THE TIME FOR CHANGE IS NOW

2026 OVARIAN CANCER CANADA REPORT TO COMMUNITY



OVARIAN CANCER CANADA

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO AND OUTGOING CHAIR OF THE BOARD

EVERY YEAR, WE ARE REMINDED THAT PROGRESS AGAINST OVARIAN AND OTHER GYNECOLOGIC CANCERS IS BUILT ONE DISCOVERY, ONE PARTNERSHIP, AND ONE VOICE AT A TIME. BEHIND EVERY RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGH IS A PERSON HOPING FOR MORE TIME, BETTER TREATMENT OPTIONS, AND A FUTURE WHERE FEWER FAMILIES EXPERIENCE THE IMPACT OF THESE DISEASES.

This year was defined not only by scientific innovation, but also by our unwavering commitment to ensuring that every advancement is shaped by the people it is intended to serve. This year, we made progress by:

- Investing in Canadian-made prevention, early detection, personalized treatment, survivorship, and mental health research, to improve quality of life at every stage of the cancer journey
- Supporting early-career scientists and global collaboration, accelerating breakthroughs and strengthening Canada's leadership in ovarian cancer research
- Broadening our support to include those affected by endometrial cancer, uniting supporters and transforming collective hope into action
- Empowering Canadians through advocacy, education, and evidence-based resources, helping them navigate their cancer journey with confidence

2026 has been a powerful reminder that we are building a future where gynecologic cancers are detected earlier, treated more precisely, and where every person receives the care, support, and experience they deserve.

Thank you for making this progress possible.

With gratitude,

- **Tania Vrionis**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Karen Greve Young,** Outgoing Chair of the Board

A note from Ovarian Cancer Canada: As Karen Greve Young's term as Chair of the Board comes to an end, we thank her for her leadership, as well as the support, insight, and experience she has contributed to advancing our mission.



TANIA VRIONIS, *Chief Executive Officer*



KAREN GREVE YOUNG, *Chair of the Board*

2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karen Greve Young – Chair of the Board
Lydia Bugden – Vice Chair
Kristy Carscallen – Treasurer
Eric Chiniara
Jennifer Hollington
Dr. Abraham King
Alvina Nadeem
Liza Sunley

MEET OUR INCOMING CHAIR OF THE BOARD



Welcome Lydia Bugden, as Chair of Ovarian Cancer Canada's Board of Directors.

Lydia has used her experience in corporate and commercial law to shape our mission. Her vision for the future is simple, but ambitious: **a future where those affected by all cancers can reap the benefits of innovative research advancements.**

"In my lifetime, the outcomes for those diagnosed with both leukemia and breast cancer have significantly improved as a result of awareness and much needed research dollars. I want the same for those currently living with gynecologic cancers and for those yet to be diagnosed with the disease," she says.

YOUR FUNDRAISING AND DONATIONS WERE INVESTED ACROSS RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS, ENSURING TOMORROW'S DISCOVERIES, POLICY WINS, AND COMMUNITY CARE STAY ON COURSE.

With your support, we are building the future of gynecologic cancer care. Our work connects innovation and community, so that progress is driven by the people it is meant to serve.



THE DISCOVERIES WE INVEST IN TODAY MAKE FUTURE PROGRESS POSSIBLE.

THAT IS HOW OUR IMPACT IS MEASURED

23 **NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS**

From more personalized treatments and improving quality of life to earlier detection and prevention, our research investments are advancing Canadian discoveries that reflect the real needs of people affected by ovarian cancer.

123 **PATIENT ENGAGEMENTS IN RESEARCH**

Patients are partners in every stage of our work. By embedding their lived experience into research, advocacy, and programs, we're ensuring that every breakthrough is informed by the people it's meant to serve.

8 **EARLY CAREER SCIENTISTS**

Today's emerging researchers will drive tomorrow's breakthroughs. By investing in early career scientists, we're strengthening Canadian-made leadership in ovarian cancer research and accelerating innovation for years to come.

