breast cancer or MBC and an inventory or listing of possible sources of assistance from the public and private sectors that could help these patients. The project will be conducted in four cities of Metro Manila.

Focus areas
Patient navigation

Stakeholders
Patient navigators, patients

“This SPARC grant will help our organisation give women living with metastatic breast cancer in the Philippines a voice, so that they feel they are given the time of day. Hopefully the output of our project can provide the resources they need to safeguard their dignity."