



Ovarian Cancer Canada  
Cancer de l'ovaire Canada

# Report to the Community

2020 - 2021

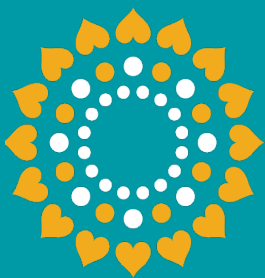
"I've met and become colleagues with a wonderful group of strong, dedicated and passionate women, who are as determined as I am to speak up and **enact change** for women facing ovarian cancer. Having the opportunity to have my voice heard, together with the voices of other ovarian cancer survivors, is a **game changer**."



**SHANNON KADAR**

diagnosed in 2019

on her involvement in guiding research priorities alongside others with ovarian cancer and scientists, part of Ovarian Cancer Canada's OvCAN initiative



Ovarian Cancer Canada champions the health and wellbeing of women with ovarian cancer and others at risk for this disease, while advancing research to save lives.

# Message from the Chair and CEO

In a year when Ovarian Cancer Canada had to evolve and adapt to new ways of connecting, the community rose to the challenge and enabled progress. While time seemed to slow over the course of the pandemic, the **speed of our vital work only accelerated — its impact deepened and went further**, extending past regional boundaries.

Ovarian Cancer Canada's multimillion-dollar OvCAN initiative kept lab lights on at leading research institutions across the country. In addition to developing tools to advance understanding of this disease, new treatments entered testing and four clinical trials launched this year — bringing us **closer to our goal of discovering new and improved treatment options** for women with ovarian cancer, and those yet to be diagnosed.

At the same time, online events created inroads to remote areas, **reaching people who, in some cases, had never met others living with this disease**. Breaking through the isolation, the National Symposium presented unique opportunities for people affected by ovarian cancer to see the faces and hear the voices of others who could relate firsthand.

Through it all, **you showed up and showed your support**. Despite having to maintain physical distance for the Ovarian Cancer Canada Walk of Hope, you raised funds and surpassed goals for a time-held tradition that, for the first time, had to be virtual. During a difficult time in world history, you dug even deeper and opened your hearts and wallets to help advance this cause.

Having worked with and for this community for many years, we know the grit and tenacity that was needed to get this far. And we know how important it is to **keep the momentum going** if the community is to see the sustained progress it so deserves. As we transition from our official capacities within the organization, know that we are cheering you on, steadfast in our shared commitment to helping women live fuller, better, longer lives.

Thank you for including us in your story. We are proud to say that, after its most challenging year yet, Ovarian Cancer Canada is on solid ground, **standing tall as a beacon of hope affecting true and meaningful change**.

With gratitude,



*Mark Galloway*  
**Mark Galloway**  
Chair of the Board



*Elisabeth Baugh*  
**Elisabeth Baugh**  
CEO



# RESEARCH

## Women with ovarian cancer partner with researchers to inform efforts and improve outcomes

Being diagnosed with ovarian cancer can be an isolating experience, and women with this disease strive to be there with each other, for each other. Over the last year, their connection to the cause has taken on a whole new meaning. Now they have an important say in the direction of ovarian cancer research in Canada.

Ovarian Cancer Canada's OvCAN research initiative was born following years of intense advocacy. Today, it is **hastening the speed of scientific discovery, so that new and improved treatment options can reach women sooner to extend life and reduce side effects.**

And now, for the first time, women with ovarian cancer are part of the team. OvCAN Patient Partners are contributing to research in unprecedented and impactful ways, sharing their personal perspectives and lived experiences, and participating in the selection process to determine the most promising research projects.



"...[researchers] are going to be looking at things from our eyes and place a focus on what we truly need in regard to research, treatments and, hopefully, prevention."

**COLLEEN TKACHUK**  
OvCAN Patient Partner

- OvCAN Patient Partners participate on committees to select initiatives for funding, and
- OvCAN Patient Partners partner with researchers to further their understanding of the experience of ovarian cancer

# Ovarian Cancer Canada's OvCAN research initiative

## Collaborating to maximize traction in research

Research is critically important. It can make life-changing differences, **it can and will change "hope" to "reality."** In March 2019, for the first time ever, \$10 million was secured from the Federal Budget — for ovarian cancer research.

Partnerships were soon developed with IRICoR, the provinces of Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan, as well as the Cancer Research Society, bringing millions more in research funding. As a result, significant work is now underway.

Scientists, clinicians, other experts and OvCAN Patient Partners – worked together to review, select proposals, and make research funding decisions that will impact and improve the lives of women with ovarian cancer. **As of March 31, 2021, 23 projects were funded – with more to come.**

**Ovarian cancer is not a "one-size-fits-all" cancer.** It's complex, with many types that respond differently to treatment. OvCAN's aim is to identify and fund initiatives that recognize and address the diverse range of this disease.

There are **three priority areas**, which progress from the lab to the testing of new treatments to clinical trials on women with ovarian cancer – with the ultimate goal of improving outcomes.





## Priority 1: Develop a variety of models, tools that emulate the behaviour of ovarian cancer for scientific discovery in early phase testing and learning in research labs.

As part of this work, OvCAN is building the first ever national collection of ovarian cancer model systems. This will result in easy to access resources that support the work of researchers, allowing them to learn from each other and complement each other's efforts. It will supercharge scientific learning.

