

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 2019 Gala are already at work funding new initiatives and providing continued support for promising ongoing research:

- ▶ Building upon discoveries to date that will establish Apoptotic Compensatory Proliferation Signaling, where dying cancer cells release specialized micro-vesicles that stimulate proliferation in surrounding cancer cells, as a mechanism underlying tumor drug evasion and metastasis, and continuing to investigate the potential of bacterial Exotoxin T in blocking this signaling in cancer cells
- ▶ Continuing to invest in programs addressing the marked racial disparities in breast cancer outcomes in the metropolitan Chicago area with an emphasis on improving access and reducing barriers to cancer risk assessment and genetic testing services
- ▶ Expanding on laboratory findings testing the ability of intra-nasal administration of low-dose novel peptides to increase the cancer-destroying efficacy of p40 mAb immunotherapy leading to near-complete or complete regression of tumor in PDX mouse model of Triple Negative Breast Cancer
- ▶ Continuing research to develop a highly effective pharmacologic strategy for preventing ovarian and uterine cancer focusing on utilizing fallopian tube cultures with genetically altered fallopian tube cell lines to determine responsiveness to progestin and vitamin D therapy, and continuing collaboration with engineers in the academic community who are building a falposcope, a miniaturized endoscopic device that can be used clinically in high risk women to directly image the fallopian tube lining in search of precancerous or cancerous changes
- ▶ Underwriting drug and placebo costs for a Phase 2 clinical trial investigating the repurposing of metformin as a low-cost maintenance therapy for ovarian cancer patients after first-line surgical and chemotherapy treatment
- ▶ Expanding analyses of the mechanisms by which activation of the CD11b protein reduces tumor growth by inhibiting recruitment of Tumor Associated Macrophages, a sub-type of immune cell which protects tumors allowing for growth and metastasis, and conducting an early stage clinical trial of a novel CD11b modulating agent
- ▶ Examining whether the variability of molecular abnormalities in ovarian cancer tumors may impact survival outcomes, collecting real-time detailed information during ovarian cancer surgery about the distribution of disease and linking it to the relative difficulty of each ovarian cancer surgery, and seeking to connect the genomic and operative data to better predict the sequence of surgery and chemotherapy based on a tumor's molecular profile
- ▶ Underwriting of high-quality mammography services for low-income women in Chicago
- ▶ Funding gynecologic oncology fellowships to educate and train tomorrow's leaders in the field of women's cancer including helping to underwrite fellows' research
- ▶ Continuing utilization of high-throughput screening to identify new combinations of FDA-approved drugs able to target all ovarian cancer cells, including chemo-resistant stem cells which are often responsible for ovarian cancer recurrence and most ovarian cancer deaths

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