



CONTACT: Becky Lechner  
MOCA Communications Manager  
(612) 822-0500  
rlechner@mnovarian.org

## **Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance to Provide Record \$1 Million in Funding for Research Projects**

*Organization Now Accepting Proposals for Ovarian Cancer Research Projects*

(MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., January 20, 2016) The Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MOCA) is announcing a research-funding milestone for 2016, as the organization will award up to \$1 million to ovarian cancer research projects in Minnesota this year.

This is the most awarded by the organization at a single time and the first time MOCA's available research funding has hit the \$1 million mark in a single year. It puts the total amount of research funding awarded by MOCA to more than \$6 million. MOCA is one of the largest private, non-profit funders of ovarian cancer research in the nation.

On the heels of this announcement, MOCA is issuing a request for proposals for the organization's 2016 ovarian cancer research awards. MOCA will be awarding the research funding this May at MOCA's Annual Meeting to provide opportunities for Minnesota researchers to initiate new studies or continue current research on ovarian cancer.

New in 2016, one grant of \$70,000 funded by MOCA's Spin it Teal fundraising event will be awarded for a project focusing on preventing recurrence of ovarian cancer.

Eligible projects for the available research funding must be conducted in Minnesota by Minnesota-based researchers. Applicants may be pursuing individual research or be part of a team research project pertaining to ovarian, primary peritoneal or fallopian tube cancer. Grant proposals may not exceed \$100,000.

All proposals will be considered. However, special consideration will be given to:

- Proposals which may lead to early detection, better treatment, or a cure for ovarian cancer;
- Projects that may benefit women living with ovarian cancer today;
- Translational projects that include a plan for a clinical trial;
- Projects that might not otherwise be funded;
- Projects that will result in the development of preliminary data which will enable the researcher to compete for larger national grants.

“This milestone is a testament to the fact that MOCA supporters care deeply about ovarian cancer research and changing the course of this disease,” said MOCA Executive Director Kathleen Gavin, “MOCA has a firm commitment to continuing to fund research until we have a reliable early detection test and better treatments for the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers. MOCA’s ovarian cancer research funding makes a difference by stimulating innovation, supporting researchers and institutions and attracting researchers to focus on ovarian cancer. And the fact that this research funding is centered in Minnesota ensures that the women we serve have access to clinical trials and excellent doctors and researchers.”

Evaluations of proposed projects are made by national experts in ovarian cancer research and at-large MOCA members. Recommendations are then voted on by the MOCA Board of Directors.

All applications must be received in the MOCA office by 4:00 p.m. CST on Tuesday, March 1, 2016. Applicants will be notified by Monday, April 25. Grantees are required to attend the MOCA Annual Meeting in mid-May and will be asked to deliver a short presentation.

A complete description of the application requirements can be found at:  
<http://mnovarian.org/promoting-research/>.

An additional \$25,000 in MOCA research funding will be directed towards the Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) Ovarian Cancer Dream Team effort, which MOCA joined in 2014 with several organizations. MOCA made a four-year, \$100,000 commitment through SU2C’s \$6 million collaborative, cutting-edge ovarian cancer research Dream Team that will help patients and save lives.

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**About the Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance:** The Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MOCA) is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness, providing education and support to women and families impacted by the disease and funding the research needed to detect ovarian cancer early and treat it properly. MOCA was founded in 1999 by a group of ovarian cancer survivors. Since then, MOCA has grown to an organization of more than 1,000 survivors and 40,000 donors and active members with a full range of programs encompassing education, support and research. MOCA has awarded more than \$5 million to research projects for ovarian cancer research in Minnesota. For additional information, go to [www.mnovarian.org](http://www.mnovarian.org) or call (612) 822-0500.