



OVARIAN
CANCER
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

TUMOR 311

VISION

Everyone, everywhere –
free from the threat of ovarian cancer

MISSION

Funding innovative ovarian cancer research to save
women’s lives through early detection and personalised
treatment

OUR VALUES

INTEGRITY

We demonstrate integrity, transparency and compassion in every interaction, communication and engagement.

IMAGINATION

We are insights-driven and creative in our thinking, grant-making and professional practice.

COLLABORATION

We develop meaningful collaborations with individuals, corporations, researchers and others – sector-wide and across pillars of society – to meet our aims.

COMMUNITY

The OCRF reflects, inspires and celebrates the supportive communities involved in our critical work.

TRUST

We are the trusted voice in ovarian cancer research, and trusted national brand for supporters, consumers and partners.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands upon which we work, strive, and learn, the Wurrundjiri Woi wurrung and Bunorung Boon wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend this respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia and beyond.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Evolution and expansion – OCRF year in review



It has been a year of evolution and expansion for the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation. The most significant change was to farewell Lucinda Nolan, our CEO of six years, and recruit and **welcome our new CEO**, Robin Penty. Lucinda left the organisation in great health, with strong governance, increased grant funds in reserve, excellent social and fiscal responsibility, and clear decision-making frameworks in place for the OCRF's scientific advisory committee and staff. Lucinda was a strong, focused leader, and on behalf of the Board, we acknowledge her significant contribution to a better future for all women and girls with ovarian cancer.

A second important development was our **change of legal structure**, from an incorporated association to a company limited by guarantee. This change of structure reflects the increasing maturity and size of the OCRF, and enabled the Board to update and modernise the OCRF Constitution. It also signals our continued readiness to invest in our organisation and people toward **impactful and sustainable outcomes**. I would like to thank Allens legal team for their significant pro bono support for this change.

In February 2023 – Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month – the OCRF was pleased to **commit \$2.8 million to research grants for ovarian cancer**: \$1.8 million in new grants and \$1 million for ongoing multi-year projects. Across the year, both CEOs went to Canberra to advocate for a significant increase in research investment for ovarian cancer, currently funded at **less than 0.7% of total available medical research funding** in this country. We met with Senator Marielle Smith, **Chair of Community Affairs Legislation Committee**, and Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney, amongst many other politicians, to promote women's gynaecological health as a priority for policy-makers.

Since Robin joined the team, we have furthered our commitment to external collaboration and engagement, and increased the size of the (still lean) OCRF team. This is to better leverage the organisation's role as an **innovator and disruptor** in the research landscape, and to support staff development.

In devastating news, the OCRF lost three community ambassadors to ovarian cancer in nine months this year. Later in this report, you'll learn more about **Kel Pittman (SA), Assoc Prof Siobhan O'Sullivan (NSW) and Leane Flynn (VIC)**, all of whom died in the prime of their lives. Kel, Siobhan and Leane were great women, much-loved by the OCRF team and thousands more. We will continue to strive for an early detection test and better treatment options for patients, to end this insidious disease and prevent future deaths and suffering.

Despite these tragic losses, the OCRF Board is looking ahead with a sense of gathering momentum, and a plan to change the game for ovarian cancer research in Australia. It is therefore my pleasure to present the OCRF Annual Report 2022-2023 to you.



Julie Toop
OCRF Chairperson

THANK YOU TO OUTGOING CEO AND COMMITTEE MEMBER

The OCRF Board and staff would like to thank outgoing CEO Lucinda Nolan for six years of outstanding service to the cause of ovarian cancer research. We wish Lucinda all the very best in her future professional endeavours.

We also offer sincere thanks to outgoing Committee of Management member Mr Tony Pyman. Your contribution to the OCRF's development was greatly appreciated.

CEO REPORT

Reflections on OCRF impact



We often talk about impact in the for purpose and charitable sectors. But what do we mean by **impact** at the OCRF?

This year, I had the great privilege of commencing in my role as incoming CEO on the first day of Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month (OCAM), 1 February. From that day, I observed the OCRF to be an organisation of great integrity, insight, and national reach. Our impact is both wide and deep: we are a rigorous grant-making and fundraising body; an advocate for change; a community builder; and a trusted partner, walking hand in hand with our passionate community of supporters.

A keen focus on impact is important because the OCRF is **much more** than an independent grant-making body. This report, therefore, presents OCRF Impact across four main dimensions: *Research impact; Fundraising excellence; Partnerships; and Community engagement.*

For example, in September/October 2022, we began to workshop what **genuine disruption** might mean for Australian ovarian cancer researchers, and the role the OCRF could play in supporting the pipeline of research talent in this field. We're now 'sense-checking' our ideas with the research sector, and look forward to sharing them in due course.

The **Frocktober 2022 campaign** was a great success, roaring back to pre-pandemic levels of participation and results, and our **project collaboration with ANZGOG**, though unfunded, produced a potential new model for a *Precision Medicine Promise* in ovarian cancer.

In the holiday period, Lucinda and I organised a smooth handover of the CEO's desk – and the team didn't miss a beat!

During OCAM in February, we announced **\$1.8 million in new research grants**, then went on to walk with over 450 affected community members at two **Walk with Women events** on the Mornington Peninsula (VIC) and in Adelaide. We then hosted a moving thank you event for OCRF supporters later that month, **Silver Style**. In April/May, the WITCHERY White Shirt Campaign X Pip Edwards launched at Sydney Opera House to great acclaim, with a host of high-profile ambassadors lending their voices to the campaign.

I'm proud the OCRF continues to be a trusted national voice in research and a trusted partner with corporate Australia. This year's White Shirt Campaign **raised more than \$1.2 million for research into an early detection test**, and the partnership is now global best practice in corporate social responsibility. We celebrated this achievement with over **100 Women of Influence on World Ovarian Cancer Day**, 8 May.

In May we returned to a contemporary physical office in Collingwood VIC and now work as a hybrid team. In June, we onboarded two new team members to strengthen the OCRF's research expertise and 'muscle'. You'll meet David Hunt, Research Director, and Amy Wilson PhD – the latter with two post-doctoral fellowships in ovarian cancer – later in this report. Since their arrival, we've prepared several formal submissions to the Commonwealth, and reviewed jointly-funded research projects with respected peers such as Cancer Council Victoria, the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF) and National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF).

On a personal note, I'm humbled to have been chosen to lead the OCRF into our next strategic plan, supporting a hard-working team that has imagination in spades.

To guide our work, we've also established a **new organisational values framework**.

Sincere thanks to all OCRF major donors and community fundraisers in 2022-2023 – we could not do this without you! I'd also like to make special mention of the Quinn Femelle Foundation, NSW Department of Health, Loz Copley, Wales Family Foundation, the Trek for Yvette team, the fabulous Pip Edwards, Avionics Group and the Laundry Hotel Group for significant donations in 2022-2023 (refer pp 26 and 27). And, of course, the incredible support of our corporate partners, including Principal Partner WITCHERY; Major Partners AIA Australia, Georg Jensen, Digga and Simson Cards; Media Partners OoH Media, NovaFM and Frankie magazine is invaluable to achieving the OCRF's mission and aims.

The OCRF distributed the **largest pool of research grants in the organisation's history** this year, so I would also like to congratulate the OCRF Board, employees, volunteers, contributors and collaborators, for their role in this exciting milestone.

A 49% five year survival rate is a startling statistic. Research is the only answer.

With your ongoing support, the future will be brighter and *better* for all women, girls and people affected by an ovarian cancer diagnosis.



Robin Penty
Chief Executive Officer

THE CHALLENGES WE FACE



49%

average five-year survival rate

70%

diagnosed with advanced stages of ovarian cancer, where the five-year survival rate drops to 29%

1815

women in Australia diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2022

1054

lives lost to ovarian cancer in 2022

<0.7%

medical research funding from Commonwealth goes to ovarian cancer research

OUR BOARD – OCRF GOVERNANCE

BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHANGES

The OCRF Board (formerly Committee of Management) welcomed three new directors in 2022-2023: Dr Paul Kenny, Dr Nicole Krzys and The Hon Lisa Neville. We farewelled and thanked Mr Tony Pyman.

BOARD PARTICIPATION

The OCRF Board (formerly Committee of Management) met six times this year with excellent attendance:

Board of Directors (Formerly Committee of Management members)	Held (incl AGM)	Attended
Julie Toop	7	7
Anne-Marie O’Loughlin	7	5
Philip Herbert	7	7
Geraldine Goss	7	7
Sharon McCrohan	7	5
Sarah Saunders	7	6
Colleen Maguire	7	7
Paul Kenny – Voted in at Nov AGM	5	4
Nicole Krzys – Voted in at Nov AGM	5	5
Lisa Neville – Joined Apr 2023	2	2
Tony Pyman – Resigned at Nov AGM	2	2

BOARD BIOGRAPHIES

Ms Julie Toop

Chairperson and Ex-Officio Member of all Advisory Committees

Julie has a diverse background as a banker, lawyer, Notary Public, Accredited Mediator and Non Executive company director.

