

OCRFA NEWS



OCRFA's Liz Tilberis Early Career Award has helped launch the careers of a generation of young ovarian cancer researchers, providing them with vital funds to develop significant research programs. When Sarah Adams, MD, now an Associate Professor of Gynecologic Oncology at the University of New Mexico, received her first OCRFA grant in 2011, she was thrilled. While she already had a few smaller research grants under her belt, Dr. Adams felt the Tilberis Early Career Award was a game-changer. "It was my first multi-year grant and receiving that kind of encouragement and support made me feel like I had a chance of making it as a clinician-researcher," she says.

Dr. Adams' research interest is tumor immunology and the development of new strategies for the treatment of ovarian cancer. Specifically, she's interested in combining PARP inhibitors—drugs that specifically kill cancer cells but spare normal cells—with drugs that work to boost the immune system. The project supported by her first OCRFA grant showed a significant survival benefit when PARP inhibitors are combined with immune system enhancing drugs in BRCA-deficient ovarian cancers. While these results were a major step forward, Dr. Adams knew that it would take a sustained effort to make a positive impact on the lives of women battling this disease. She has since leveraged the data from her first OCRFA grant into a second grant as well as into a clinical trial, which is now enrolling patients and expanding to more sites around the country.



Dr. Sarah Adams

"This is exactly how progress in research happens," said Dr. Adams. "It started with one idea and a grant from OCRFA, and over the past six years we've been steadily building on that work. It's enormously gratifying that the work we did in the lab could now really make a difference for patients."

LETTER FROM OCRFA'S PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends,



Photo: Evelien Photography

At Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance (OCRFA), we are doing all we can for women diagnosed with ovarian cancer while simultaneously taking action to find a cure. We are investing in life-saving research, advocating to make ovarian cancer a

priority and providing programs and support for patients. At OCRFA, we believe the best solution for fighting ovarian cancer is to come at it from all angles. We are pleased to share some highlights of our work on all fronts. We believe our mission is not only an investment in research and programs; it's an investment in people.

Read about our National Conference, which was attended by over 350 ovarian cancer survivors, and about our volunteer Advocate Leaders who are helping us improve legislation. Learn about our growing patient support program, Woman to Woman, and how we are educating future health professionals through our Survivors Teaching Students: Saving Women's Lives[®] program. We also celebrate the successes of our supporters across the country that are participating in Ovarian Cycle or designing their own OCRFA fundraising events. Super Saturday, our star-studded shopping event in the Hamptons continued our tradition of offering an engaging way to contribute to the cause. This newsletter is just a glimpse into our work. We invite you to visit ocrfa.org and sign up to receive our emails and follow us on social media for updates.

On behalf of everyone at OCRFA, we thank you for your support and wish you a fall filled with friends, family and cherished moments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audra L. Moran". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Audra L. Moran
PRESIDENT & CEO

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EVERY VOICE HAS POWER

It has been a busy year on Capitol Hill and OCRFA has been working hard to ensure that the voice of the ovarian cancer community is clearly heard. In the spring, more than 80 advocates from across the country came to Washington, DC for



OCRFA Advocate Leaders

our annual Spring Advocacy Day where we met with more than 125 House and Senate offices. We have pushed back against potential changes to healthcare laws that could be harmful to cancer patients, while urging expanded funding for critical ovarian cancer research at the federal level. This year, our dogged advocacy effort actually helped secure a small increase in federal funding for 2017. This increase will help raise awareness and hopefully save lives.

Our Advocate Leaders program grew this year to consist of 33 members from 24 states. This incredible group of survivors, caregivers, and family members receives enhanced training and frequent policy updates from our staff and, in turn, serves as grassroots

leadership in members' home communities.

As we move forward, OCRFA will continue to push for legislation that raises awareness and ensures that high-quality affordable healthcare is available to all ovarian cancer patients. And, given recent medical breakthroughs and newly-available therapies, we will continue to work with regulatory agencies to make sure that patients are heard throughout the drug approval process and the creation of clinical trials.

OVARIAN CANCER DREAM TEAM UPDATE

Two years ago, OCRFA and the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition began funding Stand Up To Cancer's Ovarian Cancer Dream Team with three goals: to expand our knowledge of current research topics, to create new treatments for women diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and to develop ways to identify high risk women with the hopes of preventing cancer. The Dream Team, led by OCRFA Scientific Advisory Committee Member Alan D'Andrea, MD, of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and former OCRFA

grantee Elizabeth Swisher, MD, recently released updates on their progress.