# 3D models take research to the next level by enabling large scale, real-time testing



Based in London, Ontario, translational oncology scientist Dr. Trevor Shepherd is dedicated to breaking new ground in ovarian cancer research. He's developing three-dimensional (3D) models of cancer cells, important tools that enable researchers to test new treatments and learn more about ovarian cancer. Importantly, they preserve the characteristics of actual tumours, and respond just as a tumour would when changes to its surroundings are introduced.

"We'll have an experimental platform to test new treatments in real-time, and we'll be able to do it on a large scale," says Dr. Shepherd. "So we can test many different drugs, many different concentrations, maybe even combinations."

Together with Dr. Nikolina Radulovich from the Princess Margaret Living Biobank in Toronto, Dr. Shepherd is developing 25 models, each with unique characteristics such as stage and type, to help scientists study the biology of ovarian cancer and how different kinds of tumours react to different treatments.

In the world of research, moving to 3D models like these represents a significant leap forward because it provides laboratory specimens that act like actual cancer cells found in women with ovarian cancer.

In addition to research benefits, this new approach has the potential to support personalized treatment strategies. "For instance, these models could be used to test the effects of different therapeutic options on tissue that's directly from a woman in treatment," says Dr. Shepherd. "If maintenance therapy is needed or in case of recurrence, we could potentially have our strategy planned, because we've done this analysis using tissue from that person's tumour."

It's anticipated that models produced by this project will make an impact relatively quickly. "We think we can rapidly apply these models within the next year or two," says Dr. Shepherd. "Results from this project will be shared across the whole ovarian cancer research community, so that we can collectively work on identifying new treatments for women with ovarian cancer."

**Priority 2: Identify and test novel treatment strategies in leading labs, so that new and better options can enter clinical trials.**

New research initiatives focused on developing novel treatments were selected for co-funding with IRICoR, a leader in drug discovery

Three treatments that have proven to be successful for other cancers – and hold significant promise for ovarian cancer – are being explored. They are:

1

Developing therapeutic vaccines that train the immune system to target disease-specific molecules that exist on the surface of ovarian cancer cells

2

Using a combination of drugs to destabilize cancer cells prior to introducing an oncolytic virus that affects immune response and cancer remission

3

Triggering the body's own immune system by altering a specific gene, effectively unlocking the ability to destroy cancer cells

Rare forms of ovarian cancer are the focus of a new grant competition in conjunction with the Cancer Research Society



Collaboration is vital for continued success. This year, the Cancer Research Society and Ovarian Cancer Canada launched a new grant competition focused on novel treatments, calling attention to rare forms of ovarian cancer. Results of the competition will be announced in October 2021.

Priority 3: Move from the preliminary testing of novel treatments to clinical trials, where women who meet specific criteria volunteer to try personalized new treatments.

## Four clinical trials are exploring PARP inhibitors

PARP inhibitors are a new family of drugs being used in the treatment of ovarian cancer. PARP is a protein inside cells that helps repair damage to the cell DNA.

If a cell can repair itself, it will survive and grow. If it can't, it will die. The purpose of a PARP "inhibitor" is to stop a cancer cell from repairing its DNA – thereby causing cell death and preventing tumour growth.

These four clinical trials will provide new insights into how PARP inhibitors can be used to treat high-grade serous ovarian cancer, the most common form of this disease. They will also investigate alternatives for women who have developed a resistance to this emerging treatment option.

1

A one-two punch strategy combining a PARP inhibitor with a second drug, in efforts to expand use of PARP inhibitors to more women and prolong effects to manage recurrence

2

Treating with a PARP inhibitor prior to surgery, instead of after surgery, to determine whether earlier introduction will delay disease progression and reduce recurrence

3

Targeted therapy with an experimental drug to kill cancer cells following use of a PARP inhibitor, helping to better treat women who have developed resistance to PARP inhibitors

4

Real-time tumour testing for women whose ovarian cancer returned following treatment with a PARP inhibitor, to determine the most appropriate drug to use next



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AT [OVARIANCANADA.ORG/RESEARCH](https://ovariancanada.org/research)



# TISSUE BANKING NETWORK

## Tissue donations are vital to scientific discovery

Tissue samples donated by women with ovarian cancer provide an important building block for researchers studying ovarian cancer. They form the foundation of scientific models, tools that enable testing and learning in the lab, which are vital to the discovery of new treatments. That's why tissue banks have been, and continue to be, critically important for research.

The Ovarian Cancer Canada Tissue Banking Network is a virtual network of tissue banks located in Montreal, Ottawa, Edmonton, and Vancouver. Potential for expansion of the Network is being explored in the coming year.



This year, **1,140 women with ovarian cancer** agreed to contribute to the Ovarian Cancer Canada Tissue Banking Network. Thank you.

## The Anita Unruh Prize awarded to Allen Zhang for published work on cancer cells that evade the immune system

Established in 2016 by Patrick McGrath to honour his late wife Anita Unruh, a former Associate Dean and Professor, the Prize rewards excellence in ovarian cancer research by a trainee and encourages promising young scientists to establish careers in the field of ovarian cancer.

**Allen Zhang**, who's an MD/PhD and Bioinformatics student at the University of British Columbia, explains his work:

"We collected data from over 200 tumours from 38 patients with ovarian cancer, looking not only at the cancer cells themselves, but also the immune cells within the tumours. While immune cells can help fight tumours, we found that some cancer cells had developed ways to 'escape' immune recognition. Understanding how this happens may be key to improving outcomes for patients with this deadly disease."

