



OCRA IS  
LEADING  
THE FIGHT  
• AGAINST • • • • •  
OVARIAN &  
RELATED  
GYNECOLOGIC  
CANCERS





# THANK YOU

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends,

This year was historic for Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance (OCRA): we proudly announced the expansion of our commitment, to include all related gynecologic cancers—an important milestone that reflects our dedication to improving outcomes for even more individuals and families.

This year also saw the launch of our national campaign to provide free genetic testing kits, empowering individuals to understand their risk and take proactive steps toward prevention. OCRA's consensus statement, endorsed by the Society of Gynecologic Oncology, encouraged those at average risk to discuss fallopian tube removal with their doctors while preparing for planned pelvic surgery. Our message received more than 980 media placements, and has the potential to save countless lives.

OCRA's research efforts continued to drive progress, as we spent \$8.9 million in grants and awarded \$9.2 million in new research initiatives for 2024 – the most OCRA has ever awarded. Additionally, we allocated \$2 million in education, support and advocacy. Our researchers leveraged cutting-edge tools, including artificial intelligence (AI), to explore innovative therapeutic targets and develop new strategies for improving patient outcomes.

Our patient support programs met a growing demand for resources and assistance. Calls to our patient support line surged to 2,135, and we expanded our Staying Connected Support Series, launching specialized groups for those facing unique challenges. Our Survivors Teaching Students program continued to flourish, educating more than 10,000 future healthcare professionals and empowering them to provide compassionate, informed care.

Advocacy remained a cornerstone of our efforts. At our two Advocacy Days, including a return to in-person Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill, our Advocates connected directly in more than 380 meetings with congressional offices to push for legislation that can save lives and improve care for those impacted by ovarian and related gynecologic cancers.

This year's historic progress was only possible because of our community, whose generosity and dedication to our mission makes this vital work possible.

As you explore the highlights of this year's report, I encourage you to stay connected with us by visiting our website ([ocrahope.org](https://ocrahope.org)) and following us on social media (@ocrahope).

Sincerely,

Audra Moran  
President & CEO, Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance

# 2023

## BY THE NUMBERS

RESEARCH:

# \$8.9M

SPENT IN GRANTS  
IN 2023

# \$9.2M

AWARDED IN  
NEW RESEARCH  
INITIATIVES  
FOR 2024

ADVOCATES INFLUENCED NEW  
FEDERAL INVESTMENT OF

# \$250M

# 3,900

PEOPLE  
QUALIFIED

FOR FREE GENETIC TEST KITS  
VIA NEW PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

900 TRAINED  
VOLUNTEERS  
REACHED

# 10.1K

RIISING HEALTHCARE  
PROFESSIONALS AT  
350 SCHOOLS

# 2,135

PATIENT  
SUPPORT CALLS

24% INCREASE FROM YEAR PRIOR

# \$2M

SPENT IN  
EDUCATION, SUPPORT,  
AND ADVOCACY

# 1,050+

PEOPLE MATCHED TO AVAILABLE TRIALS  
THROUGH OUR **CLINICAL TRIAL NAVIGATOR**

# 2,300+

ATTENDEES OF OUR **SUPPORT PROGRAMS**  
FOR THE GYNECOLOGIC CANCER COMMUNITY

# 600+

PEOPLE ATTENDED OUR ONLINE ANNUAL  
**OVARIAN CANCER NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
FOR INFORMATION, SUPPORT & RESOURCES



# Research

## FUELING DISCOVERIES AGAINST OVARIAN & RELATED GYNECOLOGIC CANCERS



# RESEARCH

As the largest non-government funder of ovarian and related gynecologic cancer research, OCRA is leading the charge against this disease. To date, we have invested over \$120M in bold and promising initiatives that move research forward, and committed to a historic \$9.2 million research investment for 2024.

## 2023 OCRA GRANTEES:

- Are working to harness artificial intelligence (AI) for earlier detection of ovarian cancer, and more accurately predict clinical outcomes.
- Identified RNA-binding protein genes as a potential source of hereditary cancers, in addition to more well-known genes like BRCA 1/2.
- Investigated why certain ovarian cancer cells resist olaparib treatment, and discovered that introducing a second drug while targeting certain cells may offer a solution.
- Found a potential immunotherapy target for the most common and lethal subtype of ovarian cancer.
- Improved immune response against a therapeutic target present in many ovarian cancers.
- Investigated a new therapy to decrease chemotherapy resistance.
- Identified mesothelial cells as a critical factor in future prevention of ovarian cancer metastasis.



IN 2023 WE SPENT  
**\$8.9 MILLION**

..... IN GRANTS .....