43 **PERCENT OF RESEARCH PROJECTS LED BY WOMEN**

16 **RESEARCH PROJECTS DEDICATED TO NEW TREATMENTS**

10 **RESEARCH PROJECTS FOCUSED ON HIGH-GRADE SEROUS OVARIAN CANCER**

13 **RESEARCH PROJECTS INCLUDED ONE OR MORE RARE TYPES OF OVARIAN CANCER**

6 NEW CLINICAL TRIALS

14 PRE-CLINICAL PROJECTS

5 CANADIAN PROVINCES IN WHICH RESEARCH PROJECTS RECEIVED FUNDING

3 PROJECTS FOCUSED ON EXPANDING RESEARCH CAPACITY

Thank you to Government of Canada - Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's Strategic Science Fund and the Government of Saskatchewan for enabling ovarian cancer research to continue through their contributions to Ovarian Cancer Canada.

**this report covers activities from April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026*

INVESTING IN INNOVATIONS THAT IMPROVE BOTH SURVIVAL AND QUALITY OF LIFE

FOR MANY CANADIANS DIAGNOSED WITH GYNECOLOGIC CANCER, TREATMENT CAN BE LIFESAVING.

However, many treatments leave lasting side-effects that can change someone's day-to-day quality of life. While these treatments are essential for many patients and save lives every day, researchers are asking an important question: What if we could give patients a better quality of life by creating a more personalized approach to treatment?



"It's about treating the person in front of you," explained Dr. McAlpine, Co-Lead. "We want to understand what's unique about their tumour so we can give the treatment they need and avoid the treatment they don't"

– DR. JESSICA MCALPINE

A PERSON-CENTRED APPROACH TO CANCER CARE

With funding from Ovarian Cancer Canada and the Cancer Research Society, Drs. Amy Jamieson and Jessica McAlpine in Vancouver, British Columbia are studying if we can personalize the treatment a patient receives based on their tumour characteristics.

Their COMPARE Trial focuses on a unique group of patients whose cancer is found in both the ovary and the lining of the uterus (endometrium). Although the disease has spread to a second location, they believe it behaves very differently from most similar cancers and could be safely treated with surgery alone, instead of surgery and chemotherapy or radiation.

Today, care for these patients varies widely. At one hospital, a patient may receive surgery and careful follow-up. At another, someone with the same diagnosis may undergo six months of chemotherapy and radiation because there is not yet enough evidence to confidently recommend otherwise. This inconsistency means that what each patient experiences may be very different. By generating the evidence needed to personalize treatment, the COMPARE Trial could help establish a new global standard of care that would protect patients from unnecessary side effects, while ensuring they continue to receive excellent treatment.

The goal is personalized medicine, informed by patients. They hope to understand the unique biology of each person's cancer, tailoring treatment to match and improving quality of life.

WHEN THE GOAL IS IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE, THE PATIENT PERSPECTIVE BECOMES ESSENTIAL.

From the earliest stages of the project, patient partners have helped shape the work these researchers are doing. Chemotherapy and radiation both come with side-effects: from fatigue, nerve damage, and hair loss to increased risk of infection and changes in sexual health. Personalizing care for those who can safely undergo less-intensive treatment for their cancer could mean keeping feeling in their fingertips, having the energy to care for their family, returning to work sooner, or preserving their long-term quality of life.

By investing in bold research and ensuring patients are partners in the development of projects like this, we are accelerating a future where treatment is more personalized, more equitable, and more humane. Every discovery brings us closer to a world where people receive exactly the care they need. Progress is not only measured by helping more people live longer. It is also measured by helping them live better.

THIS IS THE FUTURE YOU ARE HELPING TO BUILD.

ONE YEAR OF EARLY DETECTION RESEARCH: THE FUTURE OF THE mDETECT PROJECT

Funded by Ovarian Cancer Canada in 2025, the mDETECT project seeks to provide a blood test that can diagnose ovarian cancer earlier by detecting pieces of tumour DNA in the blood. This test would not only be able to determine whether a person suspected of the disease has cancer, but also how far their disease has progressed based on the amount of DNA in their blood.

When we last spoke with Dr. Christopher Mueller and Sydney Shepherd in Kingston, Ontario, they were approaching recruitment for human trials. Their team works alongside patients to craft research that is changing the future of ovarian cancer diagnosis, meaning that women can be diagnosed earlier, when treatment is most effective.

Thank you to the generous support of our donors and the Ovarian Cancer Relief Foundation's Dawn Ride for making it possible to invest in research focused on uncovering breakthroughs that help detect ovarian cancer earlier.



