



Ovarian Cancer Research Program

The goals of the Department of Defense (DOD) Ovarian Cancer Research Program (OCRP) are adapted yearly to target critical research areas and to be responsive to the needs of the ovarian cancer community. The DOD OCRP is thinking differently about how to drive scientific progress in ovarian cancer. As a major leader in funding extramural ovarian cancer research, the DOD OCRP is investing in high-impact, innovative research that continues to fulfill unmet needs and move the field of ovarian cancer forward.

Key Initiatives of the DOD OCRP

- Support critical research resources
- Challenge and expand current thinking and approaches to ovarian cancer
- Support high-impact, innovative research that will lead to significant breakthroughs
- Facilitate multidisciplinary and nontraditional collaborations bringing diverse approaches and leveraging resources to accelerate the elimination of ovarian cancer
- Support partnerships between clinicians and laboratory scientists to accelerate the movement of promising ideas into clinical applications
- Foster the future generation of researchers focused on ovarian cancer

The OCRP, administered by the DOD, was established in 1997 by an initial congressional appropriation of \$7.5 million (M). Since then, grassroots efforts to increase public awareness and federal funding for research led by ovarian cancer advocates have resulted in a total appropriation of nearly \$161M to the OCRP, including \$18.75M in fiscal year 2010 (FY10).

The success of the DOD OCRP can be attributed to the synergistic efforts of many talented and dedicated individuals. A hallmark of the DOD OCRP is the partnership of ovarian cancer survivors and advocates with scientists and clinicians who work together to set program priorities, conduct peer review of research proposals, and identify high-impact, innovative research that will lead to the elimination of ovarian cancer. More than 500 ovarian cancer survivors and advocates, scientists, and clinicians have participated in the OCRP. The disease survivors and advocates bring their unique perspective and the human dimension of the disease into the DOD OCRP's policy, investment strategy, and research focus to encourage funding recommendations that reflect the concerns of ovarian cancer advocates and their families, as well as the clinicians who treat them.

About two out of every three ovarian cancer patients will be diagnosed at an advanced stage of disease. Understanding the origins of ovarian cancer is complicated, but the FY10 OCRP is addressing this difficult issue through the Consortium Award. This award supports a major multi-institutional research effort that specifically focuses on identifying and characterizing early changes of disease associated with ovarian cancer.

Vision

Eliminate ovarian cancer.

Mission

Support research to detect, diagnose, prevent, and control ovarian cancer.

For More Information

<http://cdmrp.army.mil/ocrp/default.shtml>

General Questions: (301) 619-7071

Consumer Involvement: (301) 619-7071
or cdmrpconsumers@amedd.army.mil

Breaking News

The Ovarian Cancer Academy puts the African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child" into action for training the next generation of ovarian cancer researchers. An academy dean, seven early-career investigators, and their mentors will launch the unique, interactive virtual academy that will provide intensive mentoring, national networking, and a collaborative and interactive research training environment for the junior faculty.



Did You Know?

- One in 71 women will develop ovarian cancer in her lifetime
- In 2009, approximately 21,500 women in the United States were diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and an estimated 14,600 women died from this disease
- The DOD OCRP is the second-leading federal funding agency for ovarian cancer research in the United States
- Since inception of the DOD OCRP, ovarian cancer survivors have participated in establishing the OCRP's priorities, research funding opportunities, and funding recommendations
- More than 125 ovarian cancer survivors have participated as equal voting members at both scientific peer review and programmatic review
- Ovarian cancer survivors collaborate on team-oriented OCRP award mechanisms

Accelerating Science

- Developed OVA1™, the first IVDMA (in vitro diagnostic multivariate index assay) of proteomic biomarkers cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to help physicians identify patients whose surgeries should be referred to a gynecologic oncologist
- Demonstrated elevated urinary Bcl-2 as a biomarker (patented) in women at risk for ovarian cancer
- Discovered that MMP7 is elevated in serum up to 3 years prior to diagnosis of ovarian cancer
- Developed a targeted treatment using nanoparticles to deliver diphtheria toxin-encoding DNA to ovarian cancer cells, leaving healthy cells unaffected
- Validated SC144 (a small-molecule inducer) as a treatment for drug-sensitive and drug-resistant ovarian cancer
- Discovered API-2/tricirbine (now in Phase I clinical trials as VQD-002) that potentially inhibits Akt-activated cancers, which includes more than 40% of ovarian tumors
- Developed Anginex, a potent anti-angiogenic and anti-cancer peptide that shows efficacy in combating ovarian cancer
- Developed and patented treatment of ovarian cancer with squalamine in combination with other anti-cancer agents/modalities (now in Phase II clinical trials through Genaera Pharmaceuticals)
- Demonstrated that CD8+ T cell response to ovarian cancer results in tumor regression in 75% of cases without surgery or chemotherapy
- Discovered nine tumor vascular markers that were expressed in the tumor vasculature in vivo, which may be candidates for imaging or therapeutic targeting (patent is pending for the markers and methods of use thereof). Now in Phase I clinical trial
- Published first resource book for high-risk women considering prophylactic oophorectomy: "Ovarian Cancer Risk-Reducing Surgery: A Decision-Making Resource"