She has extensive expertise in risk management, finance, cultural transformations, governance, stakeholder management and business development. A collaborative leader, Julie has demonstrated capability in advising boards and communities.

Julie held a range of legal and banking roles in her 15 year career at ANZ, including establishing a very successful specialist health banking proposition backed by a team of bankers dedicated to meeting the business and personal banking needs of Medical Practitioners and Pharmacists.

Prior to joining ANZ, Julie was a Special Counsel at Allens Linklaters. She has worked across various areas of law throughout her lengthy career, and whilst at Allens Linklaters she specialised in property, estate planning, probate, succession, trusts, and the provision of general commercial advice to not for profit and charitable organisations.

Julie is an experienced Notary Public who provides notarial services to individuals and corporations.

A director of Accordo Pty Ltd, a mediation business established in 2023, Julie assists parties in dispute to explore options and find areas for agreement.

Julie is also a non executive director of the Australian Sonographers Association Ltd (ASA) and a member of the Finance, Risk and Audit sub-committee.

Ms Anne-Marie O’Loughlin

Deputy Chairperson Chairperson, Consumer Representative Panel and Member, Marketing and Fundraising Advisory Committee

Anne-Marie has over 30 years experience as a Company Director for a range of organisations including the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Mothers Day Classic Foundation, Utilities of Australia, Netball Australia (Chair), Australian Council for Superannuation Investors, Northern Health (Chair), Kangan Batman Institute (Chair), Victorian Superannuation Board, and was a trustee on the MCG Trust for 9 years. She is currently a Director of Bank Australia, Chair of TelstraSuper, and a Member of the Australian Commonwealth Games Foundation Investment Committee.

Anne-Marie has extensive experience in strategic planning, corporate governance, financial management, stakeholder management and the ability to manage growth in a competitive environment. She was CEO of HESTA, the industry superannuation fund for health and community services, and Company Secretary to its trustee company HEST Australia Ltd from May 1998 to February 2015. Prior to this role she was Victorian Branch Secretary of the Australian Education Union and a primary teacher.

Dr Geraldine Goss

Board Director and Member, Scientific Advisory Committee

Geraldine graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1987. She undertook postgraduate training in oncology at the Royal Melbourne and Repatriation Hospitals, after which she undertook laboratory-based research as a Breast Cancer Fellow. She completed her MD thesis then travelled to Boston, USA where she completed fellowships at St Elizabeth’s Medical Centre and the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, and developed her interest in gynaecological cancers. Following Geraldine’s return to Australia in 2000, she completed a Masters degree in Women’s Health at the University of Melbourne. She now works as a medical oncologist with a focus on caring for women with breast and gynaecological cancers.

Mr Philip Herbert

Board Director and Chairperson, Finance Risk and Audit Committee

Philip has had a highly successful career in the accounting profession in both private practice and industry.

Philip was a Fellow of the Certified Practising Accountants and was a partner in mid-tier firms HLB Mann Judd and Bentleys. In those roles he specialised in forensic accounting, specifically in Family Law and Trusts/Estates, and general management consultancy.

In industry, Philip was Assistant Company Secretary at Spalding Australia, Director of Finance at IKEA Australia, General Manager at a family-owned national stationery company, and a management consultant at KPMG.

Philip is well known to the OCRF, having assisted in fundraising with his daughters, Georgie and Penny, following the diagnosis of his late wife, Mandy, with ovarian cancer.

Dr Paul Kenny (from Nov 2022)

Board Director

Dr Kenny is currently a consultant at the law firm Allens. Dr Kenny was previously a partner at the firm for over 30 years and held positions as Energy Practice Group Leader and Government Sector Leader. His practice at Allens has been principally in the area of infrastructure projects and regulation, acting for a range of private sector and government clients.

Dr Kenny has a keen interest in legal and regulatory reform and is a member of the State Advisory Council of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA).

Dr Nicole Krzys (from Nov 2022)

Board Director and Member, Scientific Advisory Committee

Dr Nicole Krzys is a Gynaecological Oncologist working in Tasmania in both the public and private sectors. She is the Head of Department of Gynaecology Oncology at the Royal Hobart Hospital.

Dr Krzys has an interest and previous experience in translational research, with a Masters in Science from the University of Oxford where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar. At Oxford she also completed a Masters of Philosophy and worked in the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics. Though she now works as a surgeon, she believes that quality research will make the most difference in her patient's lives and is excited about the advances she will see over her career.

Ms Colleen Maguire

Board Director and Member, Marketing and Fundraising Advisory Committee

Colleen Maguire is a driven and passionate leader across the Technical Industry, primarily focused on driving digital and cultural change. She has 30 years of experience in IT Consulting where she has led teams across Africa, UK, Middle East and Asia. Through her diverse experience in leading projects and teams across multiple cultures and geographies, Colleen has developed a deep empathy and understanding of how we can each contribute to creating more equitable experiences for others. She supports this agenda through volunteering her time to career mentoring for Women in Technology and student mentoring under the Australian Business and Community Network (ABCN).

Colleen is currently a Program Director at Microsoft where she leads Microsoft's largest Strategic Partnership in ANZ.

Over the years, Colleen has also been engaged in multiple ERG initiatives and oversaw Microsoft's gender initiative between 2019 to 2022. She is a mother to two girls and feels immensely privileged to have the opportunity to support and drive the mission of the OCRF.

Ms Sharon McCrohan

Board Director and Chairperson, Marketing and Fundraising Advisory Committee

Sharon McCrohan is one of Australia's most experienced media and strategic communications consultants, with a career spanning over 20 years as a journalist and adviser to Federal and State government leaders and cabinets, private sector boards, sporting bodies, statutory authorities, charities, and government agencies.

Sharon has a strong personal commitment to the defining mission of the OCRF, which will see the development of an early detection test saving thousands of lives.

Hon Lisa Neville (from April 2023)

Board Director

Lisa has had a long and distinguished career in public policy and public administration.

She served as a Member of the Victorian Parliament for 20 years and during that time spent 12 years as a Minister in a range of complex and demanding roles. This spanned from key social policy areas of mental health, community services and aged care, through to the front line issues of environment, water, police and emergency services.

Between 2014 and 2022, Lisa served as a senior minister in the Andrews Labor Government, where she was allocated the key role of Coordinating Minister for the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. During this time, she also served on the Coordinating Ministers Cabinet Committee and was at the forefront of the State Government's Crisis Committee of Cabinet during the peak of the response to Covid 19. Lisa was also asked to rebuild the hotel quarantine program and in doing so established the Mickleham Quarantine facility.

Prior to entering parliament, Lisa served as a Board member and Chair of Geelong's largest employer, Barwon Health. She was also a long-term member of the Community Legal Centre and was Chair of Barwon Neighbourhood House Co-ordination Committee.

Mr Tony Pyman (to Nov 2022)

Committee of Management Member

Tony Pyman has a Bachelor of Laws degree (with honours) and a Bachelor of Commerce degree from University of Melbourne. He was a partner in the legal firm Allens for more than 33 years and was a part time Corporate Counsel of Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute from September 2011 to April 2014. Over the years, Tony's legal practice has encompassed a wide range of areas including general commercial advice, drafting of contracts, corporate finance transactions, company floats, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, corporate reconstructions, research and development syndications, research and development collaborations, clinical trials and commercialisation of technology.

Ms Sarah Saunders

Board Director and Acting Chairperson, Scientific Advisory Committee

Sarah Saunders is a values-driven leader, passionate about improving health and wellbeing and creating social impact.

Sarah has extensive experience in strategy, engagement and marketing. Over the past 20 years she has worked in Australia and the UK in the government, consultancy and for purpose sectors.

Throughout her career Sarah has been drawn to leading organisations in the social good sector and has contributed to these causes in diverse roles at Cancer Council Victoria, CARE Australia, VicHealth, Neami National, and the Central Office of Information (UK).