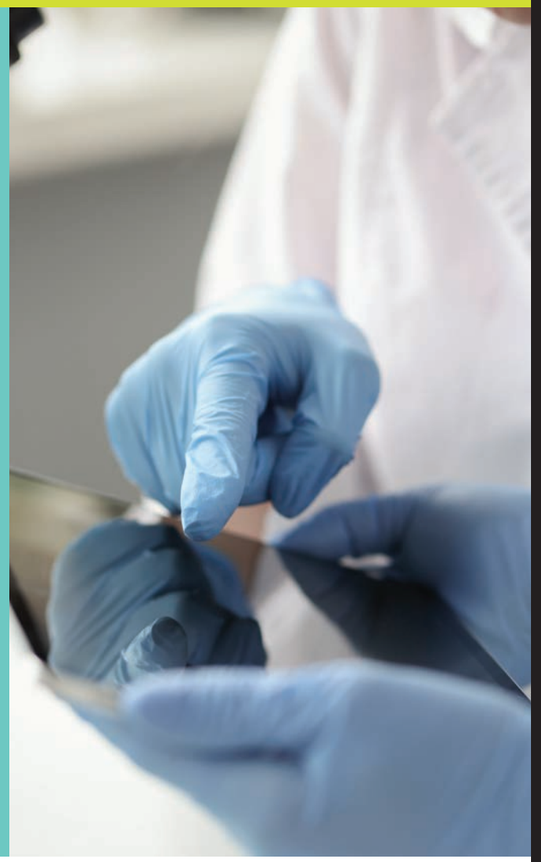


THE CALM STUDY

In 2026, Ovarian Cancer Canada invested $400,000 in a clinical trial for talk therapy (CALM) to address the mental health impacts of ovarian cancer.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN CANCER CARE: GLOBAL OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

We are driving international collaboration, bringing the patient voice to an international stage as part of the Global Ovarian Cancer Research Consortium alongside the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia. For the first time, the Consortium invested $1 million USD through the AI Accelerator Grant in 2026.



PROGRESS DOESN'T HAPPEN IN ISOLATION

We are proud to make strategic partnerships both internationally and in Canada that highlight the needs of our community and allow us to further advance our mission to demand change.

- BioCanRx
- Cancer Research Society
- Global Ovarian Cancer Research Consortium
- The Society of Gynecologic Oncology of Canada

The Coalitions and Alliances that Ovarian Cancer Canada is part of ensure that efforts focused on improving women's health include the priorities of those facing ovarian cancer: Best Medicines Coalition, The BEAT Cancer Coalition, CanCertainty, Cancer Action Now Alliance, Health Charities Coalition of Canada, Quebec Cancer Coalition, World Ovarian Cancer Coalition

Thank you to the many donors who invest in our research, advocacy and support programs:

- River Philip Foundation
- AbbVie
- AstraZeneca
- GSK
- Merck

THE POSITIVE EXPERIENCE ONE WOMAN HAS IS THE EXPERIENCE WE DEMAND FOR ALL

OVARIAN CANCER CANADA WELCOMES CANADIANS FACING ENDOMETRIAL CANCER

For years, many people diagnosed with endometrial cancer struggled to find information, support and connection tailored to their experience. Today, we're welcoming them to join their community at Ovarian Cancer Canada. Across the country, women with endometrial cancer are joining our support programs, attending our events, and seeking connection with others who understand the experience of navigating a gynecological cancer diagnosis in Canada.

MEET GWEN, A CANADIAN WOMAN LIVING WITH ENDOMETRIAL CANCER

When she experienced unexpected post-menopausal bleeding, she knew something was wrong. After undergoing a hysterectomy, she learned that her endometrial cancer had spread to her ovary, cervix and nearby lymph nodes. Although surrounded by family, Gwen found herself searching for something only others with lived experience could provide.



"At one of my appointments at the cancer centre, I saw a poster about an ovarian cancer support group," she recalls. **"I thought, 'I don't have ovarian cancer, but I have gynecological cancer, and I wanted someone to talk to.'** By joining this group that no one wants to join, I felt like I belonged."

