



OCRF Hosts First Meeting of Principal Investigators

On Saturday, July 19, the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund hosted the first Program Project Development Grant Principal Investigators Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. Members of OCRF's distinguished Scientific Advisory Committee gathered with the Principal Investigators of our Program Project Development Grants, OCRF's most aggressively funded grant program.

2008 marked the end of the three-year funding period for the first group of Program Project Development Grants—an appropriate time to bring Principal Investigators together with Scientific Advisory Committee members. Despite everyone's full schedules, all eight of OCRF's Principal Investigators and nine of the eleven Scientific Advisory Committee members were present for the meeting. Each Principal Investigator gave a

continued on page 4

Ovarian Cycle: Riding for a Cure

The annual Ovarian Cycle took place in Atlanta on Saturday, April 26, and Mrs. Nancy Stevens, mother of OCRF staff member Caroline Stevens, accepted a check on behalf of OCRF to support ovarian cancer research. Mrs. Stevens' mother passed away of ovarian cancer, so she is an ardent supporter of the cause. Atlanta residents turned out to support the annual Ovarian Cycle's Ride to Change the Future, an event launched by Ovarian Cycle founder Bethany Diamond who was inspired to become an activist for ovarian cancer when her best friend, Debbie Flamm, lost her life to the disease.

Ovarian Cycle began its national expansion in 2008 with rides in Birmingham, Alabama and Broomfield, Colorado. Outreach to other communities helps to strengthen the organization's mission to support research leading to a reliable

continued on page 3

4

OCRF AND
ELECTROLUX



8

SUPER SATURDAY 11



12

U.S. WOMEN'S
TRIATHLON SERIES



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Ann Schreiber

With Special Tribute to
Liz Tilberis
(President, 1997-1999)

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Letter from the CEO



It has been a year of significant accomplishments for the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund. What keeps us pushing forward and working tirelessly everyday are the many women and their families and friends that we meet across the country. We listen to their stories. Over and over again we hear three words, "I had symptoms."

In response, OCRF is funding a symptoms study in partnership with the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation to follow up on the work of Dr. Barbara Goff. "It's very important that women be told when they go to their physician with symptoms to tell the provider, 'Prove to me that I don't have ovarian cancer,'" said Dr. Carmel Cohen who was featured in the October 20, 2008 *Los Angeles Times* article "Common, Frequent, Early Symptoms of Ovarian Cancer."

We also hear the common question: why doesn't ovarian cancer get more attention? Ovarian cancer is an infrequent disease and does not necessarily attract the attention other cancers do. OCRF is doing all we can to raise awareness and to educate women about ovarian cancer by connecting them in new, innovative ways. OCRF launched a new website, created Facebook pages, re-energized the Junior Board of Directors, and developed a strategy to raise nationwide awareness by setting up regional groups of supporters and volunteers. We are in Chicago and Seattle, and soon we will have an active group in California.

On the research front, progress is being made. In July, OCRF brought together the eight Principal Investigators of our Program Project Development Grants for a meeting in Chicago. See the feature story on the first page to read more about this meeting. A compendium of the meeting has been published and is available to download on our website.

Super Saturday 11, our signature event, surpassed all records for attendance, fundraising, and just plain joy! The L'Oréal Legends Gala in November was sold out. We are now in the eleventh year of support from L'Oréal Paris, and we have new corporate partnerships with Electrolux and Loehmann's and will be featuring them on the OCRF website.

The U.S. Women's Triathlon Series broke the one million dollar mark, and Team Hope continues to grow. Team Hope are women who are participating because they are survivors, they have friends who are battling ovarian cancer, or they are competing in memory of a mother, a sister, or a grandmother, and they all have one thing in common—they are remarkable women who support our work.

Two brave, strong women had the vision to support research: Ann Schreiber, whose husband Sol founded OCRF, and Liz Tilberis, who used her connections and her celebrity to bring national attention to a disease no one wanted to talk about. In their memory, to support their shared vision, and to keep their energy alive, we need to push harder to raise more money for research and to educate women. Working together we can make a difference.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Elizabeth Howard".

Elizabeth Howard
Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Molly Brewer Makes Her Mark as the First Researcher to Receive OCRF Funding

What drives the many researchers and physicians who dedicate their careers to the prevention, early detection, and treatment of ovarian cancer? Just ask Molly Brewer, DVM, MD, MS, Associate Professor of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center at University of Connecticut Health Center. Dr. Brewer is driven now by the same determination she had when she became the first person to receive funding from OCRF more than a decade ago while working closely with Robert Bast, Jr., MD, whom she credits as her mentor.

A few years after receiving OCRF funding, Dr. Brewer was asked to join the Scientific Advisory Committee. She credits OCRF with being a key component to launching her research career. "They got my career off the ground. I'm really grateful for this support," Dr. Brewer stated. "OCRF has gone from a small organization to being a major player, and I'm really proud to see what has happened."