**& AWARDED \$9.2 MILLION IN NEW RESEARCH INITIATIVES  
FOR 2024 – THE MOST OCRA HAS EVER AWARDED**

**COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

**Simon Gayther, PhD**

*Cedars-Sinai Medical Center*

*iPSC modeling of ovarian cancers in BRCA1 & 2 mutation carriers*

*Grant made possible in part by The Mike & Patti Hennessy Foundation.*

**Kristopher Sarosiek, PhD**

*Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health*

*Targeting apoptotic vulnerabilities in ovarian cancer*

*Grant made possible in part by The Edmée Firth Fund for Research in Ovarian Cancer (EFFROC).*

**COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT GRANT  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MICROSOFT AI FOR HEALTH**

**Daniel Heller, PhD**

*Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center*

*Perception-based detection of an ovarian cancer disease fingerprint*

*Grant made possible in part by The Edmée Firth Fund for Research in Ovarian Cancer (EFFROC) and The Teal Foundation.*

**Shayan Shams, PhD**

*San Jose State University Research Foundation*

*Employing AI to predict clinical outcomes in ovarian cancer*

**EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR GRANT**

**Richard Adeyemi, DVM, PhD**

*Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center*

*Synthetic lethality of the protexin and BRCA complexes in ovarian cancer*



**Brooke Howitt, MD**

*Stanford University*

[Identifying the cell of origin for high-grade serous carcinoma](#)

*Grant made possible in part by George and Paulette Collias in memory of Matina, Georgiana, and Cindy Gatziolis.*

**Xiaowen Hu, PhD**

*University of Pennsylvania*

[Targeting chromatin modifiers to treat ovarian cancer](#)

*Grant made possible in part by The Melitta S. and Joan M. Pick Charitable Trust.*

**Haider Mahdi, MD**

*Magee-Womens Research Institute & Foundation*

[Targeting CD47-SIRPa axis to overcome therapy resistance in ovarian cancer](#)

**AJ Robert McGray, PhD**

*Roswell Park Cancer Institute*

[BiTE-secreting T cells for adoptive T cell therapy in ovarian cancer](#)

**Kyle Payne, PhD**

*Rutgers University*

[Mitochondrial stress impairs protective T cell immunity in ovarian cancer](#)

**Priyanka Verma, PhD**

*Washington University in St. Louis*

[Role of chromatin on PARP inhibitor responses in BRCA-mutant ovarian cancer](#)

**MENTORED INVESTIGATOR GRANT****Duaa Al-Rawi, MD, PhD**

*Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center*

[Examining the early events in fallopian tube transformation](#)

*Grant made possible in part by a generous donation from Ovarian Cycle Massapequa in memory of Diane Mahlstadt; George and Paulette Collias in memory of Matina, Georgiana and Cindy Gatziolis; and Toasting to Teal in memory of Margaret Harrison.*

**Antonio Delgado-Gonzalez, PhD**

*Stanford University*

[Mapping the spatial proteomic landscape of ovarian tumors](#)

*This grant was made possible in part by a generous donation from The Wasily Family Foundation.*

**Joshua Eggold, PhD**

University of Pennsylvania

[Functional characterization of distinct ovarian cancer macrophage subsets](#)

Grant made possible in part by a generous donation from Ovarian Cycle Atlanta in honor of Bethany Diamond.

**Bisiayo Fashemi, PhD**

Washington University in St. Louis

[Organioids to evaluate an epigenetic drug regimen for HR proficient ovarian](#)

Grant made possible in part by a generous donation from Allison Danré in memory of Cecile Hryhorczuk.

**Chae Young Han, PhD**

MD Anderson Cancer Center

[Detection of CA125-negative persistent and recurrent ovarian cancer](#)

Grant made possible in part by generous donations from Ovarian Cycle Orlando in memory of Kelly, Carol M., Carol T., Adi, Rose, Judi, Vicky, Terry, Wendy, Adriana and their Teal Angels; and Ovarian Cycle Tampa in loving memory of Franci Golman Rudolph and Suzanne Maloney.

**Sonam Mittal, PhD**

The Medical College of Wisconsin, Inc.

[Exosome loaded eIF4A1 dependent translational reprogramming in macrophages](#)

Grant made possible in part by family and friends in loving memory of Tiffany Young.

**Apoora Uboveja, PhD**

University of Pittsburgh

[A metabolic-epigenetic switch affects DNA repair pathway choice](#)

Grant made possible in part by The Donald R. and Esther Simon Foundation.