Congratulations to Allen on this important discovery.



# OVERCOMING DRUG RESISTANCE

## Ovarian Cancer Canada and Cancer Research Society fund research to address a major challenge in ovarian cancer – drug resistance

Two passionate researchers are conducting groundbreaking research on what may be another biomarker for ovarian cancer.

Dr. Kirk McManus – Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, University of Manitoba; Senior Scientist, Research Institute in Oncology and Hematology, CancerCare Manitoba and Dr. Mark Nachtigal – Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, University of Manitoba; Senior Scientist, Research Institute in Oncology and Hematology, CancerCare Manitoba - are focusing on an event at the molecular level that may trigger the onset of ovarian cancer.

Specifically, these Senior Scientists are investigating a protein called RBX1, which normally tags proteins that will be broken down. Their study examines whether RBX1 mutations lead to “chromosome instability,” or ongoing changes in DNA that create a genetic shake-up commonly thought to contribute to both cancer and related drug resistance.

If proven, there will be a new target for treatment. Meaning a new treatment could be developed to address drug resistance.

“11 years ago, I lost my mother to ovarian cancer. Since then, we’ve been huge supporters of Ovarian Cancer Canada. We’ve participated in the Walk of Hope for a decade now because we’ve **personally felt the impact of this disease**. That’s why we are testing different directions to learn more about its origins and to develop better treatment options.”

**DR. KIRK MCMANUS**



“We’re passionate about our work and we’re doing everything we can to see improved outcomes for women who have been diagnosed. A lot of researchers across Canada are committed to overcoming ovarian cancer. **I want you to know that we’re in this for you.**”

**DR. MARK NACHTIGAL**

# IMPROVING CARE

## There is no time to wait, not even during the pandemic

During the pandemic, cancer diagnoses decreased. Assured of safe pathways to healthcare, Ovarian Cancer Canada collaborated with other cancer organizations:

- Participating in the “New Normal, Same Cancer” campaign reminding people to speak to their doctors if they were concerned about cancer
- Advocating for fair and equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to priority groups and those at high risk



More specifically, we:

- Encouraged women to learn the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer and speak with their doctors if they had new and persistent symptoms
- Reminded women with the disease who may have postponed treatments to reengage with their healthcare teams

## Two major studies are underway to improve care and increase equity across Canada:

- **The Every Woman Study: Canadian Edition** is the most comprehensive study to date on the impact of ovarian cancer across the country. With participation from 557 women, in English and French, it comprises a formal account of the experience of ovarian cancer in Canada, from the path to diagnosis to treatment and supportive care. Results are coming this year

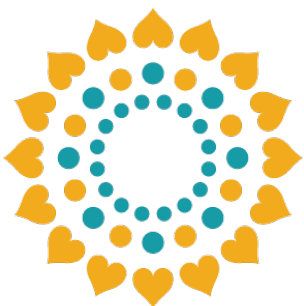


- **The State of the Nation Clinical Audit**, which is a comprehensive evaluation of ovarian cancer care that collects information on incidence, prevalence, staging and survival. Data will be collected from five provinces to help identify gaps and opportunities in the system and identify key priorities in healthcare

"We know there are differences in outcomes across our country that are not due to differences in biology or stage at diagnosis. The State of the Nation represents a tremendous opportunity to start to understand what is happening around diagnosis and treatment, and whether there are gaps we need to address to make sure all women get the care they need in the most timely way possible. Using our findings, we will be able to point to specific areas where we can intervene to improve care and ultimately outcomes for women in Canada."

### DR. ROBIN URQUHART

Associate Professor, Department of  
Community Health and Epidemiology,  
Dalhousie University



This work will provide evidence for points of advocacy to ensure that all women with ovarian cancer receive the best care, regardless of where they live in Canada.

This year, because of COVID-19, there was a big push to go virtual. Every effort was made to ensure broad inclusion across the country, and to capture the online experiences brought to you by Ovarian Cancer Canada, so that when live participation wasn't possible you could still access the information and inspiration being shared.

- **National Symposium** – new this year, ignited positivity through self-care inspiration, research updates, advocacy, camaraderie and community
- **Speaker Series** – new this year, a series of presentations on topics like Emotional Healing and Demystifying Clinical Trials
- **Ask the Expert** – an opportunity to ask questions on a variety of topics, such as the effects of COVID-19 on ovarian cancer treatments and the role of hope in living with ovarian cancer
- **By Your Side and Still By Your Side guides** – informative resources that support women who are newly diagnosed and others experiencing recurrence
- **OVdialogue** – the online forum for women with this disease became even more essential in enabling women to connect and share during a time of intense isolation

### Newly approved treatments are urgently needed.

However, delays can occur as pricing is negotiated between the government and manufacturers. So Ovarian Cancer Canada:

- Put forward a patient submission for Zejula to be used as first line treatment for certain cases of ovarian cancer, regardless of whether there is a BRCA gene mutation
- Advocated provincially for access to Lynparza, when pricing negotiations slowed due to the pandemic

These actions supported successful negotiations, enabling women to access the drugs sooner.



"Connecting with others facing a cancer diagnosis can be especially helpful, and this is much more important during the isolation we face with the current pandemic. I found the post-treatment stage to be an especially challenging time, and OVdialogue helped me to recover and heal. Being able to discuss things with other women like me — especially young women — made me feel less alone."