Though we have come a long way in achieving our mission, there is still much work left to be done. When asked what she considers the most urgent need to advance ovarian cancer research and awareness, Dr. Brewer stressed the ever-growing need for funds. "Money is what really makes the biggest difference. I was thinking about AIDS—15 years ago it was a terminal disease, but today I have an AIDS patient who's lived with it for 15 years," Dr. Brewer explained. "If people get access to care, it becomes a chronic, controllable condition." She went on to say that the world became so terrified by the toll AIDS was taking on countless lives that huge amounts of money went to funding AIDS research. To



Dr. Brewer riding her horse Indigo.

bring this sense of urgency to the fight against ovarian cancer is a challenge she's ready to face head-on. "I want to do whatever I can do to help," Dr. Brewer said. "I went to L'Oréal and gave a talk to up the call for money, to get

people interested, to let them know how cancer can touch your life." Dr. Brewer is committed to ovarian cancer research and is working to develop new technology to evaluate the ovary for cancer and pre-cancer. "I want to stress how important research is to really make a difference," Dr. Brewer explained. "As a physician, you take care of 10,000 women, but as a researcher, your work can affect far more than 10,000 women."

Dr. Brewer earned her medical degree from the State University of New York College of Medicine in Syracuse and completed her residency at Oregon Health Sciences in Portland. She completed her fellowship at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. She also holds a master's degree in statistical analysis and clinical research design from the University of Michigan School of Public Health in Ann Arbor.

Determination, collaboration, and commitment are at the heart of our work, and it is clear why Dr. Brewer has remained such a driving force behind OCRF's mission to build awareness, educate women, and raise crucial funds for ovarian cancer research. ●

L'Oréal Color of Hope

Every fall, L'Oréal Paris creates a limited edition and exclusive makeup collection to honor the work of OCRF. Featuring products for eyes, lips, and nails, the *Color of Hope* makeup collection pairs the universally flattering shade of mauve with vibrant teal, the color symbolizing ovarian cancer awareness. These shades represent strength, hope, and inspiration.

L'Oréal Paris will donate \$2 from the purchase of each *Color of Hope* Lipcolour to OCRF. The *Color of Hope* makeup collection is available at retail partners where L'Oréal Paris products are sold and at L'Oréal Paris retail stores in Farmington, Connecticut and Los Angeles, California. For a list of retail partners, visit www.lorealcolorofhope.com. ●

continued from page 1

Ovarian Cycle: Riding for a Cure

screening test for ovarian cancer, encourage fitness, and raise funds and awareness.

To date, Ovarian Cycle has donated more than \$365,000 to ovarian cancer research. Bethany Diamond commented, "We're already looking forward to 2009. Our tremendous growth makes each year more exciting than the last." For more information about Ovarian Cycle, visit www.ovariancycle.org. ●

OCRF and Electrolux: A Proud Partnership

This spring, Electrolux, Europe's leading premium appliance brand, and Kelly Ripa joined forces to auction off a stylish collection of designer handbags featured in "Kelly's Bags," a first-of-its-kind online game that captured the imaginations of over 40,000 women while helping to raise funds for OCRF. From May 28

Awareness Month, Electrolux teamed up with Kelly Ripa to launch its premium laundry collection in North America.

The centerpiece of the new collection is a stylish front-loading washer and dryer in "Turquoise Sky," a vibrant teal color inspired by the ovarian cancer ribbon, the nationally recognized symbol in the fight against ovarian cancer. "National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month is the perfect opportunity to remind people that we need to raise funds to help find a method of early detection for ovarian cancer. It's a deadly disease that affects thousands of women and their families each year," noted Ripa. "That's why I am so grateful to Electrolux for stepping up once again to help me raise money and awareness to help support this important cause."

During the month of September, a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Electrolux Turquoise Sky Washers and Dryers benefited OCRF. "Electrolux is proud to support the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund and its efforts to fund the research that will eradicate this

deadly disease; that's why we're donating \$100 to OCRF for each Turquoise Sky Washer or Dryer purchased as part of our commitment to raise more than \$500,000 to help fight ovarian cancer over the next two years," said Keith McLoughlin, Electrolux Major Appliances President and CEO, North America. ●



through June 7, bags from Ripa's personal collection (including designs by Elliott Lucca, Gustto, Lucy's Luxuries, Kara James, Cate Adair, and LaCroix Designs) were auctioned on eBay® with proceeds benefiting OCRF.

This September, in support of National Ovarian Cancer

continued from page 1

OCRF Hosts First Meeting of Principal Investigators

brief presentation to share research with peers, highlight the project's objectives and the progress being made, and give insights into the potential outcomes.