Sarah holds a Bachelor of Arts (Public Relations) from RMIT University and a Master of Public Health from Sydney University.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES



The OCRF acknowledges and thanks all external members of our four advisory committees for their strategic and technical guidance throughout the year:

FINANCE RISK AND AUDIT COMMITTEE (FRAC) 2022-2023

Philip Herbert, FRAC Chairperson

Ren Barlow
Michael Elsworth
Justin Flynn
Lynda Rogers
Menchi Schneier
Maurice Spicer
Julie Toop

MARKETING AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (MFAC) 2022-2023

Sharon McCrohan, MFAC Chairperson

Ren Barlow
Kate Box
Colleen Maguire
Anne-Marie O'Loughlin
Jennifer Petropoulos
Karleen Radford
Sarah Saunders
Justin Smith
Julie Toop
Ros Willett

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) 2022-2023

Sarah Saunders, Acting SAC Chairperson

Assoc Prof Daniela Dinulescu
Prof Matthias Ernst
Dr Geraldine Goss
Dr Nicole Krzys
Assoc Prof John Liao
Prof Iain McNeish
Assoc Prof Anirban Mitra
Prof Samuel Mok
Assoc Prof Honami Naora
Prof Kenneth Nephew
Prof Sandra Orsulic
Prof Magda Plebanski

CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVE PANEL (CRP) 2022-2023

Anne-Marie O'Loughlin, CRP Chairperson

Dr Daniella Brasacchio
Vali Creus
Francine Marques
Jemima Leydon
The late Kel Pittman
Sirin Steele
Jordan Turner

OUR RESEARCH IMPACT

\$1.8m

committed to fully funding new research projects between 2023-2026

\$805k

was delivered to existing OCRF multi-year research projects

\$293k

co-funded research projects with valued partners

\$226k

supported tissue banks to make research possible

DELIVERING THE 2023 NATIONAL RESEARCH GRANTS SCHEME

Three major medical research grants announced in February – Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

The Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation (OCRF) awarded new grants totalling \$1.8 million to three researchers. In combination with previous commitments to multi-year projects, collaborative grants, and tissue bank funding, the OCRF's total funding commitments approached \$2.8 million for the new financial year.

The three new grants were in line with the OCRF's research strategy. Two projects investigate novel early detection methods, whilst the third project seeks to reduce the harmful impacts of chemotherapy and improve treatment options.



PROFESSOR BRIAN GABRIELLI, MATER RESEARCH INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

A new treatment to increase immune response to ovarian cancer without side effects

Professor Brian Gabrielli and his team are testing a new treatment approach that increases the ability of a patient's own immune system to recognise and attack tumour cells – like immunotherapy, which is successful in treating melanoma and some lung cancers. The aim is more effective and less toxic treatment than chemotherapy.

Professor Gabrielli's treatment includes a combination of Checkpoint kinase 1 inhibitor (CHK1) and hydroxyurea, two drugs already used in the clinic for other purposes. If it continues to show promise, a clinical trial on high-grade serous ovarian cancer will be the next step. This important project could increase long-term survival and quality of life for patients without the debilitating side effects of current chemotherapy treatment.

Associate Professor Jason Lee and his team are working to increase the survival rate of ovarian cancer patients by focusing on circular RNAs as the foundations of an early detection test. Their research intends to not only provide a method of early diagnosis, but also to provide an early indication if a patient in remission is likely to experience cancer recurrence.

Circular RNAs are molecules that are stable in blood, but when analysed, are evidently altered in cancer patients. Assoc Prof Lee's team will identify circular RNAs associated with ovarian cancer using samples from women with and without cancer. Once they have identified relevant circRNAs, the team will reduce or increase their levels, examining the tumours using NanoString Technologies. This technology will help determine how the circRNAs impact upon the development of ovarian cancer in its earliest stages.



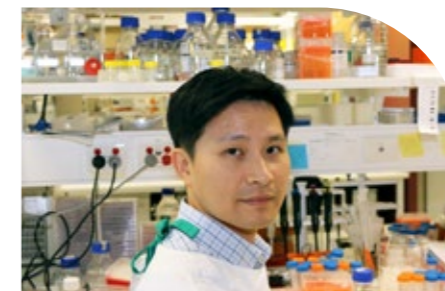
PROFESSOR MICHAEL JENNINGS, GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

Discovery of new sugar-based markers in blood and bodily fluids to predict early disease

Professor Michael Jennings and his colleagues have discovered a sugar-based biomarker called Neu5Gc, which presents at high levels in the blood of patients with ovarian cancer and increases its levels as the cancer progresses.

The project will examine the level of Neu5Gc at each stage of ovarian cancer, comparing samples from people who have been diagnosed with ovarian cancer, against healthy samples, as well as those who are at a higher risk. The analysis aims to determine abnormal patterns in blood samples and thereby detect warning signs of cancer developing, before it can become established.

The goal is to validate the sugar-based biomarker Neu5Gc so that women presenting with high levels of this marker can then benefit from MRI scanning and tumour detection when ovarian cancer is most treatable and contribute to saving the lives of future generations.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JASON LEE, QIMR BERGHOFFER MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Developing an early detection test using liquid biopsy analysis on circular RNAs

If ovarian cancer is detected in the earliest stages, a 90% chance of survival is possible. Unfortunately, there is no early detection test, and patients diagnosed in later stages face just a 29% chance of surviving five years beyond their diagnosis.

OUR RESEARCH PRIORITIES

New and effective treatments



Early detection



Prevention



Managing recurrence



TRANSLATING RESEARCH

Increased focus on research translation and advocacy

Following the appointment of Robin Penty as CEO, this financial year ended with two more exciting appointments. David Hunt, Research Director Policy and Programs, and Dr Amy Wilson, Research Advisor, both joined the OCRF in June.

David is an experienced research manager who comes to the OCRF most recently from Nous Group, where he led significant Australian Government and state government evaluations for social and environmental projects.

Amy joins us from the Hudson Institute of Medical Research, where she was directly involved in ovarian cancer laboratory research for eight years. Her technical knowledge will be invaluable.

David and Amy join Caitlin Leishman, Research Content Contributor, to form a brand new Research team at the OCRF. This increased capacity and expertise will enable OCRF to engage more closely and effectively with the ovarian cancer research sector. We plan to further develop the OCRF National Research Grants Scheme; expand our research translation capabilities; support a growing funding pool; and in turn, increase the number of viable, life-saving research projects we can fund.

Image below: Dr Amy Wilson, Professor Kathy Andrews, Director at Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery and David Hunt.



DISCOVERIES IN THE LABORATORY

OCRF-funded projects continue to investigate critical, challenging questions

While the OCRF backed a new cohort of research projects in this financial year, previously supported projects made excellent progress against the OCRF's priority research pillars:

Project	Chief Investigator	Institute	Duration	Funding awarded in 2022/23	Research pillar(s)
Leveraging genomics to overcome drug resistance	Prof Stacey Edwards	QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute	July 2021 to June 2024	\$200,908	New and effective treatments Managing recurrence
Blood-based protein biomarker for EDT	Prof Pradeep Tanwar	University of Newcastle	July 2021 to June 2024	\$198,365	Early detection
Targeting tumour microenvironment	Prof Matthias Ernst	Olivia Newton John Cancer Research Institute – La Trobe University	July 2021 to June 2024	\$151,273	New and effective treatments
Functional genomic approaches for identifying therapeutic targets	Prof Ron Firestein	Hudson Institute of Medical Research	October 2022 to September 2024	\$133,145	New and effective treatments
Precision Medicine: Stage 2	Dr Maree Bilandzic	Hudson Institute of Medical Research	Oct 2022 to September 2023	\$121,411	New and effective treatments



Leveraging genomics to overcome drug resistance – Professor Stacey Edwards, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute (QLD)

Prof Edwards' work is focused on finding new and more effective treatments for ovarian cancer that also manage disease recurrence. Stacey is investigating whether combining PARP inhibitors or chemotherapy with antisense oligonucleotides (an emerging area of drug development) will overcome PARPi- and chemo-resistance.

We have discovered over a thousand new molecules (called lncRNAs), from human ovarian tumours. We've used a novel method called CRISPR to individually silence all of these lncRNAs. This experiment identified several lncRNAs that help PARP inhibitors kill tumour cells. Validation and functional assays are currently underway to prioritise potential therapeutic targets

Blood-based protein biomarker for EDT – Professor Pradeep Tanwar, University of Newcastle (NSW)

Prof Tanwar's team is assessing whether a new blood-based protein marker can achieve the specificity and sensitivity required in a larger cohort of women for a potential early detection test. To determine its accuracy, they are testing their new biomarker alongside CA125, currently the only available and accepted biomarker.

Our team is assessing whether a new blood-based protein marker can achieve the specificity and sensitivity required in a larger cohort of women for a potential early detection test. To determine its accuracy, we are testing a new biomarker alongside CA125, currently the only available and accepted biomarker.



Targeting tumour microenvironment – Professor Matthias Ernst, Olivia Newton John Cancer Research Institute (VIC)

Increased expression of the protein Hematopoietic Cell Kinase (HCK) is observed in patients with high grade serous ovarian cancer and is thought to correlate with poor survival rates. The group is investigating whether drugs that target HCK can improve the response of ovarian cancer to existing standard-of-care therapies.

The funding by OCRF enabled us to show that inhibition of a protein called HCK in a certain type of immune cells enables the clinical response of high grade serous ovarian cancer to immune checkpoint therapy in preclinical models. These exciting discoveries now provide a starting point for their translation to ultimate confer benefits for cancer patients.



Functional genomic approaches for identifying new ovarian cancer therapeutic targets – Professor Ron Firestein, Hudson Institute of Medical Research (VIC)

Prof Firestein's work is focusing on examining PAX8 (Paired-Box Gene 8), a protein that is responsible for many of the cancerous properties of High Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer (HGSOC). PAX8 is hard to therapeutically target, and so the team is determining the key genetic drivers of the PAX8 protein to potentially identify new approaches for HGSOC.