– GWEN



THE OCC WALK OF HOPE RAISED $1.5 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR CANADIANS FACING OVARIAN CANCER

Hope is creating change. In 2025, nearly 4000 Walk of Hope participants in over 30 communities across the country raised funds in support of Canadians living with ovarian cancer.



THE LADY BALL MAKES A TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO CALGARY, AND CELEBRATES ANOTHER YEAR OF SUCCESS ON THE EAST COAST

Supported by our community and national sponsor, Stewart McKelvey, our signature gala, The LADY BALL, **raised over $460,000** in 2026. For the first time since 2019, we welcomed guests to LADY Ball Calgary, Presented by Keyera, at the Gasoline Alley Museum in Calgary, Alberta.

MANITOBANS INSPIRE A $1 MILLION INVESTMENT IN OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH

For more than two decades, the Winnipeg Walk of Hope community has made sure ovarian cancer could not be ignored. Year after year, Christa, Cindy, the volunteer committee, the Manitoba Ovarian Cancer Research (MOCR) group, and countless other community members come together with Ovarian Cancer Canada to raise awareness, honour loved ones and demand better outcomes for people diagnosed with the disease.

THEIR COLLECTIVE VOICE HELPED CREATE CHANGE.



"We are extremely grateful for the generous funding we received from Ovarian Cancer Canada and the Manitoba Government. This has expanded our provincial collaborative research network and funded new projects that encompass research with the goal to develop new prognostic markers, models testing potential causes of ovarian cancer, support the provincial ovarian cancer biobank, and test potential therapeutics that may be useful for treating chemotherapy resistant ovarian cancer. Working with our clinical colleagues, we strive to conduct relevant research that will ultimately enhance patient outcomes."

DR. MARK NACHTIGAL, *Professor, Biochemistry & Medical Genetics, University of Manitoba, Senior Scientist,*
– Manitoba Ovarian Cancer Research Program

SIX RESEARCH PROJECTS. ONE GOAL: MORE BREAKTHROUGHS

Together with the Province of Manitoba, we are advancing six Manitoba-based research projects that tackle ovarian cancer from every angle.

This $1 million investment will:

- Bring an experimental drug closer to clinical trials
- Understand the complexity of early-stage ovarian cancer
- Help detect drug resistance earlier, faster and more affordably
- Understand if chemotherapy effectiveness is impacted by RNA molecules
- Understand the genetic "chaos" that allows cancer cells to grow
- Improve the quality of ovarian cancer research through biobanking patient samples



WE CALLED ON OUR PATIENT AND CAREGIVER COMMUNITIES TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES

with Canada's Drug Agency (CDA) and Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux (INESSS) throughout the year, ensuring that their perspective was represented when it came time to make decisions about women's healthcare in Canada.







PEMBROLIZUMAB (KEYTRUDA) CDA PATIENT SUBMISSION

For adults with ovarian, fallopian tube, or primary peritoneal cancer that has stopped responding to platinum-based chemotherapy. Review ongoing.

TRASTUZUMAB DERUXTECAN (ENHERTU) JOINT CDA PATIENT SUBMISSION

For HER2-positive (IHC3+) solid tumours. Review ongoing.

A collaboration with The Colorectal Cancer Resource & Action Network (CCRAN)

BILL S-243 DAY ON THE HILL

As a Women's Health Framework Community Partner, we attended the advocacy events in February 2025 in Ottawa in support of Bill S-243, meeting with government representatives to amplify the message of our community: that women's health cannot be overlooked.

HRD ADVOCACY

We continued to advance advocacy efforts through targeted letters, educational webinars, and engagement with policymakers and decision makers. Our work also encouraged further review of HRD testing access including the development of a CDA pilot project and advocacy that has contributed to provinces and territories now covering the test.

DRUG ACCESS

Our drug access abstract has been accepted for presentation at the International Gynecologic Cancer Society (IGCS) Advocacy Summit in October, highlighting our ongoing work to improve access to essential treatments.

EQUIPPING CANADIANS WITH THE KNOWLEDGE TO NAVIGATE EVERY STAGE OF THEIR OVARIAN CANCER EXPERIENCE

The 2025 National Symposium brought together experts in gynecological cancer research and care and patients themselves to provide their expertise on the living with cancer in Canada. This pairing of both professional and personal expertise was an intentional focus in this year's edition of our signature education event.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Ovarian Cancer Canada's National Symposium brings together people affected by ovarian cancer with leading researchers and healthcare professionals to share the latest in research and care, practical information, and lived experience. Accessible from across Canada, the event helps people feel informed, empowered and connected throughout their ovarian cancer experience.