Following the presentations, the group engaged in a lively dialogue. Scientific Advisory Committee members and fellow Principal Investigators raised questions that could further the researchers' work, identified areas of possible collaboration among projects, and discussed what progress is being made to identify more accurate early detection techniques, better treatments, and a cure for ovarian cancer. The knowledge sharing facilitated by this meeting is essential to staying at the forefront of ovarian cancer research, building relationships between doctors and researchers,



and allowing our investigators to benefit from the progress of their peers. As research projects are often concentrated in specialized areas of study, this meeting facilitated new dialogue and cross-talk among investigators, institutions, and Scientific Advisory Committee members.

A compendium highlighting the efforts of the Principal Investigators and reviewing the presentations and discussions from the meeting is available to download on the OCRF website at www.ocrf.org. ●

OCRF to Fund Symptoms Study with Gynecologic Cancer Foundation

The Ovarian Cancer Research Fund is partnering with the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation on a grant to fund a pilot project designed to further refine and test the systematic use of an ovarian cancer symptom index in women over age 40 in a primary care clinic.

This pilot study will also provide information on the viability and acceptability of this approach for both patients and practitioners and will provide the opportunity to correlate CA125,

transvaginal sonography (TVS), and any surgical findings in patients referred with a positive symptom index.

"The OCRF Symptoms Screening Index Study will also provide the preliminary information needed for a large scale multisite screening trial that could answer the question of whether or not identification of ovarian cancer through symptom detection can save lives and also be cost effective," said OCRF CEO Elizabeth Howard. ●

OCRF Salutes L'Oréal's Carol Hamilton

Dynamic, passionate, and inspirational are three words that clearly personify Carol Hamilton, one of the beauty industry's most respected leaders. OCRF salutes Ms. Hamilton and thanks her for partnering with us to make an indelible impact on the lives of thousands of women. We congratulate her on her recent promotion to President of the Luxury Products Division of L'Oréal USA and honor her as an exemplary leader of distinction.

Ms. Hamilton shaped the direction of L'Oréal Paris in the U.S. and is widely recognized for her contributions to the international development of the L'Oréal Paris brand. A highlight of her career with L'Oréal Paris was the 11-year commitment to the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund. Since 1997, when L'Oréal Paris participated in OCRF's first gala fundraiser, Carol Hamilton has been the driving force behind L'Oréal Paris' efforts to help OCRF fulfill its mission to fund research to find a method of early detection and a cure for ovarian cancer. After Ms. Hamilton and her team met with Liz Tilberis, the beloved late Editor-in-Chief of *Harper's Bazaar*, she pledged her steadfast support for OCRF. L'Oréal Paris became OCRF's primary sponsor, spearheading several programs



uniquely designed to raise awareness and educate women about ovarian cancer as well as honor the dedicated women making a difference in their communities. With its signature Legends Gala, *Color of Hope* cosmetics collection, and *Color of Hope* bracelet that benefited OCRF, L'Oréal Paris helped raise more

than \$14 million on behalf of the organization. Ms. Hamilton also serves as a member of the OCRF Board of Directors.

Visit www.lorealcolorofhope.com to learn more about L'Oréal Paris *Color of Hope*. Buy special *Color of Hope* products, share your stories, and learn more about their commitment to fighting ovarian cancer. Because You're Worth It! ●



Get Involved

community. To register online, go to www.ocrf.org, click on *Support OCRF*, then click on *Volunteer* and complete our volunteer form.

Join the OCRF Volunteer Network! Sign up today to plan an event in your

Surviving Against the Odds: The Power of Vigilance

Barbara Banks-Wittich knows the true meaning of the word vigilance. For a year and a half, she complained of right-sided stomach pain, and was initially given painkillers to ease her discomfort. In time, the pain got worse. She faced a battery of tests, and though they all came back negative, the pain continued to worsen. "I went to bed one night, and the pain was so bad,



from the front to the back of my stomach, it woke me from a sound sleep," Barbara explained. "I told my husband something was wrong."

She saw a urologist who found a tumor, and within a week, she underwent surgery for late stage three ovarian cancer. Life would never be the same. "I was a practicing attorney for 25 years, and this put a screeching halt on my career," Barbara said. Her husband David put his career as a managing partner for IBM on hold to devote all his time to caring for Barbara.

David is well aware of the lack of attention paid to ovarian cancer. "Ten to fifteen years ago, the big drive was for breast cancer self-exams and mammograms," he said. He underscores the sobering fact that there is so much awareness of breast and colon cancer as more people are educated on early detection and prevention, but there is no method of early detection for ovarian cancer, and, often, education about risk factors and symptoms does not receive the same attention as other cancers. "Women should be saying, 'prove to me that it's not ovarian cancer' and work backwards from there," he said.

Fed up with the lack of medical care truly focused on how to best treat her condition, Barbara traveled from her home in Palm Beach, Florida to New York City, where she is originally from, to see a physician who immediately recommended surgery upon finding more tumors in her liver, pelvis, and diaphragm. She is thrilled with the quality of care she receives now and travels to New York regularly for ongoing treatments.

