



Mid-year Newsletter for All of Our Supporters!

July 2023

Dear Friends,

I hope this beautiful Michigan summer is providing for you time to spend with your friends and family and exploring all that Michigan has to offer. It is, once again, a great feeling to be back to a sense of normalcy after the pandemic of the past three years. Our health is our most prized possession, which must be vigilantly watched and acted upon when the need arises. This is so critical when the vague symptoms of Ovarian Cancer confront the women in our lives! Finding a conclusive early detection test for this devastating cancer is why the Belinda Sue Fund was founded.

The research around such a test is widespread and progress is being made. You may recall that one of the researchers supported by The Belinda Sue Fund was Dr. Sophia George of the Sylvester Cancer Institute at the University of Miami, Florida. Our seed dollars to fund Dr. George's research ended up leading to a \$1.5M grant from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). It turns out that the DOD is an active funder of Ovarian Cancer researchers across the United States. Presently the DOD has 300 active Service Members who have been diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer at various stages, with another 20,000 DOD beneficiaries diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer as well. The focus of the DOD, in its vigorous funding efforts, is on the following:

- Understanding the basic biology and etiology of Ovarian Cancer initiation, progression, recurrent metastasis, and the related underlying genetic makeup
- Developing novel therapeutic strategies for treatment and prevention
- Identifying and developing new strategies for screening, early-stage detection, prevention, along with accurate diagnosis and prognosis
- Identifying and implementing strategies to improve survivorship and quality of life
- Addressing health disparities
- Improving personalized Precision Medicine

The Belinda Sue Fund is grateful to be a part of this effort, helping to support research programs which may find miraculous breakthroughs in curing Ovarian Cancer.

As the BSF moves toward the twelfth anniversary of its founding, we again thank you for your overwhelming commitment. Thanks to your generosity, we continue to receive donations and support.

As I noted in the 2022 BSF Year-end Newsletter, **we will not be hosting the BSF Detroit Zoo Walk this year.** Increasing expenses of the Walk, while keeping our admission cost level, has limited our ability to raise funds. While we have minimal day-to-day operating expenses with no paid staff, higher inflation not only affects us but is impacting all of our supporters as well. However, our partnership with Henry Ford Health (HFH) allows us continue to advertise our cause in the HFH “Game On Cancer” program, allowing us to continue to spread our mission in 2023.

In lieu of the Zoo Walk, in mid-September key leaders from HFH will be hosting an invitation-based event to celebrate its advances in women’s health and to share the vision of women’s health services, programs and cancer research at the Health System. The informational portion of the event will be provided by the Chairs of HFH Women’s Health and the Breast Health Departments. Ovarian Cancer research is key among the cancers that will be addressed at the event. Dr. Ramandeep Rattan leads the Ovarian Cancer program at HFH and has been a recipient of BSF financial support in the last several years. The goal is to increase awareness and funding for woman’s health initiatives at HFH.

As we work our mission through the rest of this year, we continue to grieve the personal loss many of you have suffered. My family, too, endured a tragic loss 12 years ago and we hold the deepest compassion for those of you suffering from Ovarian Cancer. Our hearts go out to you!

We continue to explore ways to spread our mission via research support, increasing public awareness and the impact each of you has in telling your own personal story to others. You would be amazed what impact your personal stories have in creating a call to action for others to investigate their vague symptoms with a Gyn Cancer specialist...being their own advocate is the key to early detection!

Please enjoy the rest of your summer; spend as much time with friends and family as you can. Don’t take any moment for granted. Life is very short and must be lived fully!

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Nantais
Founder and Chairman,
The Belinda Sure Fund for Ovarian Cancer Awareness and Research, Inc.