



## THE GYNECOLOGIC CANCER FOUNDATION

# AN INTRODUCTION FOR CANDIDATE & FELLOW-IN-TRAINING MEMBERS



## WELCOME

Congratulations on becoming a Candidate Member or a Fellow-in-Training Member of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists (SGO). Your selection of a subspecialty dedicated to helping women conquer cancers unique to them provides you with many opportunities beyond clinical practice and research.

The Gynecologic Cancer Foundation (GCF), founded by SGO in 1991, offers many programs that allow you to expand your interest in creating awareness about the prevention, early detection and appropriate treatment of gynecologic cancers. Through effective fundraising, the Foundation also offers research grants and awards, most of which are designed for young investigators.

This brochure describes our many programs and resources. We trust that you will find a program that sparks your interest or discover a resource that supports your patients as they travel the road to survivorship.

Thank you for your interest in GCF. I, along with Karen Carlson, GCF's Executive Director, am available to facilitate your involvement with the Foundation.

Sincerely,

Karl C. Podratz, MD, PhD  
Chairman, Gynecologic Cancer Foundation

## MISSION

*The Gynecologic Cancer Foundation (GCF) is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to ensure public awareness of gynecologic cancer prevention, early diagnosis and proper treatment. In addition, the Foundation supports research and training related to gynecologic cancers. GCF advances this mission by increasing public and private funds that aid in the development and implementation of programs to meet these goals.*

## MEMBERSHIP

All members of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists, including Candidates and Fellows-in-Training, also are members of the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation.

## RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

2007-2008  
**Research Grants & Awards**



Each year GCF offers a series of research grants and awards. Since 1995, the Foundation has funded over 55 research grants totaling over \$3 million.

SGO members (Full, Associate and Candidate) are eligible to apply for these awards. Priority will be given to junior investigators, generally assistant professor and below.

Individuals who are not SGO members may apply as long as there is a co-investigator who is a SGO member. The goal is to foster collaboration and mentorship of an investigator new to the field. It is important for the applicant to document this relationship.

### 2007-2008 RESEARCH GRANTS

- > **GCF/Ann Schreiber Ovarian Cancer Research Grant**  
*\$50,000/(1) year award*  
Research should be focused around early detection, screening and basic translational research in ovarian cancer.
- > **GCF/Florence and Marshall Schwid Ovarian Cancer Research Grant**  
*\$50,000/(1) year award*  
Related to ovarian cancer.
- > **GCF/Molly Cade Ovarian Cancer Research Grant**  
*\$50,000/ (1) year award*  
Research should be related to the diagnosis or treatment of women dealing with ovarian cancer recurrences. (recurrence)
- > **GCF/Ovarian Cancer Research Grant**  
*\$50,000/(1) year award*  
Related to ovarian cancer.
- > **GCF/St. Louis Ovarian Cancer Awareness Ovarian Research Grant**  
*\$50,000/(1) year award*  
Related to ovarian cancer.
- > **GCF/Susan A. Olde Endometrial Cancer Research Grant**  
*\$50,000/(1) year award*  
Related to endometrial cancer.

### GCF/NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE SCHOLAR'S PROGRAM

The Gynecologic Cancer Foundation (GCF) jointly sponsors this program with the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to facilitate additional investigative training for clinician-scientists with a dedicated interest in gynecologic malignancies. The research is performed at the NCI Bethesda and satellite campuses in Maryland under the direction of an NCI mentor. At the conclusion of the fellowship, the fellow will be expected to transition to a position at an extramural institution.

The purpose of the program is to support the development of outstanding translational scientists. This mechanism provides specialized study for clinically trained professionals who are committed to a career in research and have the potential to develop into independent investigators. The award supports a 1-3 year period of supervised research experience that integrates didactic studies with laboratory or clinically based research. The experience is intended to be of both intrinsic research importance and be a vehicle for learning the methodology, theories, and conceptualizations necessary for a well-trained independent investigator.

Applicants must be Full, Associate, Candidate, or applicants for Candidate Membership, or a Fellow-In-Training in Gynecologic Oncology. Ideally the candidate should garner a commitment from an institution allowing the candidate upon completion of the GCF/NCI Fellowship to transition to a position with 75 percent protected time for a period of 1-2 years to facilitate their research development.

Former principal investigators of NIH research project grants (R01), Career Development Awards (K series), sub-projects of program projects (P01), or center grants (P50), or the equivalent, are not eligible.

### 2007-2008 AWARDS AND PRIZES

#### Annual Meeting Outstanding Paper by a Resident or Fellow

The 2008 GCF/Carol's Cause and Eli Lilly and Company awards for the outstanding paper by a resident or fellow will be announced following SGO's 39th annual Meeting on Women's Cancer™. The winner of the GCF/Carol's Cause Award will receive \$3,000 and the winner of the GCF/Eli Lilly and Company Award will receive \$1,500.

Since 1995, the Foundation has funded over 55 research grants totaling over \$3 million.

