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***Preview Interviews Available***

**Woman of Impact: MOCA Executive Director Kathleen Gavin Awarded  
for Outstanding Support for Ovarian Cancer Research at Ovarian Cancer Midwest Focus Conference**

(MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., November 8, 2023) Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MOCA) Executive Director Kathleen Gavin is being honored with the Award for Outstanding Support for Ovarian Cancer Research during the Ovarian Cancer Midwest Focus (OCMF) Conference, at the University of Minnesota's Coffman Memorial Union, **Tuesday, November 14 at 9 a.m.**

*"I am honored to receive this recognition from experts in the field of ovarian cancer research. I look forward to continuing our efforts to collaborate, innovate and move ovarian cancer research forward for the women and families MOCA serves,"* said MOCA Executive Director Kathleen Gavin.

In her role as executive director at MOCA, Gavin has led and managed MOCA's ovarian cancer research grant program for the past 20 years. Since then, MOCA has gained recognition as one of the top private nonprofit funders of ovarian cancer research in the nation. MOCA has now provided more than \$11 million dollars for ovarian cancer research focused on better treatments, early detection and one day—a cure. MOCA-funded research has led to innovative clinical trials, a novel vaccine to prevent recurrent disease and progress for the development of an early detection test.

*"Women with the disease are living, longer better lives because of research advancements in prevention, treatment and management of side effects. Many new approaches are in development, and MOCA will maintain our steadfast commitment to supporting research to accelerate these advances,"* said Gavin.

Under Gavin's direction, MOCA began a national grantmaking program in 2017 dedicated to the early detection of ovarian cancer. 10 grants totaling \$650,000 have been awarded to institutions outside of Minnesota for early detection research.

As the leader of Minnesota's advocacy group for women with ovarian cancer, Gavin is often called upon to communicate the importance of participation in clinical trials to achieve treatment advances. Additionally, Gavin is involved in many local and national efforts to advance ovarian cancer research. Currently, Gavin serves as a member of the External Advisory Board and Co-Chair of the Patient Advocacy Committee for the Mayo Clinical Ovarian Cancer Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE), patient advocate for the Roswell Park and University of Chicago SPORE, and as a member of the steering committee for the Any Mountain Project, which focuses on the prevention of ovarian cancer.

Previously, Gavin was a longtime member of the University of Minnesota Masonic Cancer Center Community Advisory Committee and a longtime member of the NRG Oncology Patient Advocacy Committee. Gavin also participated in the national Stand Up 2Cancer Ovarian Cancer Dream Team, Ovarian Cancer National Alliance Policy Committee and the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) Scientist Survivor Program.

The University of Minnesota Medical School Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics is presenting the two-day Ovarian Cancer Midwest Focus Conference (OCMFC) on Monday, November 13 and Tuesday, November 14. This conference brings together leading experts, healthcare professionals, patients, and caregivers from across the Midwest to discuss the latest advances in ovarian cancer treatment and care.

For interview opportunities, please contact MOCA Communications Manager Jody Ambroz McArdle at [jambroz@mnovarian.org](mailto:jambroz@mnovarian.org).

**Preview interviews are available.**

***About the Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance:*** *The Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MOCA) is a statewide nonprofit organization, founded in 1999, 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 serves more than 1,000 survivors and has a network of more than 50,000 supporters across the U.S. with a full range of programs encompassing education, support and research. MOCA has awarded more than \$11 million to ovarian cancer research projects in Minnesota and nationwide. For additional information, go to [www.mnovarian.org](http://www.mnovarian.org) or call (612) 822-0500.*