PAX8 is a master regulator of ovarian cancer growth. This project aims to find new ways to turn down PAX8 expression and activity specifically in ovarian cancer cells using high throughput genetic screens. So far, we have conducted genome-scale screens, sifting through ~20,000 genes to hone in on new therapies that will inhibit the ability of PAX8 to drive ovarian cancer growth. In the next year, we will validate targets and use small molecule drugs, where available, to accelerate new precision medicines targeting PAX8 for ovarian cancer patients.



Precision Medicine: directing treatment options – Dr Maree Bilandzic, Hudson Institute of Medical Research (VIC)

Dr Bilandzic's "Precision Medicine" model involves the profiling of a patient's cancer and then assessing their sensitivity responses to over 2000 different drugs – to allow a precisely tailored treatment program. In 2020/21 this platform showed the ability to provide tangible improvements in treatment options with strong potential to improve survivability rates and quality of life for ovarian cancer patients.

Our model involves functionally characterising a patient's cancer cells' response to over 2,000 treatments. In future, this will allow for doctors and specialists to chart a specific targeted treatment regime for each individual. In 2022, we transcriptionally profiled multiple patient samples, and characterised these in response to standard-of-care chemotherapy. This approach has the potential to considerably improve survivability rates and quality of life and stay one step ahead of recurrence

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH IMPACT

Co-funding ovarian cancer research with respected peers

In addition to the National Research Grants Scheme, the OCRF supports projects in collaboration with other peer organisations. This year, OCRF co-funded research with the Cancer Council of Victoria, National Breast Cancer Foundation, Australian Cancer Research Foundation, and the Medical Research Future Fund. In addition to these projects (listed below), OCRF also offers valuable in-kind support to a number of additional projects.

"To have funds from OCRF available to support technical experts using the equipment and output is a win-win for researchers, making the grant application process that much more efficient, and will ultimately benefit ovarian cancer patients."
Kerry Strydom, ACRF CEO

Project	Research and Institute	Institute	Co-funding partner	Funded awarded in 2022/23	Research pillar	Project summary
Identifying new treatment options for rare and aggressive ovarian carcinosarcoma	Dr Holly Barker	The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI)	Cancer Council of Victoria (CCV)	\$50,000	New and effective treatments	This project focuses on drugs that target molecules in the N-MYC/LIN28B pathway, thought to be highly active in ovarian carcinosarcoma. The team is assessing the efficacy of eribulin to treat this disease as well as new drug combination therapies.
Development of a novel combination therapy to target triple-negative breast and high grade serous ovarian cancers	Prof Kum Kum Khanna	QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute	National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF)	\$83,952	New and effective treatments	The project aims to develop a new combination therapy for triple-negative breast cancer and high-grade serous ovarian cancers by exploiting their dependency on the proteasome pathway. The team is testing proteasome inhibitors in combination with chemotherapy and PARP inhibition to develop more effective treatments.
The ACRF Centre for Precision Medicine	Prof Andrew Scott	Olivia Newton John Cancer Research Institute	Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF)	\$100,000	New and effective treatments	This centre will establish a world-leading facility for target and drug discovery and clinical translation in cancer patients utilising state-of-the-art molecular imaging and theranostic techniques. OCRF is providing support for ovarian cancer specific investigations within the larger project.
Towards a new era in granulosa cell tumour research	A/ Prof Simon Chu	Hudson Medical Research Institute	Medical Research Future Fund	\$29,500	New and effective treatments Early detection	By identifying genomic mutations that lead to the development of Granulosa Cell Tumours (GCT) this project aims to establish a diagnostic test and investigate combination drug therapies that could aid treatment of GCT.
A new radio-imaging agent to guide targeted therapy for epithelial ovarian cancer	Prof John Hooper	University of Queensland, Mater Research Institute	Medical Research Future Fund	\$15,000	New and effective treatments Early detection	The team is conducting a first-in-human PET-CT imaging study to evaluate the biodistribution and safety of a new radio-labelled antibody that is designed to help guide treatment of ovarian cancer.
Ovarian cancer early detection, monitoring and therapeutic intervention using extracellular vesicles.	A/ Prof Carlos Salomon	University of Queensland	Medical Research Future Fund	\$15,000	Early detection	The aim of this project is to investigate the potential of extracellular vesicles, (EVs) in early detection and formulate and approach compatible with clinical practice. The team also seeks to explore the use of EVs as carriers of therapeutics targets in ovarian cancer.

OCRF-SUPPORTED RESEARCH BY STATE

Progress	Project	CI or Lead	Institute	Research Pillar	Location for pin
Planned	GA-2023-05 Improving Immune Response	Prof Brian Gabrielli	The University of Queensland Mater Research Institute	New and effective treatments	Brisbane, QLD
	GA 2023 ACRF Precision Medicine	Prof Andrew Scott	Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute	New & Effective Treatments	Heidelberg, VIC
	GA-2023-13 Early Detection using liquid biopsy circRNA (Lee)	A/Prof Jason Lee	QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute	Managing recurrence Early detection	Herston, QLD
	GA-2023-02 Glycomarkers for Early Detection Neu5Gs	Prof Michael Jennings	Griffith University	Early detection	Southport, QLD
In Progress	GA CCV Identifying New Treatment	Dr Holly Barker	Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research	New and effective treatments	Parkville, VIC
	GA MRFF In-kind Machine Learning Genetic Epidemiological Study	Prof Elina Hypponen	University of South Australia	Prevention	Adelaide, SA
	GA MRFF In-kind Epigenetic Biomarkers EDT	Dist Prof Magdalena Plebanski	RMIT University	Early detection	Melbourne, VIC
	GA NBCF Novel Combination Therapy	Prof Kum Kum Khanna	QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute	New and effective treatments	Herston, QLD
	GA-2021-10 Leveraging Genomics to overcome drug resistance	Prof Stacey Edwards	QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute	New and effective treatments Managing recurrence	Herston, QLD
	GA-2021-15 Blood-based protein biomarker for EDT	Prof Pradeep Tanwar	University of Newcastle	Early detection	Callaghan, NSW
	GA-2022-04 Targeting tumour microenvironment	Prof Matthias Ernst	Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute	New and effective Treatments	Heidelberg, VIC
	GA-2022-10 Functional Genomic Approaches therapeutic targets	Prof Ron Firestein	Hudson Institute of Medical Research	New & Effective Treatments	Clayton, VIC
	GA MRFF Towards a New Era in GCT	A/ Prof Simon Chu	Hudson Institute of Medical Research	New and effective treatments Early detection	Clayton, VIC
	GA MRFF In-kind OCRF-7	A/ Prof Carlos Salomon	University of Queensland	Early detection	Brisbane, QLD
	GA MRFF 68Ga-10D7 Imaging Agent	Prof John Hooper	The University of Queensland Mater Research Institute	New and effective Treatments Early detection	Brisbane, QLD
	GA MRFF Exosomes	A/ Prof Carlos Salomon	The University of Queensland	Early Detection	Brisbane, QLD
	GA ACRF WEHI Cancer Complexity Therapeutic Resistance	Prof Andrew Roberts	Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research	New and effective Treatments Early detection	Parkville, VIC
	GA-2023 Adelaide Tissue Bank	Prof Martin Oehler	University of Adelaide	-	Adelaide, SA
	GA-2023 Hudson Tissue Bank	Dr Andrew Stephens	Hudson Institute of Medical Research	-	Clayton, VIC
	GA Precision Medicine Model (Stage Two)	Dr Maree Bilandzic	Hudson Institute of Medical Research	New and effective treatments	Clayton, VIC

“This year, the OCRF provided direct funding to 16 research projects in ovarian cancer across 17 institutions in four Australian states. Our research impact and breadth would simply not be possible without the significant contribution of peer organisations toward collaborative grants, the generosity of corporate donors, and, of course, sustained community support.”

– Robin Penty, Chief Executive Officer, OCRF

FUNDRAISING EXCELLENCE

\$2.73m+

raised in fundraising campaigns and appeals*

1480+

individual fundraisers

\$97.3k

raised through multi-charity events

\$110k+

given in memory of loved ones

*Fundraising campaigns in 2022-2023 include: Walk With Women, Witchery X Pip Edwards White Shirt Campaign, June Appeal, Georg Jensen, Frocktober and Silver Lining Ride.

CAMPAIGNS AND COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

FROCKTOBER 2022 RAISES MORE THAN \$900,000

The 16th annual Frocktober fundraising campaign saw close to 700 participants across Australia frock up and fundraise for ovarian cancer research. More than \$902,000 was raised thanks to participants (affectionately known as “Frockers”), supported by more than 11,000 generous donors from their networks Australia-wide.

From high teas to fashion parades and even gala balls, Frocktober 2022 was the year that events were back on the agenda after two years of Covid interruption. As usual, Frockers from around the country planned creative outfits, garnered support from local businesses and gathered their communities together to raise awareness of ovarian cancer, while sharing the joy of ‘frocking up’ and expressing their individual style.