**Margaret Greenfield/  
Carmel Cohen, MD  
“Excellence in Ovarian  
Cancer Research Prize”**

This award will be given to an individual who can best demonstrate that he or she has been able to use the GCF award to improve women’s health care. This accomplishment could be supported through obtaining independent extramural funding, making important contributions to the literature, and/or developing programs that improved women’s health care, including early detection. This award is to the individual and not his/her institution.

The prize named is funded by James Greenfield in honor of his wife Margaret who lost her battle with ovarian cancer and also to honor her physician, SGO/GCF member Carmel Cohen, MD for his excellent care for Mrs. Greenfield throughout her illness. Only past GCF award winners can apply for this prize.

Each year, GCF publishes a booklet that is distributed to all SGO members and can be downloadable from GCF’s web site [www.thegcf.org](http://www.thegcf.org) in the spring that describes the application process, due dates, and grants and awards available that year.

GCF offers an online directory intended to connect funding organizations and researchers interested in ovarian cancer.

This tool is available to serve as a “match-maker” between researchers and funding sources.

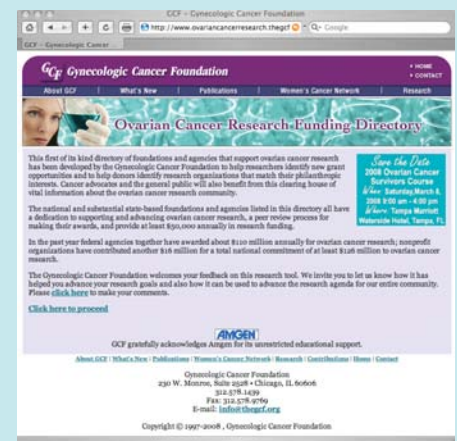
The Ovarian Cancer Research Funding Directory, which contains a list of foundations and agencies that support ovarian cancer research, is available on GCF’s Web site ([www.ovariancancerresearch.thegcf.org](http://www.ovariancancerresearch.thegcf.org)).

GCF developed this tool to help both researchers pursue their interest in ovarian cancer and donors identify organizations that match their research or philanthropic interests. Cancer advocates and the general public will also benefit from this clearing house of vital information about the ovarian cancer research community.

These national and state-based foundations and agencies support ovarian cancer research, have a peer review process for determining their awards, and each provides at least \$50,000 annually in research funding.

In the past year, federal agencies together have awarded about \$110 million annually for ovarian cancer research; nonprofit organizations have contributed another \$16 million for a total national commitment of at least \$126 million to ovarian cancer research.

More information about each of the following foundations and agencies can be found in the directory on GCF Web site ([www.thegcf.org](http://www.thegcf.org)): American Cancer Society, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Society of Clinical Oncology Foundation, Canary Foundation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Defense Ovarian Cancer Research Program, Gynecologic Cancer Foundation, HERA Women’s Cancer Foundation, Illinois Department of Public Health, Office of Women’s Health, Kaleidoscope of Hope Foundation, Lynne Cohen Foundation for Ovarian Cancer Research, Marsha Rivkin Center for Ovarian Cancer Research, Mary Kay Ash Foundation, Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance, the National Cancer Institute, Ovarian Cancer Research Fund, Ovations for the Cure, Sandy Rollman Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation and Teal Ribbon Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation, Inc.



## PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS AND AWARENESS MONTHS

Each year GCF creates heightened awareness of gynecologic cancers during September, Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month (GCAM) and cervical cancer during January, Cervical Cancer Screening Month.

Prior to September, GCAM, an important awareness or prevention topic is selected for emphasis in outreach to women's magazines, print, broadcast and radio media, and health information sources on the Internet.

Each June, a publicity tool kit is developed and includes a sample newsletter article and press release on the GCAM topic, and tips on organizing awareness events. This tool kit is distributed electronically to the GCF mailing list that includes SGO members, women's health advocates, federal and state agencies with a focus on women's health, publications whose audience is survivors of gynecologic cancers, and other GCF supporters and partners.

GCF National Cervical Cancer Public Education Campaign also works year long to create awareness and encourage women to take action to prevent cervical cancer with its three-part message:

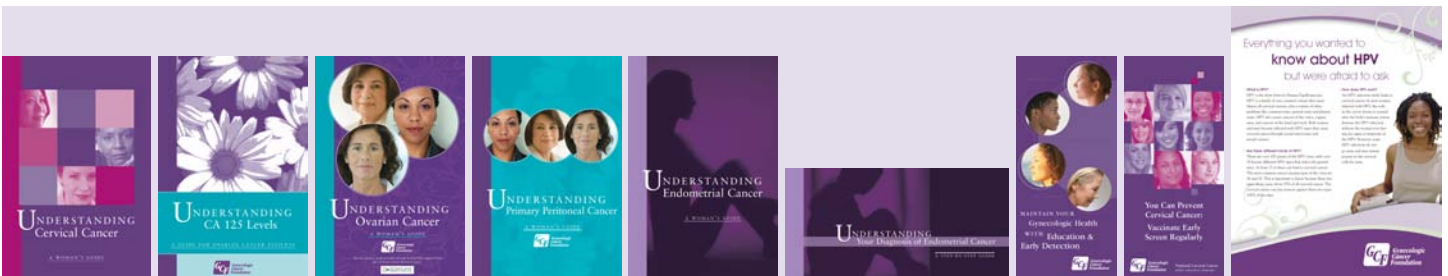
- > **Vaccinate early**
- > **Pap test regularly**
- > **HPV test when recommended**

The Campaign partners with 31 other national women's health, advocacy organizations and federal agencies to achieve its goal of eliminating cervical cancer.