Barbara is overwhelmingly thankful for her husband and daughters, five-year-old Sarah and twelve-year-old Rachel, for being such a strong support system. "There's a reason I was spared, and the reason is to get the word out there, and the word is vigilance," Barbara explained. "You have to be your own advocate." ●

Share Your Story | Are you an ovarian cancer survivor who would like to share your story? Visit www.ocrf.org, click on *Community*, then go to the *OCRF Wall of Hope* to submit your story today.

Hearst Presentation Features Dr. Peter Dottino

In September, Hearst Corporation hosted a forum at their New York headquarters in recognition of Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. The event was open to Hearst employees as well as the general public and proved to be a rousing success in raising awareness and educating women about the risk factors, signs, and symptoms of ovarian cancer.

Ellen Levine, Editorial Director of Hearst Magazines, moderated the forum, and Peter Dottino, MD, OCRF Board member and Director of Gynecologic Oncology at Mount Sinai Medical Center,

provided a thorough overview of ovarian cancer, discussing treatment options and addressing myths and misconceptions about the condition. Ovarian cancer survivors Valerie Goldfein and Jenn Sommermann were also on hand with inspirational, personal stories of hope that moved everyone in attendance. OCRF thanks Hearst Corporation and Jamie Harrington, Junior Board member and Hearst Corporation employee, for their support in furthering our mission. ●

Clean Out Your Closet for OCRF

OCRF is pleased to be spearheading a new outreach initiative to collect donations of old clothing, jewelry, knick-knacks, toys, sports equipment, books, home accessories, and more in Manhattan and on Long Island. Trucks featuring the OCRF logo and a toll-free pickup number collected



donations during the month of November. In addition to the toll-free number to call and schedule a pickup, participants easily and conveniently scheduled pickups online at www.ocrfpickup.org. Handy bags in which to place donated items for pickup were delivered directly to participants' homes. All items were tax deductible, and the funds raised will be used to directly support OCRF's critical research programs. •

Seventh Annual *Stand Up for Madeline*

On May 5, host Joy Behar along with friends Mario Cantone, Mike De Stefano, Susie Essman, Jeff Garlin, Kevin Meaney, and Triumph the Insult Comic Dog presented the Seventh Annual *Stand Up for Madeline*, a night of laughter, a live auction, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres all in tribute to Madeline Kahn.

Best known for her comedic roles, Madeline Kahn was a two-time Academy Award-nominated, four-time Golden Globe-nominated, Tony Award-winning and Emmy Award-winning American actress. In early 1999, she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and publicly announced her disease in hopes that more women could be diagnosed at earlier stages. On December 3, 1999, at the age of 57, Madeline succumbed to the disease.



Photos from left to right: Jeff Garlin and Triumph the Insult Comic Dog, Joy Behar, Mario Cantone, and Susie Essman.

Her surviving husband John Hansbury joined the OCRF Board of Directors and, together with OCRF, created the now annual *Stand Up for Madeline* comedy event in tribute to his late wife. This year's event raised nearly \$100,000 for OCRF. Thank you to Caroline Hirsch, Caroline's on Broadway, and John Hansbury for their continued support of our work. •

OCRF Partners with Brooks Brothers

OCRF is now partnering with Brooks Brothers, and on Thursday, February 28, Brooks Brothers joined with Ovarian Cycle for a special in-store event to benefit OCRF at their Lenox Square location in Atlanta, Georgia. On Tuesday, November 18, the OCRF Junior Board, in collaboration with Brooks Brothers and *Town&Country*, held another in-store event at the Brooks Brothers Women's Store in New York City. The evening was



held in support of OCRF and featured music, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and, of course, shopping. Shoppers enjoyed a 15% savings on purchases made during the event, and 10% of sales were donated to OCRF. Thank you to Brooks Brothers and *Town&Country* for sponsoring this wonderful evening. •

Super Saturday 11

For 11 years, Super Saturday has been held on the hottest day of the summer, and this year was no exception. Though it rained practically every day the week before the event, Saturday's weather was nothing but blue skies. Hosted by Donna Karan, Charla Lawhon, *InStyle*, and Kelly Ripa, Super Saturday 11 raised over \$3.7 million to support OCRF.



QVC® Presents Super Saturday Live

Super Saturday 11 was held on Saturday, July 26, at Nova's Ark Project in Water Mill, New York. This day-long event is the much anticipated, world renowned designer garage sale of the year. The sale included items from over 200 of the most prominent designers including: Donna Karan, Marc Jacobs, theory, Carolina Herrera, Calvin Klein, Judith Leiber, Michael Kors, Diane Von Furstenberg, Polo Ralph Lauren, Lacoste, and Salvatore Ferragamo. The special Super Saturday Accessories Salon showcased luxury accessories from numerous designers such as Prada, Dior, Louis Vuitton, Emilio Pucci, Hogan, Tory Burch, Thomas Pink, and Zac Posen.