REPRESENTATION OF PARTICIPANTS BY STATE – TOTAL 694

VIC	24.8%	(172)
NSW	18.2%	(126)
SA	6.9%	(48)
WA	8.2%	(57)
NT	<1%	(4)
QLD	23.5%	(163)
ACT	6.6%	(46)
TAS	3.4%	(24)



FROCKTOBER IN THE MEDIA

Australian children’s entertainer, singer, actress, and dancer, Emma Watkins featured as campaign ambassador. Best known for being a past member of The Wiggles, Emma used her significant platform to reach over 20 million Australians across print media, radio, online publications such as Vogue (pictured on pp 18) and the *The Age*, as well as sharing information about ovarian cancer on the *Seize the Yay* podcast, hosted by Sarah Davidson. Photographed in a custom gown designed by Jaimie Sortino, Emma captured the attention of the nation toward understanding the impact of ovarian cancer and the need for greater research funding.

THE LAB REGULAR GIVING PROGRAM GROWS

The Lab, OCRF’s community of monthly donors, continued to grow in 2022, with 52 new donors committing to providing ongoing funding for Australian ovarian cancer research.

Our Lab donors provided more than \$100,000 in vital financial support in the 2022-2023 financial year, enough to fund approximately 1388 hours in the lab.



SILVER LINING RIDE HARNESSES PEDAL POWER

The sixth edition of the Silver Lining Ride was an entirely virtual one, with participants all around Australia, and even a handful internationally, using their pedal power to raise funds and awareness for ovarian cancer research.

Throughout November, more than 100 riders took to the road, the local track or trail, or their gym to chalk up the kilometres and in doing so, raised almost \$70,000 for the OCRF. Many took up the challenge of riding 1,068km in the month – a target based on the statistic from the Ride’s inaugural year (2017) which represented the number of women and girls lost to ovarian cancer in Australia each year, as well as serendipitously being the exact distance the first group of riders travelled from Adelaide to Melbourne. Others set their own kilometre target – pedalling as individuals and in teams for the cause.



WALK WITH WOMEN GROWS TO 700 PARTICIPANTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

February saw Walk With Women grow to more than 700 participants across the Mornington Peninsula foreshore (400 walkers), Adelaide beaches (100 walkers) and all over Australia (200 virtual walkers) to raise \$190,000 to support ovarian cancer research.

Whilst many elected to walk in tribes, some chose to stroll in solitude. Regardless, at the forefront of the minds of all our participants were loved ones lost to ovarian cancer, those currently living with the disease and a hope for a better future for the next generation of women and girls.

We acknowledge and express gratitude to the family of the late OCRF ambassador Helen Powell; husband Andy and sons Joe, Asher, Isaac and Jesse, and Helen’s dear friend Tully for their enormous support in presenting the Mornington Peninsula Walk alongside our event partners Blu Event Productions. We also thank Jemima and Megan Leydon for leading the very successful Adelaide walk which paid special tribute to the late OCRF ambassador Kel Pittman.

INFLUENCING THE OUTCOME

HIGH-PROFILE AMBASSADORS SPREAD THE WORD

The OCRF is indebted to our growing list of high profile ambassadors who use their voice and platform to amplify the profile of the OCRF and ovarian cancer across the nation.

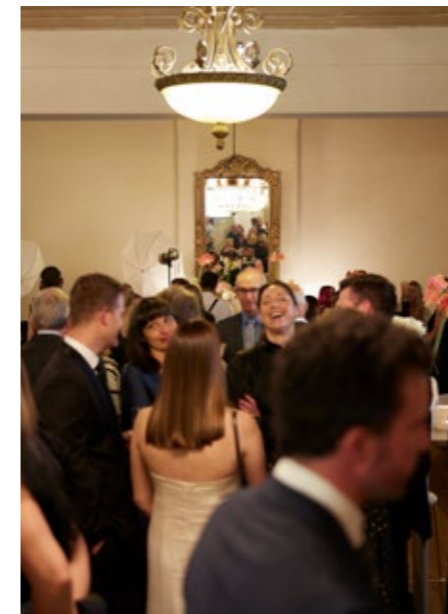
It is through their loyal ongoing support, strong connection to cause, and enduring media presence that the OCRF is able to make strides toward our vision. At panel talks, media appearances, launches and supporter events across the year, this cohort of incredible women included former Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Julie Bishop, entertainer Emma Watkins, designer Pip Edwards, journalists Lisa Wilkinson, Edwina Bartholomew and Sylvia Jeffreys, reporter Abbey Gelmi, actor Rebecca Gibney, media personality Maria Thattil, tennis commentator Jelena Dokic, comedian and presenter Susie Youssef, food critic and media personality Melissa Leong, and many more.



DONOR EVENTS

WORLD OVARIAN CANCER DAY

In honour of World Ovarian Cancer Day, 8 May, the OCRF hosted our first **Women of Influence** luncheon in Melbourne. The event was covered on Channel 7 and brought together a distinguished guest list of significant women in media, sport, industry, arts and other fields together with OCRF corporate partners and our major philanthropic patrons at The Trust, Melbourne.



DONOR THANK YOU IN OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

In February, the OCRF hosted our annual thank you event, **Silver Style**. This special occasion was a valuable opportunity to engage with and acknowledge the invaluable support of community ambassadors, donors, researchers, patients and survivors, partners and suppliers. This intimate cocktail party was a moment to reflect on the past year's success, congratulate OCRF research grant awardees, and provide a timely update regarding OCRF-funded research.



IMPACT OF PARTNERSHIPS

\$1.2m

raised in the Witchery White Shirt Campaign

\$344k+

raised in the End of Financial Year Appeal, thanks to dollar matching by Digga Australia and Rob and Shirley Stanford

4.47m+

total campaign reach in the 2022 Georg Jensen campaign



WITCHERY WHITE SHIRT CAMPAIGN EXCEEDS ALL EXPECTATIONS

The Witchery White Shirt X Pip Edwards campaign was highly successful this year, with shirt sales greater than \$1.2million. The result nears the pre-pandemic peak, achieved in 2018. The Pip Edwards designed shirt (Pictured bottom right) was the highest selling single shirt of any kind in Witchery's history, demonstrating the importance of the campaign to Witchery and Witchery's customers, as well as the broader community.

The White Shirt Campaign also provides a platform for ovarian cancer to elevate in the media and public awareness. Social and mainstream media coverage this year was exceptional.

GEORG JENSEN SPRING CAMPAIGN

Georg Jensen continued their support of the OCRF via their annual Georg Jensen OCRF Pendant campaign. The campaign raises funds from the sale of a specially designed necklace and awareness through video storytelling. This year, the OCRF and Georg Jensen enlisted Ambassadors Melissa Leong, Maria Thattil and Rachel Finch, alongside researchers and patients, to share the stark facts behind the reality of an ovarian cancer diagnosis

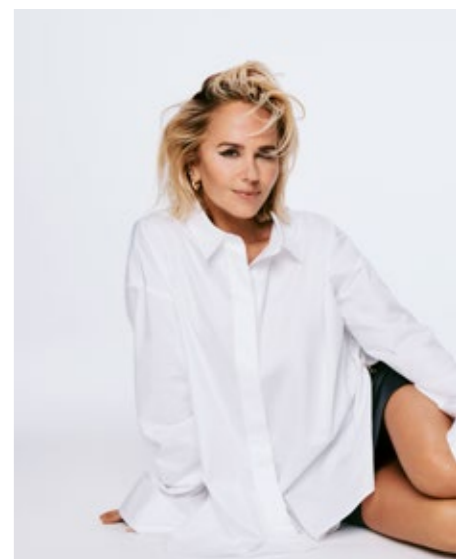
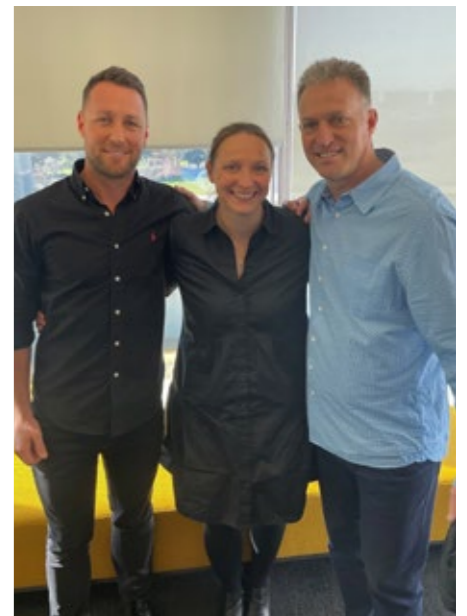
AIA AUSTRALIA'S IMPACT PROGRAM

The OCRF is one of four charitable organisations participating in *AIA Impact* – a leadership and community program that partners AIA leaders with senior leaders in not-for-profit organisations, with the purpose of improving the health of the nation. Facilitating the program is the team behind *The Growth Project* and the OCRF representative is Georgie Herbert, Donor and Partnerships Director. Georgie was paired with AIA leaders Ann-Marie Carolan and Hope Smith. In addition to bi-monthly leadership and professional development sessions, the Impact team has been working on a 'winning move' together – supporting the OCRF to develop Club 1054, our new corporate donor network.

