

# 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. While we were unable to host the Gala which helps sustain and grow these partnerships the past two years, Bears Care was pleased to be able to resume supporting our partners' critical work during 2021. Please see below how Bears Care investments are at work providing continued support for promising ongoing research and funding new initiatives, many which focus on addressing health inequity in cancer care for women of color.

- Expanding services provided by the Cancer Risk Identification, Screening, and Prevention (CRISP) Program at Cook County Health which addresses racial disparities in breast cancer outcomes through the identification of high-risk minority populations that can benefit from additional cancer screening and risk-reducing strategies, with the goal of early detection and prevention
- Continuing studies in experimental models and early-stage clinical trials to better understand the molecular and cellular changes afforded by targeting the CD11b protein on Tumor Associate Macrophages, to reduce their migration into tumors where they promote tumor growth and help evade our immune system
- Launching a research project, "The Reproductive Atlas of African-American and Hispanic Women," a reference library for gene expression and regulation, which will provide a more comprehensive understanding of gynecologic disease development, as well as provide insight into the physiological differences that may lead to racial disparities in gynecologic diseases
- 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
- Investigating the impact of intranasal administration of two very low-dose novel peptides on the cancer-destroying efficacy of p40 mAb immunotherapy leading to near-complete or complete tumor regression
- Helping to provide free high-quality mammography to uninsured and underserved women of color from Chicago's most economically challenged neighborhoods
- Utilizing computational biology to determine what combinations of FDA approved vaccines genetically most resemble breast cancer tumor in metastatic triple negative patients with the goal of using the immune system's mounted response to the vaccine combinations to also suppress the tumor and inform the next wave of clinical trials
- Funding gynecologic fellowships to educate and train tomorrow's leaders in the field of women's cancer
- 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 while working towards long-term goal of individualized cancer therapy which effectively and specifically targets each patient's disease
- Designing an intervention with the goal of developing a multi-institutional, centralized database and patient navigation system to help minority women with gynecologic malignancies better understand, access, and enroll in clinical trials