For the second year in a row, QVC® provided nationwide coverage of the event. QVC® Presents Super Saturday Live gave home viewers the chance to score amazing deals on designer clothes, accessories, and beauty products. As it has been for the past ten years, Super Saturday 11 was filled with fun for the entire family, not only because it is a designer garage sale like no other, but also because the day included a raffle, a carnival, and other exciting activities for kids. The afternoon's festivities included activities and indulgences provided by the following Super Saturday sponsors: Burt's Bees, CVS/Pharmacy, Nintendo DS™, Essie Cosmetics, KaBoost, Spirituality for Kids, Ralph Lauren Childrenswear, Crumbs Bakeshop, Emotes, DwellStudio, and FatBoy.

Our sincerest thanks to sponsors Donna Karan, InStyle, and special partner QVC®. We also recognize with great appreciation Kelly Ripa and Molly Sims for being such an integral part of our QVC® PSA campaign.

Photos from left on opposite page: Molly Sims, Beth Ostrosky and Super Saturday host Kelly Ripa, Betsey Johnson, Kelsey Grammer and family, Russell Simmons, Lorraine Bracco and OCRF Board President Faith Kates Kogan. Photo credit: Patrick McMullan.



For the second consecutive year, OCRF partnered with leading multimedia retailer QVC® to bring Super Saturday to a nationwide audience of 93 million homes. QVC® Presents Super Saturday Live was a special two-hour event giving viewers the chance to purchase an array of products including apparel, accessories, jewelry, and beauty at half the manufacturers suggested retail price with 100% of net proceedings going to OCRF. This year's broadcast generated over \$750,000. OCRF extends a warm thank you to QVC® for their continued support and commitment to our work.

Thanks to our participating designers for being part of QVC® Presents Super Saturday Live:

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OCRF Team Participates in Revlon Run/Walk

On Saturday, May 3, OCRF participated in the Revlon Run/Walk for Women, now in its eleventh year. Board Members Ylain Mayer and Robin Zarel again led



OCRF Board Member and ovarian cancer survivor Robin Zarel.

the OCRF team for this event, created in 1993 to raise awareness and critical funds for cancer research and awareness. OCRF joined together with survivors, their loved ones, and thousands of others who participated. "For the past ten years, Ylain Mayer and I have led the OCRF team in the Revlon Walk which is an extraordinary event," said Robin. "It has been a time for OCRF to stand with the ovarian cancer community to show support for survivors, their family and friends, and an opportunity to spread the word about OCRF and the great work we are doing to eradicate this insidious disease." To date, Revlon Run/Walks (LA/NY) have distributed nearly \$50 million for

cancer research, counseling, and outreach programs. Thanks in part to these funds, new treatments are being developed, and lives are being saved. Robin explained, "As an ovarian cancer survivor, it's personally gratifying to see and speak with other survivors and to possibly offer some hope to a newly diagnosed woman, as they see me, a 15 year survivor, healthy and going strong." The 2009 Revlon Run/Walk is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, and we salute Robin and Ylain for their continued commitment to this event.

Loehmann's Shop & Share Day Draws OCRF Supporters

On Thursday, September 25, OCRF supporters stocked up on new fall fashions at 62 Loehmann's stores in 14 states across the country. Loehmann's hosted Shop and Share Day where shoppers donated \$5 to OCRF and instantly received 15% off their entire purchase. Loehmann's also donated 5% of all Shop and Share Day purchases to OCRF.



CEO Elizabeth Howard visited the Chelsea store in Manhattan with Loehmann's CEO Jerry Politzer. OCRF Board Member Susie Fragnoli took part in the event at one of the store's California locations. We thank Loehmann's for their support in helping to raise awareness and advance ovarian cancer research. This effort raised almost \$68,000 for OCRF.

11th Annual Ovarian Cancer National Alliance Conference

The Ovarian Cancer National Alliance Conference was held in Washington, DC in July, and OCRF was one of the premier sponsors. The Alliance conferences help to establish a coordinated national effort to place ovarian cancer education, policy, and research issues on the agendas of national policy makers and women's health care leaders.



OCRF CEO Elizabeth Howard welcomed attendees of the research update session, which featured opening remarks by Carmel Cohen, MD, Vice-Chair of the OCRF Scientific Advisory Committee. Robert Bast, Jr., MD, Head of the Division of Medicine, Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Medical Oncology at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and member of the OCRF Scientific Advisory Committee, presented ovarian cancer research updates.

A highlight of the conference was the introduction of Karen Orloff Kaplan, ScD, the new OCNA Executive Director, and Carol Ansley, Chief Executive Officer of the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition.