Image to right: Brett Rosebury, AFL Umpire & AIA Impact Guest Speaker, Georgie Herbert, OCRF Donor & Partnerships Director, Larry Fingleson, Co-Founder and Managing Director at The Growth Project & AIA Impact Facilitator.

DIGGA DOLLAR MATCHES JUNE APPEAL

Digga Australia once again provided significant funding to power up our *June Appeal* through dollar matching. Offering up to \$60,000 for matching across the final week of the financial year, we were delighted to see our community take advantage of this generosity and max out the amount within just a few days – adding a huge \$120k to the Appeal tally. A long-time supporter of the OCRF, we are grateful to Zoe Davies, Alan Wade, Lionel Smitka and the entire Digga team for their advocacy, fundraising and corporate partnership. We also extend our thanks to Rob and Shirley Stanford who added a further \$30,000 for matching once Digga's contribution was exhausted, helping make the Appeal our most successful yet.



ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY



The OCRF's community ambassador program continues to grow in its nation-wide presence and representation now across seven states. More than 15 new ambassadors were onboarded from across the country, all having varied experiences – patients, widowers, friends and family of loved ones affected by ovarian cancer.

As the leading voice in ovarian cancer research, it is incredibly important that the OCRF has consumer advocates able to share their lived experiences of ovarian cancer with others. This program has been pivotal in elevating the consumer voice by drawing on emotional connection and storytelling to put a human face to this terrible disease.

In August, the OCRF brought the community ambassadors together in Melbourne for an annual training and networking day. This included a laboratory tour hosted by OCRF-funded researchers at the Hudson Institute of Medical Research, social media and leadership training, and ended with personal storytelling and reflection. The training day aimed to connect our ambassadors with each other, OCRF staff and up close to the work of researchers.

Throughout the year, community ambassadors and researchers represent the OCRF by attending functions and events, speaking regularly on panels, featuring in national campaigns, and interviews with media including on channels 7, 9, 10, ABC, SBS, program The Project, MammaMia, 9Honey and many more. Sincere thanks to Dr Maree Bilandzic and Dr Amy Wilson for regular and exceptional appearances, as well as the late Leane Flynn for her moving contribution throughout the year (see page 23 for more).



VALE OCRF AMBASSADORS

Why stepchange in ovarian cancer is needed now

In 2022-2023, the OCRF community lost three very important and special community ambassadors to ovarian cancer. We mourn them and extend our heartfelt condolences to their survivors.

We also extend our support and love to all community members who've lost a special person to ovarian cancer this year.



KEL PITTMAN (1971-2022)

Much loved OCRF Ambassador Kel Pittman was diagnosed with stage 3 ovarian cancer in 2014, the disease causing her premature death on November 2nd. Despite numerous recurrences over an 8 year period, which made family time all the more precious, she remained a committed advocate for women living with ovarian cancer.

Kel was a valued member of the OCRF's Consumer Representative Panel, ensuring the patient voice was at the forefront of research communication. She helped shape the way research is described by researchers and by the OCRF. Kel was also a committed fundraiser, hosting Kel's White Shirt Day event each year. She featured as a face of the Witchery White Shirt Campaign and was at the forefront of the OCRF's State of the Nation push for greater Federal Government funding of ovarian cancer research. Kel was adamant that her daughter Mollie would not face the same threat that she did and she did everything in her power to make that ambition a reality.

But above all, Kel was an incredibly generous, caring and kind woman. She was a friend and sounding board for the OCRF staff, as well as a confidante of many women affected by ovarian cancer. She will be missed by everyone who knew her. Kel leaves behind her husband Mark, daughter Mollie and son Tom.



ASSOC PROF SIOBHAN O'SULLIVAN (1974-2023)

Dr Siobhan O'Sullivan, a fierce advocate for change, was diagnosed with stage 3 high grade serous ovarian cancer in 2020, at the age of 46. The disease caused her premature passing on Saturday 17th June 2023.

Following her diagnosis, Siobhan experienced near constant treatment that took a huge toll on her mind and body. Devastatingly, Siobhan was told that her cancer was chemo-resistant almost immediately and that she was unlikely to survive beyond 18 months. The fact that she survived almost three years from diagnosis and was able to make an enormous impact in that time is a tribute to the strength of her spirit.

Siobhan passionately believed in a brighter future for generations of women and girls. She was determined that they would have a better prognosis than she did. Siobhan was adamant that an ovarian cancer diagnosis should not be a death sentence in the era of rapid medical advancement. Siobhan was a talented academic and researcher. She deeply understood the need for more investment in ovarian cancer research and proceeded to advocate for it. She joined OCRF representatives on advocacy trips to Canberra, wrote to her local MP, penned opinion pieces and participated in any campaigns that would extend the reach of her message. Siobhan also wanted to leave a financial legacy and encouraged others to do so, knowing that she would not be alive to see change.

Siobhan's greatest regret was that she wouldn't get to see her niece and nephew grow and flourish into adulthood, and to be able to share all their achievements and milestones. A tragic reminder of the wider human cost of this disease.



LEANE FLYNN (1967-2023)

It is difficult to express how much Leane Flynn meant to the ovarian cancer community. Her radiant presence lifted the mood in every room she entered. Leane's personal warmth, storytelling ability and drive made her a force of nature in the fight against ovarian cancer. She left a lasting impact on everyone she met.

Leane was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2017, at the age of 49. The disease caused her premature death on Tuesday 5th September. She was only 55 years of age.

She became a passionate advocate, spreading the message that ovarian cancer needed greater community focus to grow public awareness and to channel funds into research that would change the outlook for women like her.

Leane was an open book, documenting her experience on social media through multiple recurrences, moments of joy and an unflinching hope of a better future for future generations and especially for her girls, who joined her in the campaign over the years. As an extremely talented communicator, Leane was often the OCRF's voice in our major announcements. She participated with full endeavour in Frocktober and any campaigns that would extend the reach of her message. She became a social media giant, where was able to engage with her tens of thousands of followers. Her ability to articulate a message of action, by weaving her own story in to reflect the reality of ovarian cancer, led to incredible responses. From high profile Ambassadors and members of Government, to her children's school community – all who met her and heard her were moved to act.

Leane's presence is irreplaceable and her legacy lasting. She is survived by husband Justin and daughters Amelia, Laura and Anabel.



GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY

A strong voice for change

As a research foundation, the OCRF believes fervently in cross-sector collaboration and advocacy to focus the interest and attention of policymakers upon women's health broadly, and on **ovarian cancer research** specifically. This area of research is one in which gender and structural inequity persists, and there are continued barriers for Australian women to access high-quality healthcare at every stage of a diagnosis and treatment.