**TRISTA DI LULLO**  
diagnosed in 2016

"This was the first time, since I was diagnosed two years ago, that I have been in the company of other women with ovarian cancer. It has motivated me to be more involved in this community."

**ATTENDEE AT THE NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM**



# PREVENTION

## Prevention is key. To enrich programming in this area, a series of cross-Canada surveys provided important learning

While all women have some risk of developing this disease, identifying those at high risk and offering them preventive or risk-reducing options will have the greatest impact on saving lives.

This year, Ovarian Cancer Canada conducted a cross-Canada survey of genetics counselors, gynecologic surgeons who perform risk-reducing surgeries, and women who have received genetic counseling and surgery. One-on-one interviews with 19 women, from 7 provinces, were also held to learn more about their unique experiences.

Findings pointed to major regional differences in the areas of testing, counseling, and surgery wait times. As well, the following gaps in the system were uncovered:

- Lack of discussion on family history of cancer with family doctors
- Patients either not accessing or receiving limited counseling
- Not enough specialized surgical clinics or information on specialized surgeons
- Women undergoing surgery past the recommended age

A task force was established to address these gaps and improve care for women at high risk of ovarian cancer. Comprised of clinical experts and members of the Ovarian Cancer Canada staff team, the task force is focused on learning more about surgical practice across Canada, and the experiences of those who received specialized care. They are also collaborating to establish a community of practice, where gynecologists and family doctors can develop expertise in the area of genetic mutations and risk-reducing gynecologic surgery.

This is just the beginning. \_\_\_\_\_

Expect to hear more on prevention this year as the program moves forward.

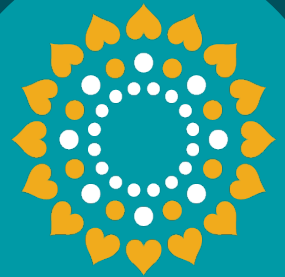
# Women like Sheree are inspiring action

Six years ago, Sheree Yusishen was told that her family history of cancer – which includes ovarian and breast cancer – did not warrant genetic testing. But in Spring 2019, she learned she has a BRCA1 gene mutation, which carries increased risk for ovarian and breast cancers.

This discovery came only after Sheree herself was diagnosed with breast cancer. Years later, she still hasn't undergone risk-reducing surgery for ovarian cancer due most recently to scheduling delays caused by the pandemic. Sheree says she feels "like a ticking time bomb," and she is still waiting.



"I'm frustrated that I didn't get genetic testing sooner. I would have moved forward with risk-reducing surgeries and maybe never would have gotten cancer."



## Ovarian Cancer Canada is:

- Convening and partnering with clinicians and specialists to ensure that women at high risk of ovarian cancer can access preventive opportunities and follow-up care
- Informing key audiences about prevention and risk reduction so they are prepared to consider their personal options
- Identifying advocacy priorities as we continue to push for change

# Ovarian Cancer Canada Walk of Hope

## Even as you ensured a safe physical distance, you still “showed up” to raise money to change women’s lives



At a time when the world was brought to its knees by the pandemic, you refused to give up, and you never lost sight of our shared goals. On Sunday, September 13, 2020, the annual tradition of the Ovarian Cancer Canada Walk of Hope went virtual for the first time ever, when COVID-19 prevented us from gathering in person.

Undaunted, you rallied community spirit through your shared stories and connection. You tweeted, went live on Instagram, shared pictures in teal, and tuned in for the Facebook Live events.

**In spite of the challenges the year presented you raised almost \$1.2 million to help women live fuller, better, longer lives. And despite keeping safe physical distance, women living with ovarian cancer shared that they feel closer to others throughout Canada.**

Thank you!

“I really thought the virtual Walk went well and felt like the best choice for safety during these times. I felt that since we were more online extra effort was made to reach as many people as possible”

**WALK PARTICIPANT**



“Love that this went virtual. I have moved across Canada and still felt connected to my teammates in other provinces.”

**WALK PARTICIPANT**

“The virtual format allowed me to participate with my team even though I walked alone. I took pictures and shared them with my team captain.”

**WALK PARTICIPANT**



## Peggy Truscott, the woman who started the Walk, was honoured with the Meritorious Service Cross



### PEGGY TRUSCOTT AND HER DAUGHTERS SARAH, MARTHA AND REBECCA

Taken at the 2002 Walk

**Peggy Truscott** was posthumously awarded a Meritorious Service Cross by the Governor General of Canada. Among the highest honours in the country, the Meritorious Service Cross recognizes individuals who have performed an activity at a very high standard that brings benefit or honour to Canada. This award celebrates Peggy's pivotal role in establishing the Walk — which, over the years, has raised over \$30 million for support programming, advocacy efforts and vital research.



Join thousands across Canada who are walking on Sunday, September 12, 2021. To register or learn more go to [ovariancancerwalkofhope.ca](https://ovariancancerwalkofhope.ca)

# PEGGY TRUSCOTT AWARD OF HOPE

The Peggy Truscott Award of Hope celebrates the outstanding contributions of individuals or groups who volunteer to support our mission.

A special thanks to all of you.



## JENNIFER BOWNESS AND JILLIAN FORBES

"We were beyond honoured to receive this award," says Jennifer Bowness. "This is a very personal cause for us. We do this for mom and so many other women affected by this disease. We see the need for funding for this disease, we see the value of Ovarian Cancer Canada's work, and this award just motivates us to keep on going."