Remembering Louis Kogan

Louis Kogan was one of OCRF's earliest board members and served as Treasurer and member of the Executive Committee of the OCRF Board of Directors. Louis passed away on June 2, 2008, and his dedication, generosity of time and spirit, and wonderful sense of humor will be missed by all. Louis is the father-in-law of OCRF Board President Faith Kates Kogan.

OCRF Shop News

A purchase from the OCRF Online Shop will support our mission to fund ovarian cancer research. With your help, we can and will find better ways to prevent, treat, and cure this disease. Our festive holiday cards are uniquely designed to delight your family and friends during the holiday season.

Thank you to Marian Williams for the wonderful holiday card designs and Brian Munck, owner of Graphics Suisse, who so graciously donated his printing services. The OCRF Canvas Tote is a sturdy, handy, eco-friendly way to carry groceries and makes an excellent gift.



Visit www.ocrf.org, go to *Support OCRF*, and click on *OCRF Shop* to view these and other unique items—all proceeds from sales directly benefit OCRF.

4th Annual Teal Magnolias Evening of Fashion and Awareness

Teal Magnolias held their fourth annual event on April 28 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. What started as a gathering of friends sitting around a kitchen table has grown into a group 700 strong. For the fourth consecutive year, this incredible group of survivors, friends, family, and community



members came together to celebrate those who have lost their battle with ovarian cancer and those who are still fighting. Teal Magnolias is a grassroots organization dedicated to raising ovarian cancer awareness and research funds. The evening included dinner, a raffle, a fashion show, and inspirational speeches by survivors.

Through their dedication of time and energy, Teal Magnolias has raised over \$500,000 for OCRF. Dedicated to the memory of their lost friends, they often reflect on the words of their mentor and co-founder, Mimi Yurkow, which have become their motto: *together, we can move mountains, one stone at a time.*

Friends of OCRF Gather in Chicago

On November 18, Alfred Goldstein hosted a cocktail party for the Chicago Friends of OCRF and other supporters at the Metropolitan Club in the Sears Tower. Guests gathered to learn more about OCRF and how they can be a part of fulfilling our mission.

The Chicago Friends of OCRF formed at a meeting hosted by Jill Gray on June 19, 2008. Nine people, all personally touched by ovarian cancer, joined together to create a network devoted to supporting OCRF. Brian Munck, whose mother has ovarian cancer, was among the nine that attended the first meeting, and he offered to donate the costs of printing our holiday cards at his printing company, Graphics Suisse.



Chicago Friends of OCRF June 19 meeting attendees.

The cocktail party was a great success, and the Chicago Friends are now planning an event to benefit OCRF in spring 2009. OCRF is thrilled to help create regional networks like Chicago Friends of OCRF—people who are energetic and determined to fight for our cause, coming together to raise awareness of ovarian cancer and, step by step, create change.

U.S. Women's Triathlon Series



Congratulations are in order to Team Hope, whose final triathlon of 2008 took place on Sunday, October 19 in San Diego. The first triathlon of the U.S. Women's Triathlon Series was held in Naperville, Illinois on June 22, and another race took place in Federal Way, Washington on Sunday, September 9. The final event in the series was held on a beautiful, sunny day in South Shores Park, San Diego.

More than just a race, these triathlons provide a supportive, nurturing environment for women of all ages and athletic abilities in support of OCRF. In San Diego, 1,000 athletes participated, raising over \$32,000

for ovarian cancer research. 32 dedicated participants joined Team Hope, committing to raise \$500 each for OCRF. Team Hope members received a personalized fundraising web page and could send emails automatically to their friends and track their progress.

Total funds raised by Team Hope this year amount to more than \$140,000, a staggering number OCRF is confident will be surpassed next year. Registration for the 2009 series begins January 1. Visit www.uswts.com for information about how to get involved. To date, the U.S. Women's Triathlon Series has raised more than \$1 million dollars for OCRF. Team Hope is also on Facebook! Join the cause, and help us spread awareness by adding the OCRF Team Hope group to your profile.



reaching out



Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

September was Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, and OCRF featured on its website *8 Ways to Support Ovarian Cancer Awareness*. Though this special month is the perfect time to get involved, here are ways you can support ovarian cancer awareness all year long:

- Join OCRF's group on Facebook, and invite friends to do the same. Help to raise awareness and educate as many women as possible.
- Send a note of encouragement or call someone currently fighting ovarian cancer or an ovarian cancer survivor.
- Visit OCRF's online shop to purchase products that directly benefit OCRF.
- Donate to OCRF.

Your gift will help support our mission of funding research to find a method of early detection and ultimately a cure for ovarian cancer.

Ovarian Cancer Survivors' Course: Education and Empowerment

OCRF has supported the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation Ovarian Cancer Survivors' Course for years, and on March 8, a course was held at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel in South Florida.

Cancer survivors from all over the country attended this full-day course, which featured prominent gynecologic oncologists speaking about ovarian cancer treatment options and advances, clinical trials, and disease management. Other guests included members of the Allied Support Groups as well as cancer survivors, friends, and family members.