**Andres Valdivia, PhD**

Northwestern University

[Complement activation at the interface between cancer cells and adipocytes](#)

**Chen Wang, PhD**

MD Anderson Cancer Center

[Epigenetically targeting ovarian cancer associated mesenchymal stem cell](#)

OCRA's grantees focused on overcoming PARP inhibitor resistance; identifying recurrent disease earlier; predicting treatment response; finding new therapeutic targets and biomarkers; improving immunotherapy's effectiveness; understanding mechanisms that drive pre-cancerous cells to develop into invasive ovarian cancer; and more.



# Advocacy

ELEVATING VOICES TO EFFECT MEANINGFUL  
LEGISLATIVE CHANGE







## ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

OCRA is the leading voice advocating on behalf of the ovarian and gynecologic cancer community, working with elected officials to secure federal research and education funding, prioritize drug and diagnostic safety, and expand access to high-quality care for those impacted by the disease.

In 2023, we returned to Capitol Hill for our in-person Advocacy Day, alongside our virtual event, bringing together nearly 300 passionate advocates from 44 states. Collectively, they met with more than 380 Congressional offices, driving forward key initiatives. Their efforts led to 19 new cosponsors on critical legislation to expand federal education and awareness programs, as well as advocating for lifesaving measures like expanded Medicare coverage for genetic testing.

Our dedicated advocates played a pivotal role in helping to secure over \$250 million in new federal funding for ovarian cancer research, education, and surveillance efforts.

OCRA also co-founded a national coalition to address chemotherapy shortages and push for long-term solutions to prevent future crises.

Additionally, we launched a groundbreaking research initiative aimed at identifying and addressing health disparities in gynecologic cancer outcomes—because everyone deserves access to the best possible care.

Our Survivors Teaching Students® program brought survivors and caregivers into medical education programs to educate future healthcare providers about ovarian cancer.

More than 900 volunteers, comprising ovarian cancer survivors and caregivers, delivered presentations to 10,000+ medical students at 350 schools across the United States, and reached 3,900+ medical students in Australia. Their efforts broaden and personalize medical students' understanding of ovarian cancer in a way that can't be achieved through textbooks.

In addition to the United States and Australia, OCRA's Survivors Teaching Students present in the United Kingdom, Canada, and New Zealand.





# Patient Support

**VITAL SUPPORT & RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE  
IMPACTED BY GYNECOLOGIC CANCER**







## SUPPORT & PREVENTION

OCRA's support programs, led by professional oncology social workers, serve as a lifeline for patients, survivors, and loved ones impacted by all gynecologic cancers. This year, we expanded our efforts to emphasize prevention, empowering individuals with actionable steps to reduce risk.

OCRA launched a bold initiative to shift the focus to prevention and risk awareness. Our widely-shared prevention messaging initiative encouraged women at average risk to discuss with their doctors the consideration of fallopian tube removal during planned pelvic surgeries, reaching 4.6 billion impressions worldwide. OCRA and the Society of Gynecologic Oncology also signed on to a consensus statement endorsing the approach.

Our new free genetic testing program qualified over 3,900 individuals for genetic test kits, identifying risk-elevating mutations in 83 people this year alone, and equipping them with potentially lifesaving information to share with their doctors.

Through our Woman to Woman Peer Mentor Program, we matched 415 individuals with Mentors and expanded support to loved ones, ensuring no one has to face gynecologic cancer alone.

Our Staying Connected Support Series, including Express Yourself and Book Club, engaged 2,316 attendees and fostered deep community connections at a face-to-face meetup in Chicago.

OCRA's Clinical Trial Navigator matched over 1,050 individuals with available clinical trials tailored to their needs, and our Patient Support Line responded to 2,135 calls — a 24% increase from last year.

Our annual Ovarian Cancer National Conference welcomed over 600 attendees from six countries. Held online for enhanced accessibility, the conference for the first time offered dedicated sessions on cervical and endometrial cancer along with updates on rare ovarian cancers, symptom management, genetics and biomarkers, the chemotherapy shortage, and 20+ more topics.





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# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2023

<b>Total Revenue &amp; Support</b>	<b>\$16,002,715</b>
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## Expenses

### Program Services

Research	\$8,851,448
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Conference	\$625,720
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Education, Support and Advocacy	\$2,034,142
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<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$11,511,310</b>
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<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>\$1,589,779</b>
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<b>Administrative</b>	<b>\$1,248,828</b>
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<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,349,917</b>
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<b>Ending Net Assets</b>	<b>\$24,483,064</b>
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## REVENUE BREAKDOWN

- Individuals (22%)
- Foundations (6%)
- Corporate (1%)
- Industry (8%)
- Events (10%)
- Bequests (28%)
- Investment (21%)
- Other (4%)