In November, 506 people came together to learn about innovative research, advocating for themselves within the healthcare system, and practical strategies for those navigating a diagnosis at any stage.

"I come away from the symposium sessions with so much more than the important clinical data. I'm always heartened and incredibly moved to hear from various ovarian cancer patients who are willing and able to talk honestly about their experiences with this disease."

- NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ATTENDEE

"Your work bringing people together and putting patient voices front and centre is remarkable."

- LIZ, NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ATTENDEE

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER SERIES

We provide science-backed, expert-developed, practical information for our community - for free and on demand. This year's Speaker Series sessions generated 459 registrations and 145 live participants. Covering prevention to personalizing treatment, attendees reported better understanding in their areas of interest, greater confidence in treatment decision-making, and increased readiness to have informed conversations with healthcare providers.

UNDERSTANDING BIOMARKERS IN OVARIAN CANCER

90% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that after participating in the biomarkers webinar has increased their confidence in their ability to make informed decisions about their/their loved one's care.

95% of respondents strongly agreed/agreed that they gained a deeper understanding of what biomarkers are and how they apply to their/their loved one's care after attending this speaker series.

PROACTIVE CHOICES: PREVENTING HEREDITARY CANCER

"I've already spoken to my team (breast surgeon, gynaecologist, plastic surgeon) about preventative surgeries. But this webinar, hearing real women (and a doctor!) talk about their real-life experiences makes me feel more confident in asking questions and getting more than one opinion."

- SESSION ATTENDEE

HRD TESTING IN OVARIAN CANCER: WHAT PATIENTS NEED TO KNOW

Participants shared that they plan to use the information from the HRD speaker series to improve conversations with healthcare providers and make informed decisions in future, explore HRD testing, and sharing information with friends, loved ones.

BUILDING THE COMMUNITY THAT POWERS OUR MISSION

Teal Tea participants reported that the program has a meaningful impact, with 93% saying participation positively affected their emotional well-being and nearly half saying they found the program exactly when they needed it most.

"The support group has helped me feel less alone in my diagnosis. Hearing others share their experiences and coping strategies gives me practical ideas and emotional support, which makes it easier to face treatments and day to day challenges."
- TEAL TEA ATTENDEE

OVdialogue brings together people experiencing cancer, their caregivers and loved ones to learn, connect, and support one another. With peer support, practical resources, and lived experiences all in one place, our free online community empowers members throughout their cancer journey. This community grew to 450 members, with more than 5,000 discussion posts from April to June and more than 100,000 monthly views of the online discussion.

"[OVdialogue] has really helped me get through my cancer journey through the stories of my Teal Sisters, the conversations we had with each other, etc. It allowed me to see cancer in a different light than just death. It reduced my anxiety and gave me hope, resilience, and confidence in a better quality of life."
- OVDIALOGUE USER

These trusted communities help us identify emerging needs and connect people with lived experience to research, patient submissions, education, advocacy, media, and government engagement, directly shaping new initiatives.

DONOR INVESTMENT POWERS EVERY STAGE OF THIS PROGRESS



AFTER GENERATIONS OF WOMEN BEING OVERLOOKED, WE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TO IMPROVE OVARIAN CANCER SURVIVAL RATES IN 2025.

This progress is fragile, but we will not waver in our focus to improve outcomes for Canadians facing ovarian cancer. Here is how we're sustaining this progress:

- **Advocating for Canadians to have timely access to innovative ovarian cancer treatments**
- **Bringing leading ovarian cancer researchers from around the world together at the Canadian Conference on Ovarian Cancer Research**
- **Continuing to deliver our powerful research model to address the complexities of ovarian cancer and deliver meaningful results for those diagnosed with the disease**

The dedication of those impacted by gynecologic cancers is necessary to ensure that women benefit from real progress, stronger standards of care and better survival outcomes. Thank you for joining us to demand action, deliver change and transform lives.



OVARIAN CANCER CANADA

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