The event began with an introduction by speakers Karl Podratz, MD, GCF Chairman, Andrew Berchuck, MD, SGO President, and Elizabeth Howard, OCRF CEO. Following the welcome address and course overview, Carmel Cohen, MD, member of the Scientific Advisory Committee and Board of Directors, gave a presentation on the history and progress in the treatment of ovarian cancer.

Barbara Goff, MD, presented an overview of studies being conducted on ovarian cancer symptoms, screening, and early detection. A. Douglas Levine, MD, spoke about ovarian cancer genetics: namely the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, the predisposition of the disease among certain populations, those who should be considered for hereditary cancer risk assessment, the limitations of genetic testing, and methods for reducing risk. Thomas Herzog, MD, gave a presentation on the biomarker CA125, followed

by a panel discussion where physicians fielded questions from the audience. Michael Birrer, MD, followed with the biology of ovarian cancer, Robert Coleman, MD, spoke about clinical

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by James Orr, Jr., MD, on the management of recurrent ovarian cancer, and a panel discussion to end a full day of informative, empowering presentations. ●

trials and the future of treatments, and Warner Huh, MD, introduced a new tool on the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation website that will allow donors to more selectively choose grant-giving institutions with which to place their gifts. The event concluded with a talk from Vivian Gruenigen, MD, on ovarian cancer survivorship, quality of life, complementary medicine, and lifestyle issues, a presentation

OCRF Junior Board Takes the Lead

The OCRF Junior Board has come a long way. Their first official event was held in 2005, and, since then, the board has grown by leaps and bounds. With an executive committee that serves as the governing entity responsible for overseeing all operations of the board and its committees, the Junior Board has established a more formalized structure, elected officers, and set the following 2008-2009 goals:

- To grow the general Junior Board
- To establish a signature event
- To build a database of supporters
- To develop a more robust Junior Board section on the OCRF website

"The Junior Board was created by individuals who have taken their personal loss at the hands of this disease and turned it into a passion for raising awareness and helping to find a cure for ovarian cancer," said Junior Board Executive Committee member Jamie Brown.

The board is now focused on growing general board membership and would like to establish one or two signature Junior Board events a year. Everyone on the committee has been personally touched by ovarian cancer, and their efforts are specifically focused on expanding awareness of OCRF and its mission to younger members of the community to help build and maintain relationships for the present and future success of the organization. ●

A Brother's Promise: Dr. Costa John

Coming from a family of eight siblings who grew up in South Africa, Costa John left his native Africa for Oakland, California and was thrilled when he learned that his sister Alana was moving to Victoria, Canada. He and his sister had always shared a close connection, and it was comforting to have at least one family member who wasn't across the Atlantic. Costa's relationship with his sister would become closer than either expected when Alana was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2000. Costa explained, "We were close since childhood, but this disease really bonded

us." He resigned from his job to help care for her, traveling to Victoria every few weeks during her six months of chemotherapy. They became closer than ever as Alana went into remission and the eventual return of the disease, until her passing in 2004. The tragic loss of his sister sparked a keen interest in understanding the cause, risk factors, treatments, and prevention of ovarian cancer to, in his words, "make sure it doesn't happen to anyone else's mother, sister, daughter, or friend."

Since his sister's death, Costa has been a strong advocate for OCRF. In 2006, he dedicated his first novel, *The Touch of a Lighter Hand*, to the courageous women who battle ovarian cancer every day, and he graciously donated royalties from the book to OCRF. He also hosted a dinner celebrating the book's launch and used the occasion as an opportunity to educate guests about OCRF's mission while raising money to support the organization. It was such a success, he made it an annual event to raise ovarian cancer awareness and funding and keep the memory of his sister alive. For the second annual dinner, Costa and his wife, Mary Anne, created a lavender and sage garden in their Oakland Hills home, dedicating it to everyone who made a contribution to OCRF. Every plant in the garden bears a copper tag with the name of a family who made a donation.

His third annual dinner was held in October, and, as always, 100% of the donations went to support OCRF. Costa is always seeking new ways to support our cause and had

an added surprise for this year's dinner party guests—he and his wife are opening a chair massage studio, Kilalo Studio (www.kilalo.com), and up to 1% of all sales from the studio will go to support OCRF. Costa keeps coming up with creative, inspiring ways to help further our mission, and we thank him for his unwavering commitment and generosity. ●



Picture above: Costa greets guests along with co-anchor of the Emmy Award-winning Bay Area show 'Mornings on 2' and guest of honor Tori Campbell and her husband Larry Nelson. Picture below: Dinner party guests enjoy the celebration.