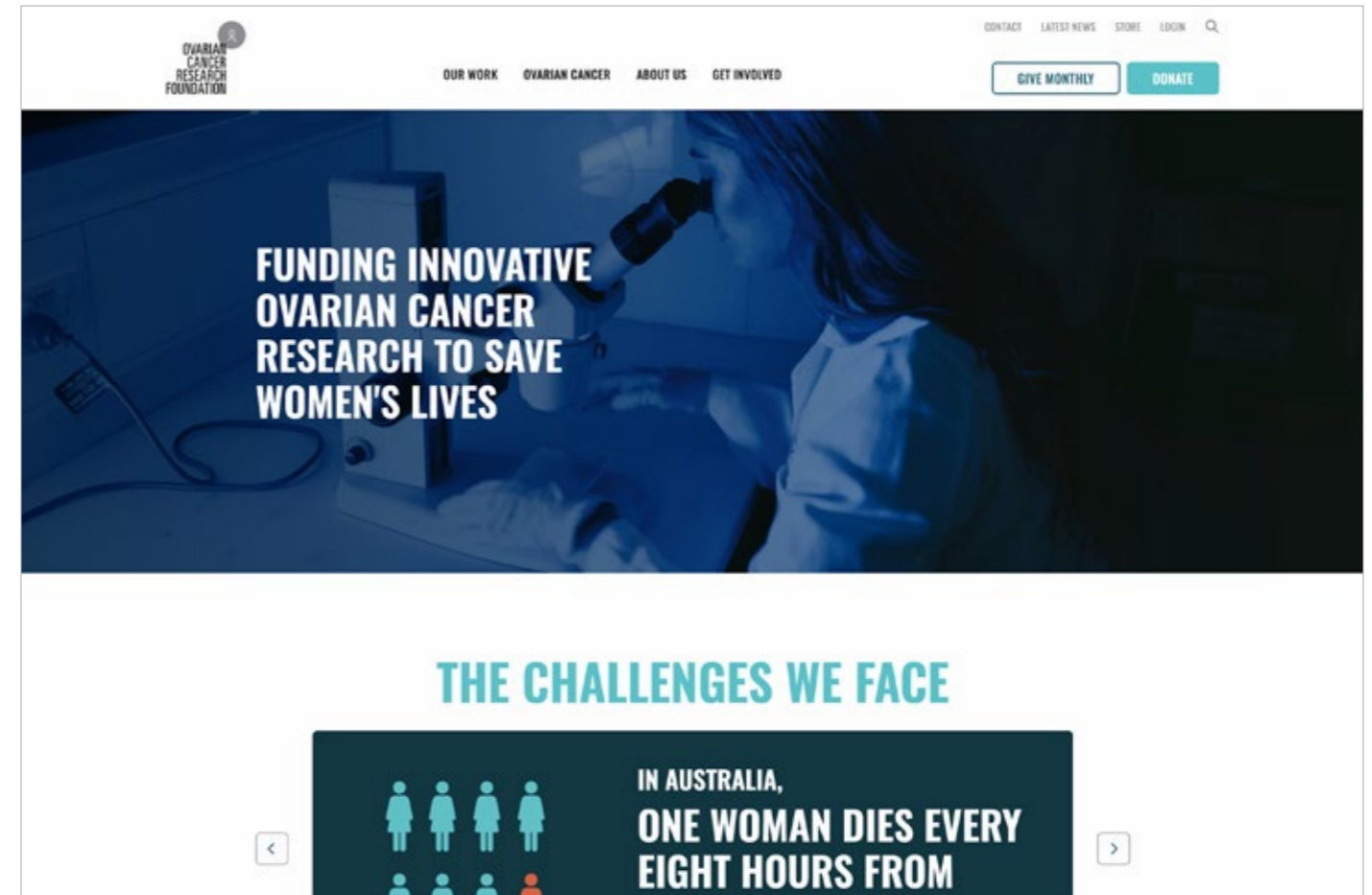
The OCRF will continue to push the agenda of inequity for ovarian cancer care and research with our Government until it no longer lags behind so many more prevalent – and far less lethal – cancers.

We made two trips to Canberra this year to meet with influential leaders and discuss the importance of making sure **no woman is left behind** (2023, World Ovarian Cancer Alliance) due to an ovarian cancer diagnosis. We met with:

- The Hon Ged Kearney MP, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care
- Senator Marielle Smith, Chair, Community Affairs Legislative Committee
- Mr Jamie Snashall, Senior Cancer Advisor to the Hon Mark Butler MP
- Ms Avril Kelly, Advisor to the Deputy Speaker Sharon Claydon MP
- Ms Lisa Schofield (First Assistant Secretary, Department of Health) and Dr Masha Somi, CEO, NHMR Office, Department of Health (Cth)
- Ms Melissa McIntosh, MP, Deputy Chair, Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport

The OCRF acknowledges the generous and ongoing interest of the many people we've met and look forward to future **action** and the **necessary step-change** needed in ovarian cancer research.

NEW OCRF WEBSITE LAUNCHES



New website completed, June Appeal smashes all records

Over a period of 12 months, the OCRF team, in partnership with our web agency Pixo, underwent an extensive website refresh project. The project was informed by consultation with User Experience and Content specialists from the **Atlassian Engage4Good program**, as well as insights gleaned from website user testing and performance analysis by **nTegrity** agency.

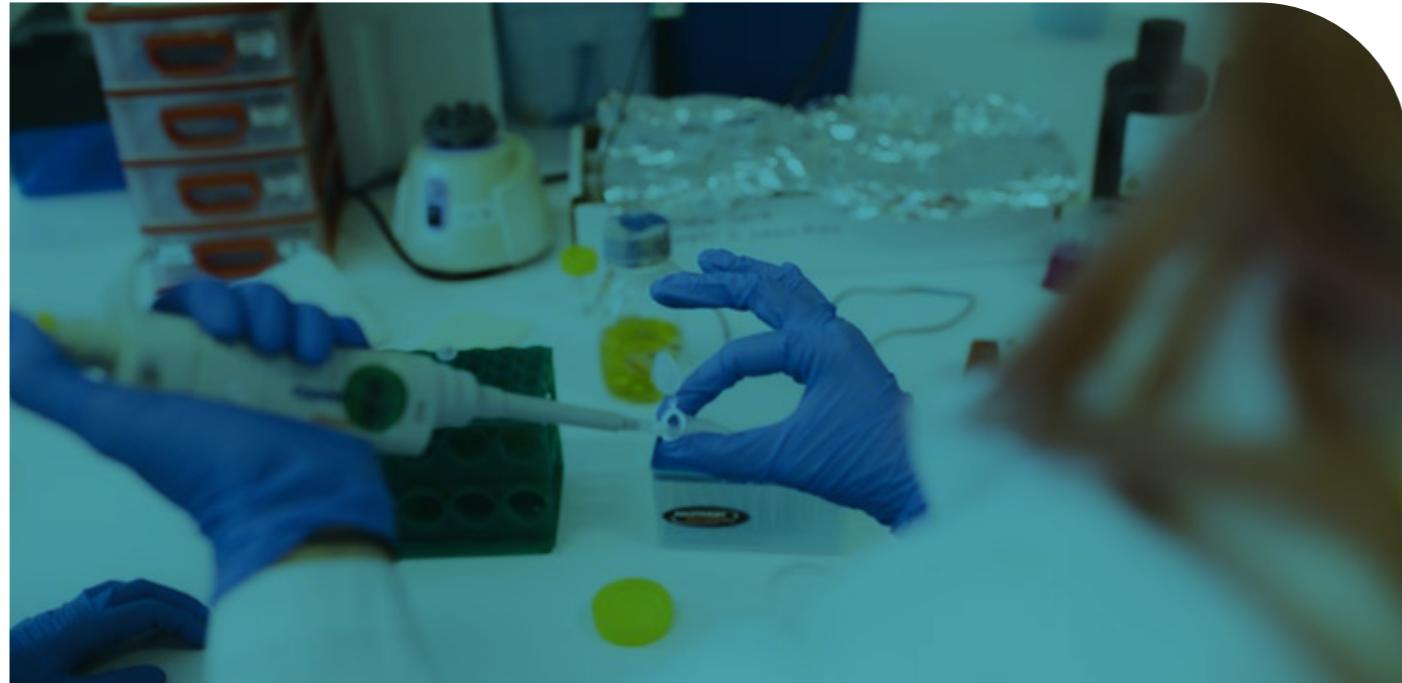
The website relaunched in May of 2023, featuring more detailed information about ovarian cancer, as well as a redeveloped information architecture to allow website visitors to find what they are looking for more quickly and easily.

The refreshed website also assisted with data-driven decision-making during the OCRF's June Appeal.

New functionality allowed the OCRF team to test content and understand the giving motivations of our community, connect them more directly with the impact of their donation at the end of the financial year. Thanks to generous matching donations from Digga Australia and Rob & Shirley Stanford, more than **\$344,000 was raised from the June Appeal, making it the most successful End of Financial Year Appeal result in the OCRF's history.**

Key aims of the project included:

- Clearly expressing the OCRF's purpose and impact
- Creating a more intuitive user experience for information seekers and those looking for ways to support ovarian cancer research
- Improving website responsiveness to mobile and other devices
- Increasing visibility of OCRF-funded research, as well as better housing of the history of OCRF-funded and supported research projects
- Improving the OCRF's visibility to the general public via SEO and SEM optimisations



GRATITUDE AND THANKS TO OCRF'S MAJOR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

The OCRF team is grateful to the visionary individuals, trusts and foundations who've given so generously to fund ovarian cancer research and the OCRF this year.

MAJOR PATRON (\$100K+)

Anonymous (major bequest)

MAJOR DONORS (\$40K+)

Quinn Femelle Foundation
Loz Copley and Concert to celebrate the life of Taryn Fiebig

INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONAL DONORS (\$5K – \$39K)

Alter Family Foundation
Anonymous
Bill Malloy
Dorothy and Bill Irwin Charitable Trust
EA & N Hulak Foundation
Em Campbell-Pretty
Hupert Family Foundation
Jane Rich
JB Were Charitable Endowment Fund
Lasite Albert
Lew Foundation
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
Louise Parsons
Rob and Shirley Stanford
Rodney and Ann-Maree Wubben
Samantha Butt
Therese Wales and Agnes Chew Legacy
Spinifex Trust
Wales Family Foundation

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OCRF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are a lifeline for our organisation. The following special group gave even more than we asked for in 2022-2023. The OCRF salutes and thanks each one!

