ABOUT THE GALA

Bears Care is proud to partner with NorthShore University HealthSystem, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Rush University Medical Center, John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County and University of Chicago Medical Center in advancing the fight against breast and ovarian cancer.

We are pleased to share with you a summary of the promising programs, studies, therapies and initiatives where proceeds of the 2015 Bears Care Gala are currently at work:

- Phase 2 clinical trial investigating the repurposing of metformin as maintenance therapy in ovarian cancer treatment
- Study of the role of cholesterol saturation in breast cancer metastasis
- Investigation of the presence and role of the proton channel HV1 in breast cancer, and analysis of its utility as a potential target for pharmacological treatment which would reduce the need for surgical intervention
- Underwriting of high-quality mammography services for low-income women in Chicago
- Continued research towards development of an effective pharmacologic agent that targets and eliminates genetically damaged cells in the ovary, thereby removing potentially malignant ovarian cancer cells and lowering cancer risk
- Utilization of high-throughput screening on ovarian cancer cells cultured in a natural human (i.e. 3D) environment to develop new drugs for ovarian cancer treatment. Two newly identified promising compounds will be tested in pre-clinical animal models with the goal of developing at least one validated drug analog for early clinical testing in ovarian cancer patients
- Development of a timely system for coordinating mammography screening results from diagnosis through follow-up care and treatment for underserved women with the goal of helping to reduce disparity in mortality rates of African-American versus Caucasian breast cancer patients
- Managing specimen repository and database, which collects, stores and provides key information for collaborative cancer research studies focused on prevention and early detection of breast and ovarian cancer
- Utilize innovative nano-architectural technology to detect and identify intracellular changes of cell structure in the gynecologic tract which could signal the presence of ovarian cancer, and lead to development of a viable ovarian cancer screening method
- Continued study of the potential of the protein Exotoxin T to enhance the effectiveness of current breast cancer therapies
- Collaboration with Harvard University on research to identify molecular perturbations that can assist in screening and diagnosing women with epithelial ovarian cancer