"It's really about the survivors," adds Jillian Forbes. Creating venues and means for them to come together, find community, to be supported, and to be celebrated.

Seeing them take the stage at THE LADY BALL, for example, was so special for me...it just makes what we do so worthwhile."



## CÉCILE HRYHORCZUK

"This award was definitely a surprise for me — I wasn't expecting it," says Cécile Hryhorczuk. "As there is still such a need for funding, it's important we have a strong community to push for change. We also need to be able to count on each other. I will continue to use my voice, to join other voices to speak up, and speak loud, about this disease."



## GAYLE MANLEY AND THE ZONTA CLUB

"It's important for women and all of us to pay attention to this disease because knowledge really is power and you just never know how far-reaching an impact you can have," says Gayle Manley. "We have a lot of respect for Ovarian Cancer Canada and this cause, and we are so deeply honoured to receive this award."



## CATTERINA McDONALD

"I am humbled to join the company of those who have received this award in the past and it means so much to me," says Catterina McDonald. "I am thankful for the privilege of promoting awareness and supporting women going through their ovarian cancer journey. No woman walks alone. We are a sisterhood and we're here to support each other."



## CARRIE BISSONNETTE

"Her father and I are so proud of her accomplishments. She was caring to a lot of people. As soon as she heard about someone else who had ovarian cancer — any cancer, really — she would reach out to let them know she was there to listen and to support," says Debbie Vansickle, Carrie's mom. Carrie passed away in June 2020.



# Thank you to the donors and partners who provided financial support this year. Your generous contributions make this work possible.

Time and again this community has shown that when we're united, when we raise our voices and speak as one, when we persist — we accomplish our shared goals and improve women's lives for the better.

**But it takes more than commitment. Donations and funding are vital.**

Thank you to the people and organizations who contribute to this important cause. Here are just a few valued supporters.



"Since losing a member of our team to ovarian cancer, Core-Mark has made a tradition of providing support with an annual golf tournament in support of Ovarian Cancer Canada. Over the years we've raised nearly \$265,000 and this time around, not even the pandemic could stand in our way. Even as everyone kept safe distance, a national team brought about a virtual golf tournament and trade show to raise funds for this important cause. **That's how much it means to us."**

**JOHN CARBONE**

Senior Vice President, Canadian  
Region Coremark International, Inc.

"We invest in the communities where our clients and team members live and work. Community involvement and volunteerism is a part of our firm's DNA.

**We have witnessed first-hand the impact of Ovarian Cancer Canada's research, advocacy and support for women impacted by this disease.** This cause has become a meaningful annual commitment for our team members, who take it upon themselves to raise funds and get involved."

**DEBRA HEWSON**

President and CEO,  
Odlum Brown Ltd.





"It has been an honor to remember my mom and share a bit of her story through selling the greeting cards I make in support of Ovarian Cancer Canada. My friends, family and community have been incredibly supportive. **People love to know about all the heart that's behind what I do.** They love to support passion and heart."

**STEPHANIE HAY**  
volunteer fundraiser and founder  
of Little Miss ShaunShine

Like the Ovarian Cancer Canada Walk of Hope, **THE LADY BALL** also went virtual in 2020. Thanks to **THE LADY BALL Atlantic** in the east and **THE LADY BALL 2.0** in the west.

"For many years, Stewart McKelvey has been a fervent supporter of Ovarian Cancer Canada and its mission to champion the health and wellbeing of those affected by the disease while advancing research. **We are committed to making a difference by working with such a powerful organization to change outcomes.** This year, one of our cherished events, THE LADY BALL Atlantic, turned virtual. So to further support, I hosted a LADY BALL of my own, a small viewing party at home, which was the next best thing."

**JENNIFER MACPHERSON**  
Partner, Stewart McKelvey



# Message from the incoming Chair

The momentum surrounding this cause - the collaboration and research coming to fruition because of Ovarian Cancer Canada - is beyond exciting to step into. As someone who has been personally affected by this disease, I am truly honoured for the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Board.

Today, women with ovarian cancer have an important seat at the table. Our insights and lived experiences are guiding next steps, from key research funding decisions to points of advocacy. **Our voices have not only been heard, they are being championed to impact change at the highest levels, where Ovarian Cancer Canada is pressing for what we want and need.**

Research through the OvCAN initiative is continuing to pave the way for scientific discoveries, and we're already looking for ways to ensure this work makes a real-world impact. In the year ahead, Ovarian Cancer Canada is also aiming to affect improvements to the system of care, using evidence gathered from women with the disease as well as a clinical audit.

In addition to improving outcomes for those diagnosed, Ovarian Cancer Canada is working to **stop this disease before it starts** with efforts underway to encourage women at high risk of ovarian cancer to take preventive action. **This will save hundreds of precious lives.**

Like so many of my teal sisters living with ovarian cancer, I'm convinced the reason I had this disease is so that I can help ensure that one day no one will have to go through what I did. This is the group who will make it happen. Ovarian Cancer Canada is moving mountains for us.