Jess Campbell
Trisha Crichton
Holly Curigliano
Alyssa Every
Michaela Every
Jacinta Francis
Penelope Furner
Michelle Giddens
Madeleine Grant
Lyn Johnson
Keely Jones
Eliza Kidder
Christine Lawrance
Sophie Leed
John Lindley
Miguel Paez
Tim Prudden
Zoe Sidebottom
Lindy Spicer
Tatum Spicer
Heather Stone
Jordan Turner
Tamika Webb
Alisha Wilson
Samantha Whitcher
Mitchell Wyndham

REGULAR MONTHLY DONORS AND HIGH-ACHIEVING COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS



Pictured: Trek for Yvette crew



Pictured: Estelle Pham

HIGH-ACHIEVING COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS AND FROCKERS (\$10K+)

Accent Group
Anna Benedict
Amelia Higgs
Anna Kelly
Jemima Leydon
Andrea Patten
Estelle Pham
Sam Pidgeon
Pittman family and friends
Michelle Thatcher
Kristen Watson and Diana Unkovich
Sue Sinagra
Spicer family
Catherine Stephen and Armidale Blues Rugby and Netball Club
Sylvana Tropeano
Sue Wallis and Cabal Club Ladies Luncheon
Graham Winbank
Trek for Yvette crew
Wagga Agriculture Rugby Club at Charles Sturt University



Pictured: OCRF Ambassador, Amelia Higgs



Pictured: Michelle Thatcher (on right)

MEMBERS OF THE LAB – MONTHLY DONORS

The OCRF is grateful to the 282 members of The Lab regular giving program. Lab members will soon receive a regular **special edition** e-newsletter, focusing more closely on advancements in OCRF-funded research, researcher stories, case studies, and other translational activities.

FROCKTOBER HALL OF FAME

Recognising 10 years of participation in Frocktober

Amy Brown
Kristi Day
Sam Pidgeon

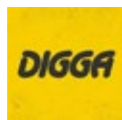
ACKNOWLEDGING OUR GENEROUS CORPORATE PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

We gratefully acknowledge the paid and in-kind donations of the OCRF's corporate partners and sponsors. Corporate support is vital to ensuring the OCRF is able to maximise our annual research investment and develop a sustainable and effective organisation.

PRINCIPAL PARTNER (\$100K+)

WITCHERY

MAJOR PARTNER (\$50K+)



CORPORATE DONORS (\$10K-\$49K)



PRINCIPAL MEDIA PARTNER (\$100K+)



MAJOR MEDIA PARTNER (\$50K)

frankie

SPONSORS (INCLUDING IN-KIND)

Aimee Cherie Intimates	Capital Mutual Insurance	Daily Blooms	KCL Law	Prana Yoga
Bangn' Body	Continental Hotel, Sorrento	Emeldo	Loupe Legal	Shhh Silk
Bondi Sands		Genovese Coffee	MiGoals	

GOVERNMENT GRANT (\$100K+)

NSW Department of Health

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: AN OVERVIEW

\$3.27m

total pro bono support by generous providers

\$8.41m

Total earned and in-kind for financial year 2022-2023

\$1.17m

total operating surplus for the financial year

\$2.71m

in forward commitments to ongoing research grants

Chapter 5 Financial statements

GENERAL INFORMATION

OCRF is a not-for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

The Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation Limited (OCRF) is incorporated under the *Corporations Act*. The address of its registered office is U2 – 59 Keele St Collingwood Victoria 3066.

These financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures made by the *Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Change of legal structure

On 15 June 2023, the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation Inc changed its legal structure from an incorporated association entity, to a company limited by guarantee, incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Commonwealth) and is domiciled in Australia. As a result, the name of the organisation changed to Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation Limited.

This resulted in a change of ABN to 130 949 834 and ACN to 37 130 949 834.

All donors and suppliers were advised of the change of legal structure.

Prior to 15 June 2023, the governing body of the incorporated association was the Committee of Management. For completeness, the Annual Report includes the names and particulars of members of both the former Committee of Management of Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation Inc and the current Board of Directors of Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation Limited. As CEO, Ms Robin Penty became Secretary of the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation Limited on 15 June 2023.

Significant changes in state of affairs

No significant changes in the state of affairs of the OCRF occurred during the financial year.

Events subsequent to reporting date

There were no events or circumstances since the end of the financial year, not otherwise dealt with in this report that have or may significantly affect the operations of the OCRF and the results of these operations, or the state of affairs of the OCRF in subsequent financial years.

Notes regarding forward research grant commitments

As part of the ongoing research grants program, as at balance date, the OCRF has forward commitments of \$2.706 million to the following:

- University of Queensland (QLD)
- University of Newcastle (NSW)
- University of Adelaide (SA)
- Griffith University (QLD)
- Hudson Institute (VIC)
- Monash University (VIC)
- QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute (QLD)
- Australian Cancer Research Foundation
- National Breast Cancer Foundation
- Olivia Newton John Cancer Research Institute

As per *OCRF Investment Policy*, forward research grant commitments are set aside for the duration of the research project. However, all grants are subject to annual review and reporting requirements, therefore do not represent Liabilities of the OCRF at 30 June 2023.

The OCRF plans to commit to distribution of research grants in November/December 2023 of between \$2.2 m – \$2.5million for the 2024-2025 financial year.

OPERATING RESULT

Total revenue for the OCRF for the year ended 30 June 2023 is \$8,409,674 including pro bono (2022 was \$6,271,283). The operating surplus for the year ended 30 June 2023 is \$1,168,975 (2022 was an operating surplus of \$686,344).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' DECLARATION OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The Directors of Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation Limited (OCRF) declare that in their opinion:

- (a) the attached financial statements and notes, comply with the *Corporations Act 2001*, the *Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures*, the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.
- (b) the attached financial statements and notes gives a true and fair view of the OCRF financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- (c) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the OCRF will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors made pursuant with subsection 60.15 (2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013*.

Anne-Marie O'Loughlin

Anne-Marie O'Loughlin (Director)
Date 3/ 10/ 23

Philip Herbert

Philip Herbert (Director)
Date 3/ 10/ 23

LIST OF PRO-BONO SERVICE PROVIDERS

Thank you to our pro bono providers in 2022-2023 for services in accountancy, legal, website redevelopment, PR and media, communications, design, event support, and workplace policy review.

Entity	Amount 22/23
Alexandra Nea	2,500
Allens	184,673
Frankie Magazine	93,920
Little Party Dress	15,370
Green Wave Accountants	9,252
Nova Entertainment	408,035
Pro bono calculation is based on the value of media (ad spots) provided to the OCRF over and above paid advertising	
Ooh Media	2,487,658
Pro bono calculation is based on the value of media (out of home screens) provided to the OCRF over and above paid promotion	
PIXO	12,000
STEM Matters	1,299
AMPR	30,000
Truth Agency	6,250
Toop Workplace Law	6,951
Bondi Sands	1,435
Continental Hotel, Sorrento	100
Willett Marketing	15,000
Total pro bono support 2022-2023	\$ 3,274,444.00

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND RETAINED EARNINGS

OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
	(\$)	(\$)
Income		
Revenue	4,962,979	4,233,217
Pro-Bono Income	3,274,444	2,010,078
Total Income	8,237,422	6,243,295
Other Income		
Finance Income	172,052	27,988
Total Other Income	172,052	27,988
Total Income for the year	8,409,474	6,271,283
Expenditure		
Finance Costs	3,542	3,003
Depreciation	16,894	5,186
Digital Systems	175,936	144,960
Employee Costs	1,067,817	1,024,858
Marketing Expenses	1,164,861	952,797
Operating Expenses	208,964	97,986
Pro-Bono Expenses	3,274,444	2,010,078
Auditors' Remuneration	3,000	3,000
Total Expenditure	5,915,457	4,241,868
Profit before grant payments	2,494,017	2,029,414
Grant Payments		
Grants paid during the year	1,325,042	1,343,070
Total Grant Payments	1,325,042	1,343,070
Total comprehensive profit/(loss) for the year	1,168,975	686,344
	2023	2022
	(\$)	(\$)
Retained Earnings		
Retained Earnings at the beginning of the reporting period	2,589,068	1,902,724
Reserves	3,000,000	3,000,000
Current year Earnings	1,169,175	686,344
Retained Earnings at the end of the reporting period	6,758,243	5,589,068

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION LIMITED AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	818,876	640,745
Trade & Other Receivables	1,356,488	726,662
Financial Assets	4,454,225	4,457,016
Other Current Assets	269,696	53,372
Total Current Assets	6,899,285	5,877,794
Non-Current Assets		
Plant and Equipment	4,229	1,482
Right of Use Asset	299,849	-
Total Non-Current Assets	304,078	1,482
Total Assets	7,203,363	5,879,277
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Lease Liability (CL)	58,290	-
Trade & Other Payables	71,677	161,997
Provisions	40,297	83,362
Total Current Liabilities	170,264	245,359
Non-Current Liabilities		
Lease Liability (NCL)	241,559	-
Provisions	33,497	44,850
Total Non-Current Liabilities	275,056	44,850
Total Liabilities	445,320	290,209
Net Assets	6,758,043	5,589,068
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	3,758,043	2,589,068
Reserves	3,000,000	3,000,000
Total Equity	6,758,043	5,589,068





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**OVARIAN
CANCER
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION**