

THE SCOOP

OGCC R侼ONDA'S CLUB

Ovarian & Gynecologic Cancer Coalition

2015 Annual Report

A Message From Our Board Chair

Dear Friends,

2015 marked the 19th year of advocacy on behalf of gynecologic cancer survivors by the Ovarian and Gynecologic Cancer Coalition (OGCC)/Rhonda's Club. Our mission is to battle gynecologic cancers by raising public awareness of symptoms, educating survivors and medical professionals, and supporting research to improve quality of life, and find the cures. Our efforts are strengthened by courageous survivors and their dedicated families and friends speaking out about symptoms, risk factors and treatments for gynecologic cancers at health fairs, in medical school classrooms, and on government review boards.

As an active partner member of the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance (OCNA), Rhonda's Club helped facilitate a public service announcement by Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng, OGCC honorary Board member and President Obama's sister, in which she shared their mother's personal journey with ovarian cancer. You can view Maya's message urging women to learn their family history, their personal risk factors and the symptoms of this deadly disease at www.ovariancancer.org/maya/.

Under the leadership of OCNA and co-chairs Rep. Sean Duffy (R-WI) and long-time ovarian cancer advocate and survivor Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), the first Congressional Ovarian Cancer Caucus was launched in September to broaden bipartisan support for ovarian cancer research and education. We thank local activist Laura Forte for enlisting local members of Congress to join the Caucus.

Read more about Rhonda's Club highlights below. And thank you all for the support you bring to enrich our community of survivors!

Wishing you good health,

JoAnn Symons

Chair, OGCC/Rhonda's Club



Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng with fellow members of OGCC's Board of Directors.

Stand Up 2 Cancer Fast Tracks Research

OGCC/Rhonda's Club has pledged to raise \$25,000 as part of a national coalition of ovarian cancer advocates committed to raising \$6 million to fund a new research initiative by the Ovarian Cancer Dream Team under the auspices of Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C). We made our second donation to this effort in January 2016 in memory of Fran Stolusky, a former long-time OGCC board member.

The SU2C Ovarian Cancer Dream Team brings together internationally renowned experts in the science of DNA repair, translational investigators, and clinicians across six institutins. The team will take a three-pronged approach to its goals. First, the researchers will apply cutting-edge DNA repair science to identify ovarian cancers most likely to respond



to DNA repair therapies. Second, they will evaluate, in three clinical trials, novel drug combinations that may sensitize ovarian tumors to PARP inhibitors; if successful this would expand the use of these drugs. Third,

they will develop web-based genetic testing and counseling strategies for ovarian cancer risk, providing access to more women in the community, and test fallopian tube removal as a surgical approach to reduce risk that will avoid

forced menopause by preserving a woman's ovaries.

To learn more about SU2C, go to <http://www.standup2cancer.org/>.

To contribute to OGCC's pledge for the Ovarian Cancer Dream Team of SU2C, send a check payable to OGCC with "SU2C" on the memo line to: OGCC, PO Box 12504, Arlington, VA 22219.

6th Annual National Race to End Women's Cancer

An enthusiastic Team Rhonda's Club turned out early on Sunday, November 8 for a 5K Run/1 Mile Walk from Freedom Plaza in Washington to raise awareness and crucial education and research funding for all gynecologic cancers. More than \$483,000 was raised overall to support the Foundation for Women's Cancer.



Awareness Raising

OGCC welcomed a multi-generational sell-out crowd to a book signing with honorary board member Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng on August 2. Dr. Soetoro-Ng, the younger sister of President Barack Obama, spoke movingly about losing their mother to ovarian cancer. She also read from Ladder to the Moon, a children's book she wrote to share her mother's life



Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng spoke about Ovarian Cancer

lessons with her daughters.

A representative from Fighting Cancer with Poetry opened the event with an inspiring poem about his cancer journey.

Survivors Teaching Students: Saving Women's Lives®

In 2015, OGCC/Rhonda's Club volunteers taught Survivors Teaching Students: Saving Women's Lives® to 379 third year medical students and physician assistant students in 16 classes at Johns Hopkins, Georgetown and George Washington University medical schools.



Survivors Teaching Students® (STS) is a nationwide program to bring ovarian cancer survivors into medical classrooms to present their unique stories along with facts about the disease. If you would you like to learn more about educating the next generation of health care providers about ovarian cancer contact us at ogccmail@gmail.com. We would like to acknowledge the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance (OCNA) for funding the STS® program with support from the Entertainment Industry Foundation, Vermillion, and the Rosenthal Family Foundation.

Patient Support

Rhonda's Club supports women in treatment for gynecologic cancers with the message that "No One Fights Alone" by offering one-on-one mentoring, free patient care bags, and financial assistance to needy patients. In 2015, we



expanded our offer of free tote bags filled with medical information and comfort items to women newly diagnosed with cancer to include endometrial as well as ovarian cancer patients. These bags are distributed through gynecologic oncologists' offices in the Baltimore-Washington region.

And for the fifth year, OGCC partnered with the Washington Hospital Center Foundation to fund incidental costs, such as insurance co-payments and prescription drug costs, for women in treatment for gynecologic cancers.

Financials

In 2015, OGCC had expenses of \$26,902. Major program expenditures were supplemented from our money market account. Total revenues were \$16,142 of which \$16,096 was given by generous supporters, including long-time patron the Oddfellows Grand Lodge of New Jersey as well as the following individuals and organizations:

2015 Donors

\$5,000 +

Estate of Krystyna Dollison
Independent Order of Oddfellows Grand Lodge of
New Jersey

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By mail: PO Box 12504,
Arlington, VA 22219
Or visit: www.facebook.com/ogcc.rhondasclub/

2015 Volunteers

Survivors Teaching Students[®] Speakers:

Barbara Bingham	Marcia Mabee
Leila DeBruin	Mary Frances
Annamarie DeCarlo	McAndrews
Cathie Duncan	Polly Meceda
Ronnie Haber	Judith Morgan
Elaine Halchin	Peg Nichols-Danowski
Kerie Hitt	Janice Paulshock
Karen Hobbs	Karen Ribler
Kerie Hitt	Stephanie Ridenour
Emily Kesser	Sherie Winston
Mary Kinler	Deanna Won
Ann Kolker	

About Us

The Ovarian and Gynecologic Cancer Coalition/Rhonda's Club was founded in 1997 by ovarian and other gynecologic cancer survivors and continues to work so that all gynecologic cancers will be diagnosed at early stages, and women will have access to quality medical information and care and ultimately, a cure.

OGCC/ Rhonda's Club is a founding and active partner-member of the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance (OCNA).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
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2016