Farewell to Jamie Boris

By Elizabeth Howard

The expression “those are big shoes to fill” is probably one of the most popular idioms in the English language. This is not a metaphor, or an idiom, that works particularly well when describing how I felt about assuming a leadership position at the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund and taking over for Jamie Boris in July 2007. First of all, Jamie’s shoes are delicate, elegant, and on the leading edge of style, and they carry a woman so filled with energy, motivation, intelligence, compassion and sheer will, that anyone even trying to fit into her shoes would feel like one of Cinderella’s stepsisters trying to fit into the glass slipper.

When Jamie joined OCRF in 1998, she was the only employee in a small office located at the law firm of Milberg Weiss. Over the past eleven years, she has been the face and the voice of OCRF. Millions of dollars have been raised for research, a Scientific Advisory Committee has been formed, and eleven Super Saturdays have raised millions for research into finding a method of early detection and ultimately a cure for ovarian cancer. Her accomplishments are too many to list.

At the same time, she married Paul Lapin, moved to New Canaan, Connecticut, and had two children, Eleanor, now age 5, and Henry, almost 2. At the end of December, Jamie will retire to spend time with her family and to lead a less frenetic life. We don’t want to completely say goodbye, and we hope that Jamie will continue to stay connected on her Blackberry®. There is no one who can ever replace Jamie Boris, but we can do all we can to continue to work to fulfill the mission of the organization Jamie was so instrumental in helping build. ●

OCRF Staff News

This year, OCRF welcomed new staff members to our dedicated team—all deeply committed to non-profit work, particularly in women’s health issues.

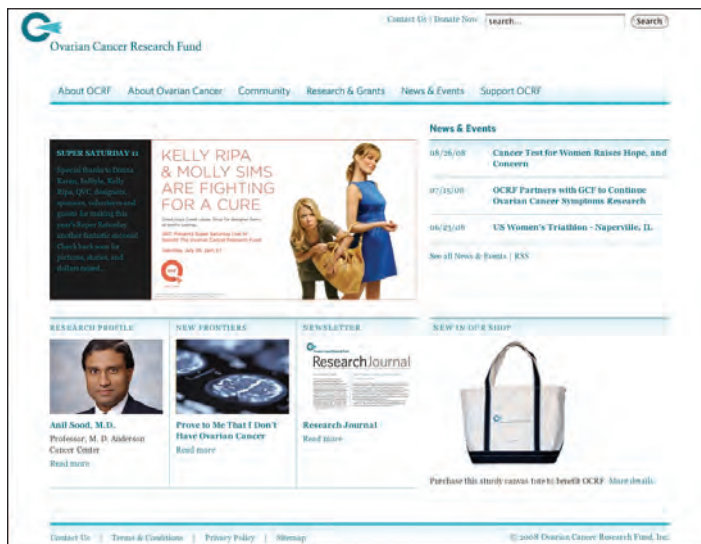
Chandler Wilson joined the staff in September as Communications Director. Prior to this, Chandler spent six years at Hospital for Special Surgery, first as Assistant Director of Public and Patient Education and later as Assistant Director of Publications and Communications. She has devoted her career to working in a nonprofit health environment. She holds a Certificate in Executive Leadership from Cornell University, an M.P.A in Health Policy and Management from New York University, and a B.S. in Marketing from American University in Washington D.C.

Lindsey Weeks joined the team in June as Fundraising Associate. Prior to joining OCRF, she chose to dedicate her career to working for nonprofit organizations in Brooklyn and Manhattan. Lindsey studied writing and psychology at Grand Valley State University and graduated in 2004 with a B.A. in Creative Writing.

Caroline Stevens began at OCRF as an intern in spring 2008, and this summer, joined the staff as Fundraising Associate. Her grandmother passed away from the ovarian cancer, so she has a special connection to the work of OCRF. She is currently earning an M.S. in Fundraising from New York University’s Heyman Center for Fundraising and Philanthropy. She holds an A.B.J. in Advertising and Sociology from the University of Georgia.

Heather Weeks joined OCRF as Executive Assistant to Elizabeth Howard. She graduated in 2005 from the University of Buffalo with a B.A. in Dance and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Golden Key Honor Societies. Heather was recently diagnosed with colon cancer, yet continues her support of OCRF, helping to expand our online outreach through Facebook, support groups, and blogs dedicated to ovarian cancer. We thank Heather for her resilient spirit and commitment to all that we do.

A New Look for OCRF Website



The OCRF website recently underwent a complete redesign with a clean, new look and layout as well as more seamless navigation and comprehensive, timely content. The site will be an evolving source for the latest in ovarian cancer research and education. Thank you to ThinkSo Creative and Ops Divina for their innovative, creative vision in building our new site. Our goal is to improve and enhance the user experience and drive visitors to our site, making it the most trusted online source for ovarian cancer research and educational information. Be sure to visit www.ocrf.org regularly, and we welcome your feedback. ●

OUR MISSION | The Ovarian Cancer Research Fund is dedicated to funding research to find a method of early detection and ultimately a cure for ovarian cancer.



Ovarian Cancer Research Fund

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