

MOCA's research program began in 2001 with \$91,000 in funding and has grown each year. The addition of \$315,000 in grants for 2006 brings the total awards given by MOCA, in just six years, to more than \$1.3 million. Grants are awarded for ovarian cancer research projects conducted in the state of Minnesota that support better treatment, diagnosis and a cure. Findings from MOCA funded grants have been published in peer review journals and presented at conferences throughout the country.

"MOCA plays a special role in supporting ovarian cancer research in Minnesota," said Executive Director Kathleen Gavin, "We bring together survivors, families and other supporters with researchers and research institutions to stimulate research in the state and to ensure that researchers and institutions are responsive to the needs of survivors."

Recommendations for funding are made by a national panel of three experts in gynecologic oncology, two MOCA board members, and two at-large MOCA members. The recommended awards are then voted on by MOCA's Board of Directors.

"MOCA is a leader in supporting innovative research on treatment, early screening and diagnosis of ovarian cancer," said Sherry Salway Black, the Executive Director of the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance, a national consumer-led advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. "MOCA is part of a large, and growing, number of ovarian cancer organizations around the country who raise not only critical research funding but who also raise awareness of ovarian cancer and its symptoms among women, the general public, and the medical community."

Grant award recipients discussed their research projects at MOCA's Annual Meeting on May 9 at the Southdale Library in Edina.

Founded in 1999 by a group of ovarian cancer survivors, **Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MOCA)** funds ovarian cancer research in Minnesota, raises awareness of the disease, and provides support to women with ovarian cancer and their families.

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