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Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance Funds New Stand Up to Cancer Dream Team Dedicated to Ovarian Cancer

New Translational Research Ovarian Cancer Dream Team to Tackle Deadliest Gynecologic Cancer

(Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 7, 2014) — The Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MOCA) has further strengthened the organization’s commitment to ovarian cancer research through the financial support of an ovarian cancer research team via the national Stand Up To Cancer effort. Stand Up To Cancer was founded on a simple premise: accelerate innovative cancer research that will get new therapies to patients quickly and save lives now.

In partnership with Stand Up To Cancer, the new “Ovarian Cancer Dream Team” will launch in 2015, dedicated to cutting-edge ovarian cancer research that will help patients and save lives. MOCA is partnering on the Ovarian Cancer Dream Team effort with other ovarian cancer organizations, including the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund, the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance and the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition. Dream Team grants are awarded to multi-institutional groups of scientists who work collaboratively, rather than competitively, to develop new treatments quickly in order to save lives now. By collaborating to fund an Ovarian Cancer Dream Team, the participating organizations hope to advance research in the field that can lead to new treatments that benefit patients.

This partnership was announced on Stand Up To Cancer’s bi-annual telecast on Friday, September 5. The Stand Up To Cancer Ovarian Cancer Dream Team grant will provide funding, over a three-year period, for research associated with the disease. MOCA has committed \$100,000 from special endowment funds to this project. MOCA remains committed to funding researchers and institutions in Minnesota with funding raised through its public events and ongoing fundraising campaigns. This year alone, MOCA provided \$527,000 to Minnesota ovarian cancer researchers, the largest amount the organization has ever provided at one time. Those interested in supporting the Ovarian Cancer Dream Team are encouraged to contribute to MOCA at <http://bit.ly/MOCADONATE> and designate ovarian cancer dream team.

“MOCA has funded ovarian cancer research for more than a decade in Minnesota, providing a total of \$4.5 million to researchers,” said Kathleen Gavin, MOCA Executive Director. “As one of the largest private, non-profit funders of ovarian cancer research in the country, we have seen how funding attracts researchers to focus on ovarian cancer and drives research advances. There are brilliant, hardworking people with innovative project ideas just waiting to be funded. Providing funding at the national level through Stand Up To Cancer for the first time helps to elevate the importance of this disease and

MOCA's commitment to supporting research that will have an impact on women here in Minnesota and nationwide."

Ovarian cancer is the deadliest of all the gynecologic cancers. There is no test for the disease. Almost 22,000 American women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2014, and more than 14,000 women will lose their lives to the disease. In Minnesota, nearly 400 women are diagnosed with the disease each year.

The timeline for the creation of the Ovarian Cancer Dream Team will begin later this month, with the solicitation of ideas from researchers and scientists worldwide. The announcement of those selected to join the Dream Team will be next spring, with research beginning in July 2015.

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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 support to women and families impacted by the disease and funding the research needed to detect ovarian cancer early and treat it properly. MOCA is made up of a network of more than 1,000 survivors and 45,000 supporters with a full range of programs encompassing education, support and research. MOCA has awarded more than \$4.5 million to research projects for ovarian cancer research in Minnesota. For additional information, go to www.mnovarian.org or call (612) 822-0500.