



**ovarian cancer  
research alliance**

# ANN KOLKER FELLOWSHIP

**BACKGROUND**

The Ann Kolker Fellowship commemorates the legacy of pioneering health policy advocate Ann Kolker. At the time Ann was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 1996, she was already a political leader, with early involvement with the National Women’s Political Caucus and Emily’s List. She was also an advocate for women’s health at the National Women’s Law Center. When she realized that there was no unified national voice representing the women in need of ovarian cancer research and advocacy, she helped found the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance. She became the organization’s first Executive Director and used her keen intellect and determination to turn the organization into a leading force in the field of patient advocacy. Federal funding for ovarian cancer research has more than tripled since Ann began her advocacy efforts. After a long and courageous battle with cancer, she passed away on February 3, 2016. A brief video narrated by Representative Rosa DeLauro describing Ann’s work and career may be viewed [HERE](#).

Ann’s organization, the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance merged in 2016 with Ovarian Cancer Research Fund and is now the largest organization in the world advocating on behalf of ovarian cancer survivors and pushing to advance research. The new organization, Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance (OCRA) annually funds \$6 million in ovarian cancer research and, through advocacy, is leading the push for improved access to healthcare and awareness of the disease.

**FELLOWSHIP**

**FELLOWSHIP OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the Ann Kolker Fellowship is to provide a uniquely tailored experience that could have a real impact on health policy in Washington, DC and beyond. Working directly with OCRA’s Vice President of Policy, the Fellow will play an important role in working to implement a policy agenda that seeks to eliminate ovarian cancer by translating the latest scientific and observational research into concrete policy objectives. Through both grass-roots and legislative advocacy and direct engagement, the Ann Kolker Fellow will gain important insights into both health policy advocacy and patient engagement. Amelia Robert was selected as the first Ann Kolker Fellow and she began her advocacy work in June 2017. This year’s Fellow, Stephanie Vangellow, began in July and will continue through summer 2019. Short videos of the work and accomplishments of the Fellows who have interned with OCRA is [HERE](#).

**THE PROGRAM**

The selected Ann Kolker Fellow will receive professional orientation and training from seasoned professionals and will work in OCRA’s Washington, DC office. The Fellow will have the opportunity to interact with several levels of government and gain access to political advocates and advisors with decades of experience.

OCRA works closely with members of Congress, standing congressional committees and their staff, and routinely engages with several Federal agencies including:

- National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- Centers for Disease Control
- Department of Health and Human Services

The Ann Kolker Fellow will also engage with ovarian cancer survivors, caregivers, healthcare providers, and other advocates and have an opportunity to attend coalition meetings and briefings that can provide important information and allow for future collaboration.

**ELIGIBILITY**

The Ann Kolker Fellowship is open to recent graduates (including Spring 2020 graduates) with a minimum of a master’s degree in the field of Public Health, Public Policy or a related discipline.

Applicants must be eligible to work in the United States and should have an interest in policy advocacy.

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## APPLICATION PROCESS

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Application materials should be submitted directly to OCRA by the applicant via email to: [KolkerFellowship@ocrahope.org](mailto:KolkerFellowship@ocrahope.org). There is no limit to the number of individuals who may apply from a single program. The application requires the following:

- A current resume.
- A brief statement of interest that details your commitment to women's health policy issues, demonstrates your creativity and leadership skills, and describes your goals and what you hope to achieve through the Fellowship. The statement should not exceed 1,200 words.
- Two letters of recommendation, one from a current faculty member and one from an individual who is knowledgeable about your academic and/or leadership experience.
- A writing sample that demonstrates your ability to persuasively convey an idea or argument. The sample should not exceed 10 pages.

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## SELECTION PROCESS

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Application packages will be reviewed by OCRA staff in coordination with Ann Kolker Fellowship advisors beginning February 14, 2020. Priority will be given to applicants who successfully demonstrate evidence of leadership, a keen interest in health policy advocacy and an appreciation for the values of the Fellowship. Selection will be completed in February/March 2020.

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## STIPENDS AND EXPENSES

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The Fellowship winner will be housed within OCRA's Washington, DC Office. The Fellowship stipend, which is taxable as regular income, is \$4,000 per month for 12 months. The Fellowship is a full-time position and the Fellow should not engage alternative employment that would conflict with his or her responsibilities.

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## FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

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The Fellowship begins in June 2020 and will continue for 12 months. The start date may be flexible but must begin before September 2020.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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The Ann Kolker Fellowship  
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