In the first two years of the Dream Team grant, significant progress has been made. The MAGENTA (Making Genetic Testing more Accessible) trial is now enrolling patients, with the goal of enrolling 3,000 people by December 2018, and the WISP (Women Choosing Surgical Intervention) prevention trial is increasing its enrollment of high risk women. An additional trial, a collaboration of the Dream Team laboratories, Tesaro, and Merck, which is focusing on new combination therapies for platinum-resistant ovarian cancer, is progressing. Additionally, the Team has made strides in understanding tumor cells that are resistant to PARP inhibitors and has found a way to speed up tumor culture growth to learn more about tumor responses to drugs.



Dr. Alan D'Andrea

Photo: CloudSpotter

SURVIVORS TEACHING MEDICAL AND NURSING STUDENTS

When it comes to saving women's lives, it's not enough to educate women about ovarian cancer; we also need to educate our future doctors, nurses and health providers.



The brain-child of ovarian cancer survivor Betty Reiser, OCRFA's Survivors Teaching Students: Saving Women's Lives® (STS) program trains ovarian cancer survivors and caregivers to conduct presentations in medical education programs to educate future healthcare providers about ovarian cancer. Survivors share their stories of diagnosis, treatment and beyond, along with facts about the disease. The program that started with one woman in 2002 is now active in 35 states, and in the UK, Canada, and Australia. This year, more than 850 survivor volunteers will be delivering 450 presentations at 271 schools, and will reach over 11,000 medical, nursing, and physician's assistant students.

If you are interested in volunteering with Survivors Teaching Students, you can contact Susan Leighton, National Program Director, at sleighton@ocrfa.org.

OCRFA'S WOMAN TO WOMAN PROGRAM EXPANDS

A cancer diagnosis can be an overwhelming experience. Woman to Woman is a peer-to-peer support program for women newly diagnosed with gynecologic cancer. Woman to Woman pairs gynecologic cancer patients with trained survivor-volunteers, who provide one-on-one emotional support and mentoring.

Woman to Woman also promotes education and self-advocacy for women in treatment, as well as for their partners, families, and other caregivers. From the moment of diagnosis through the end of treatment, Woman to Woman survivor-volunteers have helped hundreds of women and their families cope with gynecologic cancer. All services are offered free of charge to all patients. This summer, OCRFA funded programs at eight new sites—University Hospital Newark, Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center, St. Dominic-Jackson Memorial Hospital, Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare Foundation, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Cancer Advocacy Resources Education (C.A.R.E.), Holy Name Medical Center and Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Greater Cincinnati/Cancer Support Community—bringing the total number of sites to 35. Additionally, OCRFA has now expanded the program virtually so any woman, regardless of her location, can connect with a Woman to Woman volunteer.

If you are a newly diagnosed patient and would like to talk to a Woman to Woman volunteer, please email womantowoman@ocrfa.org or visit womantowoman.ocrfa.org.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE: A WEEKEND OF FRIENDSHIP, FUN, AND FACTS



Photo: CloudSpotter

Every year, OCRFA brings together ovarian cancer patients, survivors and caregivers at our Ovarian Cancer National Conference, a three day event filled with informational sessions featuring expert speakers, fun and community. This July, over 350 survivors attended the National Conference in Chicago. The spirit of unity and hope was strong throughout the weekend, where attendees met new friends and reunited with old ones, while attending sessions

that provided up-to-date answers to questions about their diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship.

The sessions featured ovarian cancer experts that presented the latest in treatments, research, managing recurrence, genetics, nutrition, caretaker and supporter care, support for young women, advocacy, and so much more.

Next year, the National Conference will be July 13–15, 2018 in Washington, DC. To learn more, please visit our website at OCRFA.org.

HOW YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

To ensure that OCRFA is able to continue funding the most cutting-edge research and patient programs, we need your continued support. There are a variety of opportunities for making a lasting impact. A gift can be made in honor or memory of a loved one or friend. Donations can be doubled or tripled when matched by an employer. See if your company has a matching gift program by visiting doublethedonation.com/ocrfa. Contact us about making a gift of stock. Or create a lasting legacy by including OCRFA in your will.

When you support OCRFA, you can be confident that your gift will be spent wisely. OCRFA has earned a four-star rating from Charity Navigator for seven consecutive years and is a Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity, meeting all 20 standards for charity accountability.