As incoming Chair of the Board, I am committed to doing right by people affected by ovarian cancer. **This is our time.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



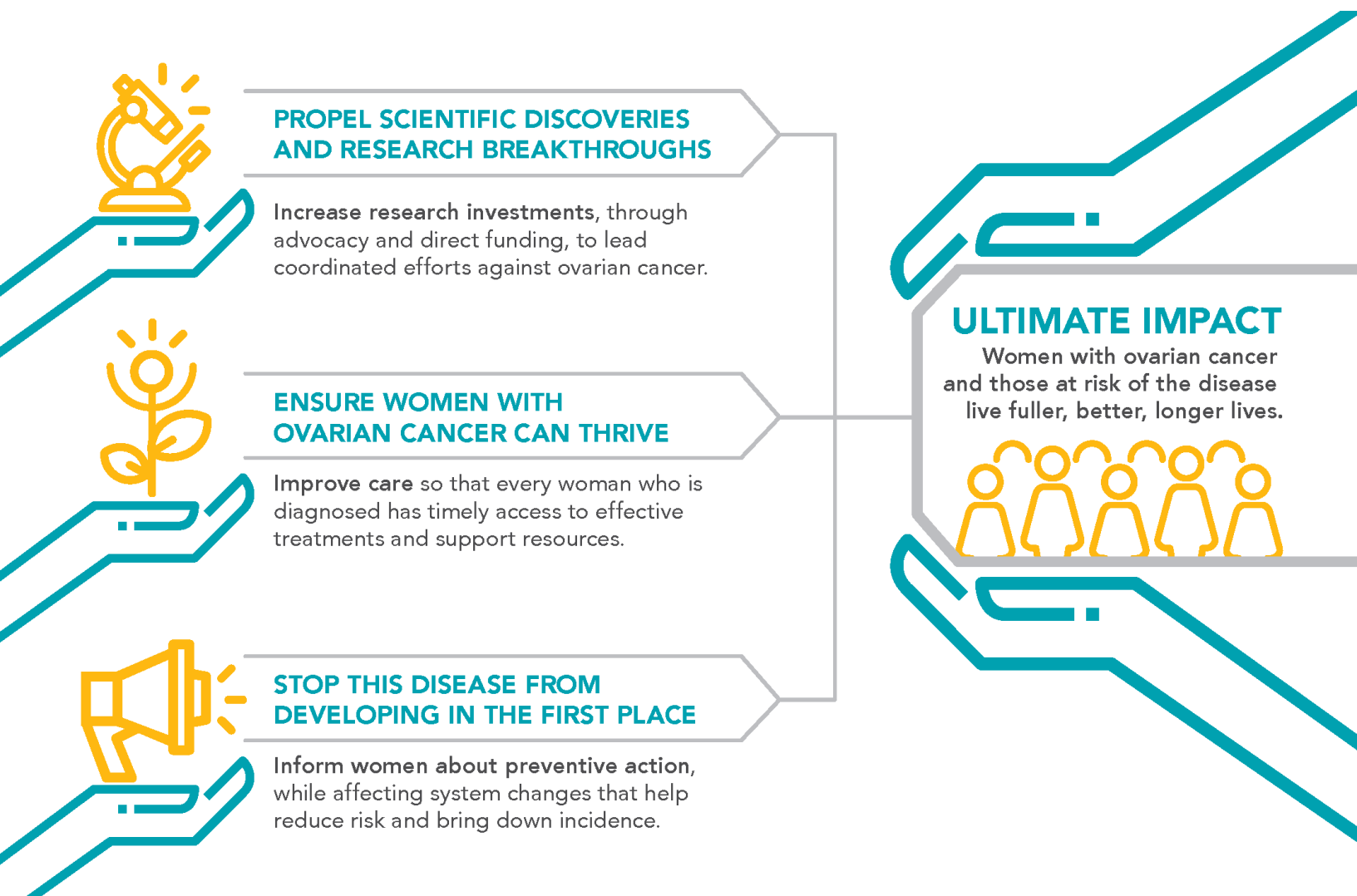
**Erin Barrett**

Incoming Chair of the Board



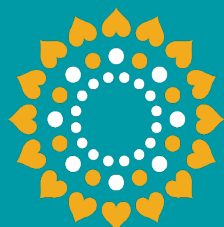
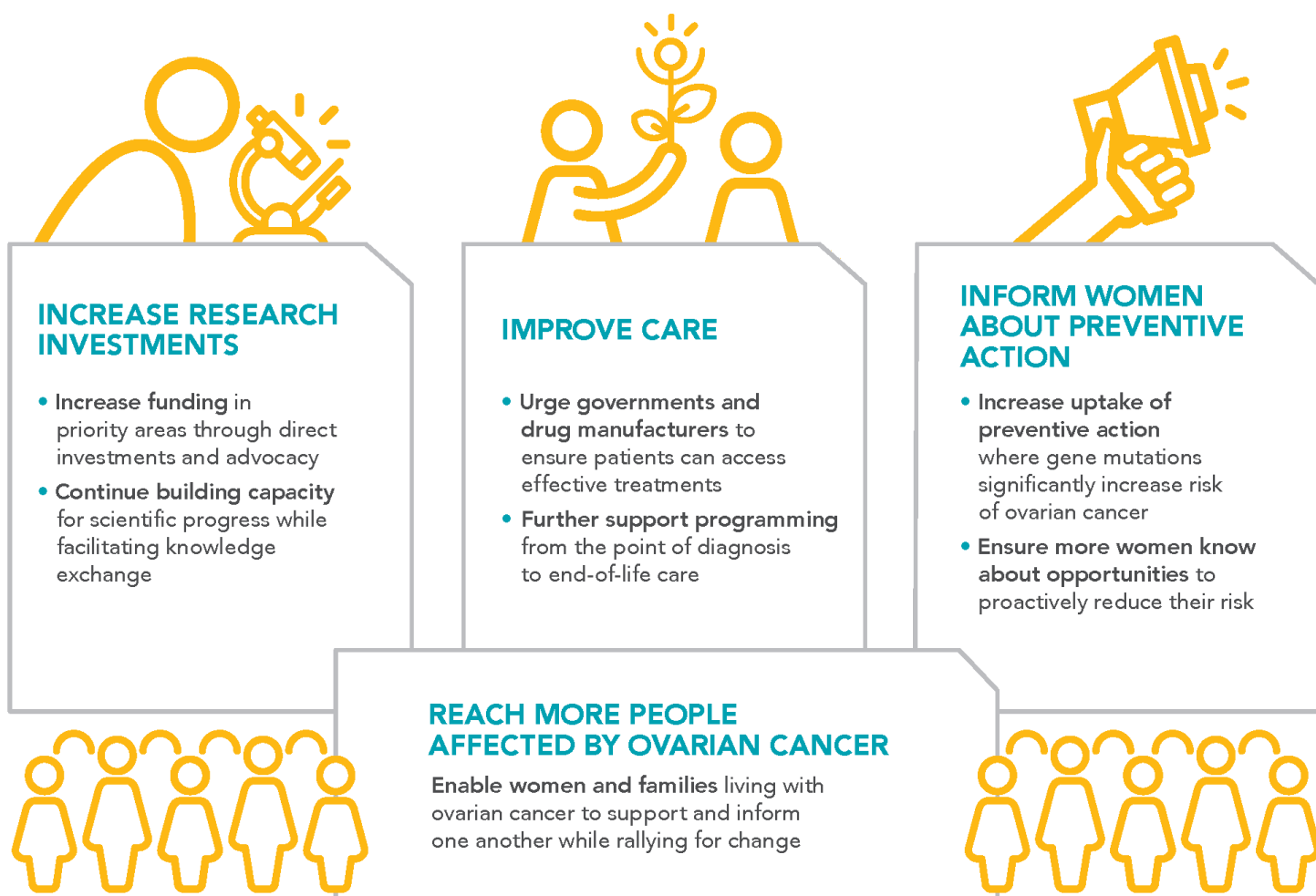
# Looking forward

To affect bold changes that save lives, Ovarian Cancer Canada is working with you to propel research, improve care, and advance prevention efforts.