Each awareness campaign is directed by a SGO/GCF physician with support from GCF staff.

The National Cervical Cancer Public Education Campaign partners with 31 other national women's health, advocacy organizations and federal agencies to achieve its goal of eliminating cervical cancer.

## GCF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS



The Foundation maintains an ever increasing library of brochures for the general public and women diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer. Each year GCF mails over 130,000 brochures and other materials. Many gynecologic oncologists use these brochures as their primary patient education material.

GCF also creates PowerPoint presentations for the use of its members and other healthcare professionals when they are asked to give presentations to patient or other non-professional groups. As with all GCF materials, a SGO/GCF physician expert develops the material with support from GCF staff. Next an expert panel of senior physicians provides final review and approval.

A complete listing of brochures and PowerPoint presentations can be found on GCF's Web site at [www.thegcf.org](http://www.thegcf.org). There are brochures and presentations available on the three most prevalent gynecologic cancers as well as specialized brochures on topics such as sexuality after a gynecologic cancer. One of the most popular brochures is *Maintain Your Gynecologic Health with Education and Early Detection*. Many materials are available in both English and Spanish.

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In 1998, the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation (GCF) created the Allied Support Group consisting of newly created national ovarian cancer advocacy organizations to promote open dialogue and collaboration among the advocacy groups. The GCF agreed at that time to host semiannual meetings and to serve as the “administrator” of the Allied Support Group. Over the ensuing few years, the Allied Support Group expanded its membership to include other gynecologic cancer related advocacy and research organizations. As currently constituted, the group represents most national and some international organizations that have interest in women’s gynecologic cancer health.

In addition to meeting semiannually to review the activities of their individual organizations, members of the Allied Support Group have collaborated on a variety of special educational, advocacy and research projects, such as Ovarian Cancer Research Funding Directory.

## GCF AND THE SURVIVOR COMMUNITY

The Foundation’s motto, “where there is knowledge, there is hope” is embraced by many women diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer. Each year GCF holds courses and teleconferences for women living with a gynecologic cancer diagnosis who thirst for more knowledge.

The idea for a course for survivors, primarily ovarian cancer survivors, evolved from the recognition that many of the world’s leading experts on gynecologic cancers gather each year at the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists Annual Meeting on Women’s Cancers.™

So, it was decided to ask these gathered experts to take a few hours to educate and interact with women living with these cancers.

The first course was held at SGO’s 31st Annual Meeting on Women’s Cancer in February 2000 in San Diego. Since then, thanks to generous donors and the physicians who volunteer their time, GCF has held a total of seven courses, all in connection with the SGO or Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG) meetings until 2005 when GCF first collaborated with an academic health center — the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University and Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

By 2007, five academic health centers partnered with GCF to host either an Ovarian Cancer Survivors Course or an Endometrial Cancer Survivors Course. Courses are scheduled based upon the availability of funding.

➤ “Where there is knowledge, there is hope.”

## WEB SITES

The Foundation hosts three Web sites, the Gynecologic Cancer Web site ([www.thegcf.org](http://www.thegcf.org)) and GCF's award-winning Web site, the Women's Cancer Network ([www.wcn.org](http://www.wcn.org)) and GCF's National Cervical Cancer Public Education Campaign site ([www.cervicalcancercampaign.org](http://www.cervicalcancercampaign.org)).

The GCF Web site provides general information about the foundation, and its publications and presentations.

The Women's Cancer Network has rich content about each of the women's cancers and allows a woman to take a confidential assessment to determine her risk for developing gynecologic and breast cancers. This

site also offers a section for cancer survivors, including clinical trials information. An important resource on the site is the "find the doctor" section that allows site visitors to find a list of gynecologic oncologists by zip code.

The National Cervical Cancer Web site offers comprehensive information about cervical cancer, its cause, prevention strategies and treatment options. There is a fact sheet on HPV.



## GCF AND YOU

As a Candidate or Fellow-in-Training Members of SGO, you are already a member of the GCF, and there are many ways you can become more involved!

Consider volunteering for a GCF project or committee. These are described in the "about GCF" pages of the GCF Web site. GCF also invites your ideas about current programs and suggestions for new programs or funding opportunities. Contact us at [info@thegcf.org](mailto:info@thegcf.org) or by telephone at GCF Headquarters, 312.578.1439.

Share information with your patients about GCF Web sites, educational brochures and survivor courses. These resources are designed to provide additional support and information to patients as they face gynecologic cancer.

Encourage your patients to contribute to GCF sponsored educational and research programs dedicated to gynecologic cancers.

We are grateful for the continued financial support from SGO members. We hope that you will keep the Foundation in mind in the future.

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