

ABOUT THE GALA

Bears Care partners with NorthShore University HealthSystem, Northwestern Medicine, Rush University Medical Center, John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County and University of Chicago Medicine in advancing the fight against breast and ovarian cancer. Proceeds from the 2018 Gala are already at work funding new initiatives and providing continued support for promising ongoing research:

- ◆ Studying the role that a “small molecule,” leukadherin 1, plays in reducing tumor-associated macrophages, a type of immune cell, which are abundant in the breast tumor microenvironment and associated with worse patient outcomes, and seeking to determine in vitro studies if the activation of the CD11b protein with leukadherin 1 can suppress tumor growth
- ◆ Continuing to provide salary support for research staff in a diagnostic laboratory which analyzes tissues and blood samples from patients with advanced ovarian cancer to determine the genetic architecture of their specific disease
- ◆ Planning Survive & Thrive, a one-day program that provides ovarian cancer patients, their families and their caregivers the opportunity to access current information, valuable resources and experts in the field of ovarian cancer treatment
- ◆ Managing specimen repository and database, which collects, stores and provides key information for collaborative cancer research studies focused on prevention and early detection of breast and ovarian cancer, and providing project support to an ongoing catheter study, beta trials and efforts seeking to identify ovarian cancer tumor markers
- ◆ Determining the underlying mechanism associated with findings that indicate that the genetic deletion of Hv1 from triple negative breast cancer cells will reduce tumor growth so existing cancer treatments for cancers that are positive for Hv1 can be modified and enhanced
- ◆ Investigating whether serum levels of the p40 monomer (small protein/bonding molecule) are elevated in triple negative breast cancer patients and if neutralizing the p40 monomer can lead to regression of cancer
- ◆ Funding a non-randomized, open-label Phase II study of Abemaciclib/PD-1 to investigate a novel non-chemotherapy-based treatment strategy for metastatic triple negative breast cancer and determine if this treatment can enhance innate anti-tumor immunity and ultimately increase overall survival
- ◆ Underwriting of high-quality mammography services for low-income women in Chicago area
- ◆ Underwriting drug and placebo costs for a Phase II clinical trial investigating the repurposing of Metformin as a low-cost maintenance therapy in ovarian cancer treatment
- ◆ Continuing utilization of high-throughput screening on ovarian cancer cells cultured in a natural human (i.e., 3D) environment to identify new uses for FDA-approved compounds in ovarian cancer treatment, and testing of promising 3D organotypic drug model on patient cancer cells in the lab, focusing on the problem of chemo-resistance
- ◆ Continuing support for a Diagnostic Care Coordination program focused on the needs of underserved women which seeks to further reduce diagnostic delays, execute timely genetic testing for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients and reduce loss to follow-up rates in this population
- ◆ Funding gynecologic fellowships to educate and train tomorrow’s leaders in the field of women’s cancer
- ◆ Continuing research to develop an effective pharmacologic agent to target and eliminate genetically-damaged cells in the ovary, removing the potentially malignant cells and lowering cancer risk, and assessing if this progestin-potent strategy can also lessen the risk of more common cancers which arise in the uterine lining

