

# HELP US FIGHT OVARIAN CANCER

*Sign letter supporting the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program for ovarian cancer in final FY12 Defense Appropriations bill*

Dear Colleague:

We write to ask you to sign the attached letter to the House and Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee Chairmen and Ranking Members in support of \$16 million for the Ovarian Cancer Research Program at the Department of Defense (DOD OCRP) in the FY12 Defense Appropriations Conference Report. This level of funding is the same level passed by the House.

The OCRP supports the forward momentum of critical research to understand, prevent and treat this disease that affects the warfighter, military beneficiaries and the general public. The OCRP is structured to facilitate nontraditional collaboration between civilian and military research programs. The involvement of DOD OCRP in research performed at both civilian and military health facilities nationwide creates a unique shared process for success that raises the standard and scope of the investigational process. Designed to promote increased flexibility, OCRP research produces innovative, high impact and valuable results through strategic partnerships between advocates, lab scientists and clinicians.

During the last five years, over 2,600 members of our military or military families have been hospitalized for ovarian cancer or suspected ovarian cancer. These individuals have spent more than 14,000 bed days of care in military treatment facilities. One in 69 women will develop ovarian cancer, and less than half will survive for five years. A woman dies of ovarian cancer every hour. It is expected that more than 22,000 women will be diagnosed with the disease this year and more than 14,000 women will die from ovarian cancer in 2011.

These statistics are sobering. We therefore urge you to support keeping funding levels for ovarian cancer research in line with the impact that this disease has on our society. If you have any questions, or want to sign on letter in support of the Ovarian Cancer Research Program at the Department of Defense, please contact Dan Zeitlin (DeLauro) by phone at 5-3661 or by email at [daniel.zeitlin@mail.house.gov](mailto:daniel.zeitlin@mail.house.gov); or Brian Fauls (Burton) by phone at 5-2276 or by email at [brian.fauls@mail.house.gov](mailto:brian.fauls@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

ROSA L. DeLAURO

Member of Congress

DAN BURTON

Member of Congress

Dear Chairmen Inouye and Young and Ranking Members Cochran and Dicks,

On behalf of the millions of Americans touched each year by ovarian cancer, we write to thank you and the Defense Subcommittee for your sustained support in recent years for the Ovarian Cancer Research Program at the Department of Defense (DOD OCRP). Specifically, we respectfully urge you to continue your strong support and to allocate the House passed level of \$16 million for the OCRP in FY12.

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The OCRP's unique method of funding ovarian cancer research has yielded tremendous breakthroughs in the fight against ovarian cancer, such as:

- a new treatment using nanoparticles to deliver diphtheria toxin-encoding DNA to ovarian cancer cells, leaving healthy cells unaffected;
- the discovery of a compound that potentially inhibits a form of ovarian cancer that makes up 40% of ovarian cancer tumors;
- the finding that ovarian cancer cells are sensitive to glucose deprivation and resveratrol treatment; and
- identifying the earliest molecular changes associated with BRCA2 and BRCA2-related ovarian cancers, leading to biomarker identification for early detection.

Today, ovarian cancer researchers are still struggling to develop the first ovarian cancer screening test. With traditional research models largely unsuccessful, the innovative grants awarded by DOD OCRP are integral in moving this field of research forward. Military beneficiaries will benefit in the same way that the entire American population stands to gain from research into the detection, treatment and cure for this deadly disease. For every dollar that is saved from reducing the cost of cancer care for our military, another dollar can be used to support the warfighter.

The DOD Ovarian Cancer Research Program is making a difference in the lives of military beneficiaries and the general public. We appreciate the difficult budget circumstances that you face, and are grateful for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,