For continued scientific progress, significant funding will need to be invested. At the same time, women living with ovarian cancer deserve improved care and support to help them live their best lives. Beyond this, information about prevention has to reach women who are at high risk of this disease and others who have opportunities to reduce their risk.



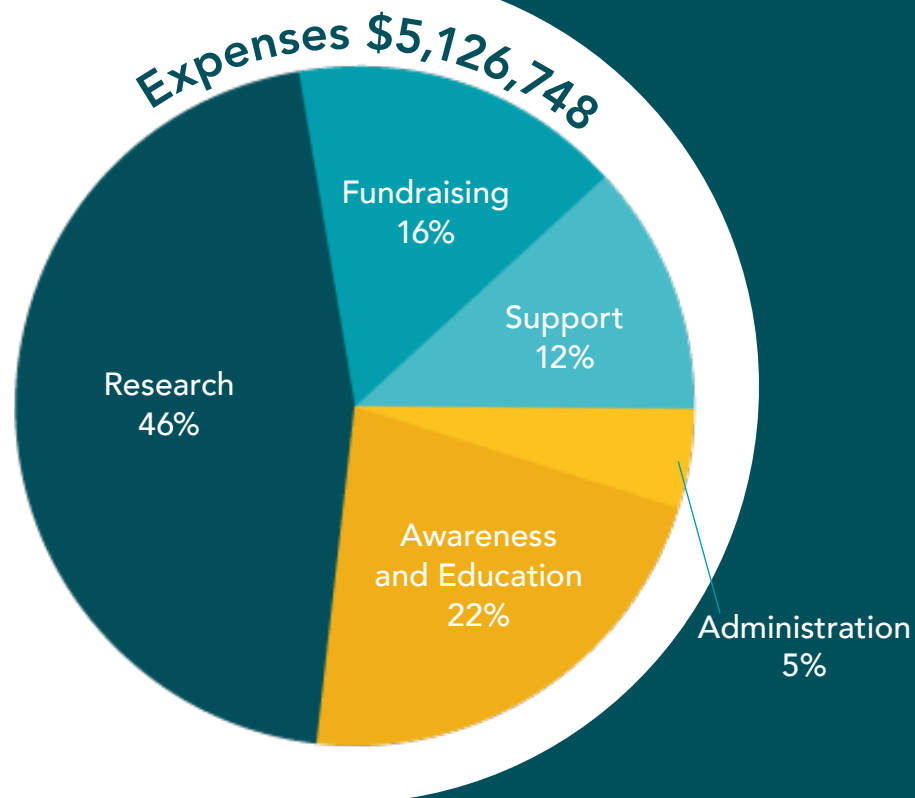
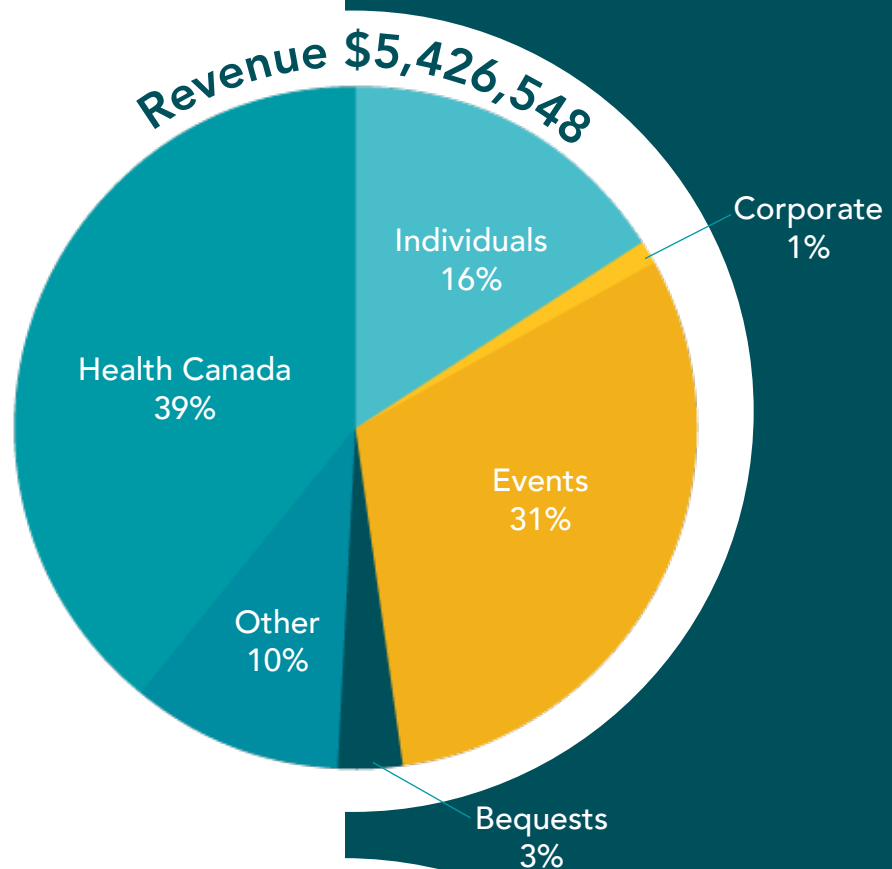
Further progress is needed to change the course of this disease for good. And you make it possible. To help advance our shared mission, please give generously at [ovariancanada.org/donate](https://ovariancanada.org/donate).