Please contact Dana McCaw-Lane, Director, Donor Relations, at dmccawlane@ocrfa.org to discuss your options or visit ocrfa.org/get-involved/ways-to-give.



Ovarian Cycle riders from Atlanta

OVARIAN CYCLE

DO GOOD FEEL GREAT

Ovarian Cycle riders across the country have been hopping on bikes and pedaling for a cause. Ovarian Cycle is OCRFA's series of fun and inspiring indoor cycling events, open to men and women of all ages and cycling experience, aiming to raise funds for OCRFA. Some ride in honor or memory of a loved one, some are ovarian cancer survivors, but all come together for one important goal: to fund much-needed ovarian cancer research that will one day find a cure.

April was a huge month for Ovarian Cycle rides. Over 300 Cycle warriors rocked Atlanta, Chicago, Irvine, and Boston and raised more than \$200,000 towards their goal of helping end this disease.

Our Ovarian Cycle rides take place in cities all across the country, with new locations added regularly. Check ocrfa.org/events/ovarian-cycle. Don't see a ride in your area? We can help you start one! OCRFA is thrilled to be partnering with CYCLEBAR on rides in cities where they currently have studios. You can find a list of their locations at cyclebar.com. For more information about Ovarian Cycle contact Claudia Shapiro, Director, Community Events, at cshapiro@ocrfa.org.

CREATE AN OCRFA FUNDRAISER

From every corner of the U.S., people come together to create their own way to fundraise for OCRFA. Whether it's participating in a race, hosting a bake sale, or creating a donation page in honor or in memory of a loved one, our supporters tirelessly dedicate themselves to the ovarian cancer cause.

This August, in Mount Airy, MD, some of these heroes gathered at the 17th annual "Ta's" Memorial Charity Golf Tournament held in memory of Nita Colliflower. Together, they raised over \$10,000 for OCRFA.



Fundraising Superstar Erin Reid at "Ta's" Memorial Charity Golf Tournament

There are so many ways to help raise funds for OCRFA. You can ask your colleagues to wear teal for a day, invite friends to donate in lieu of accepting wedding gifts, or host your own comedy show. The ideas are endless and only limited by your imagination! Visit ocrfa.org/fundraise to learn more and become part of the team to end ovarian cancer.



Photo: Getty Images

Left to right: Audra Moran, Lois Stuart-Black, Donna Karan, Rob Tilberis, Chris Tilberis

SUPER SATURDAY AT 20: MORE FASHIONABLE THAN EVER

OCRFA's 20th annual Super Saturday took place on July 29th at Nova's Ark in the Hamptons on a bright but windy day. Started in 1998 by iconic fashion designer, Donna Karan and Liz Tilberis, the beloved Editor-in-Chief of Harper's Bazaar and then President of OCRF, who sadly passed away from ovarian cancer, Super Saturday has grown to be one of the most popular and well attended fundraisers in the Hamptons. Super Saturday is a day-long, guilt-free charity shopping

event featuring discounted designer merchandise, kids activities and carnival, luxury activations, and gourmet treats. Always a Hamptons hit, this summer's Super Saturday did not disappoint. Hosted by Kelly Ripa, Donna Karan, Gabby Karan de Felice, Molly Sims and Rachel Zoe, along with Presenting Sponsor QVC, Super Saturday raised \$3 million to help fund critical ovarian cancer research and support programs.

STAND UP FOR MADELINE: LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

In May, we were joined by dear friends at Carolines on Broadway for an evening of laugh-out-loud stand up performances, a raucous live auction, and cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, all to benefit OCRFA in memory of the legendary actress and comedienne, Madeline Kahn, who passed away from ovarian cancer in 1999. This year's performers included Joy Behar, Robert Klein, Judy Gold, Bob the Drag Queen, Des Bishop and Tim Dillon. Once again, the 16th Annual Stand Up for Madeline & OCRFA was a hit and critics agree: the only thing better than laughter is laughter for a great cause! Thanks to the efforts of hilarious comedians and attendees, the event raised more than \$133,000 for OCRFA.





OCRFA *Ovarian Cancer
Research Fund Alliance*

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SAVE THE DATE

Turn Up the Heat — March 7, 2018 — Washington DC

Stand Up for Madeline — May 14th, 2018 — New York, NY

Ovarian Cancer National Conference — July 13–15, 2018 — Washington DC

To learn more, visit ocrfa.org or email info@ocrfa.org