# Ensuring your donations are put to best possible use

The impact of Ovarian Cancer Canada is powered entirely and every day by the donations and contributions of people like you. Each dollar you entrust to this organization is put to immediate use in the areas of greatest need - to push progress further and faster.

During the fiscal year 2019-2020, Ovarian Cancer Canada entered into a contribution agreement with Health Canada related to the Health Care Policy Contribution program. In the fiscal 2020-2021, \$2.1 million was distributed and included in Research.



The Standards Programs Trustmark is a mark of Imagine Canada used under license by Ovarian Cancer Canada. Our accreditation demonstrates our commitment to operating at the highest level of transparency and accountability, assuring valued donors that their gifts are responsibly stewarded for the greatest impact.

# Board of Directors

Comprised of people who have been impacted by ovarian cancer, community champions and leaders in research, healthcare, and business; the Board of Directors provides governance that supports Ovarian Cancer Canada in achieving its mission.

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Paradise, NL

## EMERITUS

**Eileen Beadle** Deep Bay, BC

**Tammy Brown** Toronto, ON

**Anne Chase** Regina, SK

**Bruce Galloway** Oakville, ON

**Dr. Valérie Garneau** Trois Rivières, QC



# Dedicated staff team

A professional team works with you and for you - to change lives.

## CEO

**Elisabeth Baugh**  
CEO

## PROGRAMS AND REGIONS

**Cailey Crawford**  
Vice President of Programs and Policy

**Emilie Chiasson**  
Regional Director, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia,  
Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and  
Labrador

**Valérie Dinh**  
Regional Director, Quebec

**Stephanie Gosselin**  
Regional Director, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and  
Ontario

**Tracy Kolwich**  
Regional Director, British Columbia, Alberta,  
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut

**Dr. Alicia Tone**  
OvCAN Project Manager and Scientific Advisor

**Talin Boghosian**  
Research Associate\*

## FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

**Lise Johnston**  
Vice President of Finance

**Delphin Shamamba**  
Accounting Manager

**Kamarah Francis**  
Business Manager

**Raj Aiyer**  
Database Administrator

**Margaret Noble**  
Senior Manager, Finance Projects\*

## MARKETING, COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

**Mapy Villaudy**  
Vice President of Marketing, Communications  
and Development

**Janice Chan**  
Director of Marketing and Communications

**Irma Deacon**  
Senior Development Manager

**Heather Bunting**  
Philanthropy Manager

**Tara Defoe**  
Community Engagement and Events  
Manager

**Julie De Liberato**  
Marketing and Communications Manager

**Todd Harrison**  
Digital Communications Manager

**Ashley Law**  
Community Engagement Associate

**Katie MacLennan**  
Marketing and Communications Associate

**Jesse Wiesblatt**  
Community Engagement and Events  
Associate

*\*On contract*



# Here for you

## Ovarian Cancer Canada provides programs and resources from coast to coast to coast.

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