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**Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MOCA)
Awards \$375,000
For Ovarian Cancer Research in Minnesota**

Minneapolis -- Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MOCA) has awarded \$375,000 in grants for the following research projects on ovarian cancer.

Carol Lange, Ph.D. **\$90,000**
Associate Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology
Women's Cancer Program, University of MN Cancer Center
***Targeting a Novel Membrane Progesterone Receptor (mb-PR)
Overexpressed in Human Ovarian Cancer***

Viji Shridhar, Ph.D. **\$65,000**
Associate Professor of Medicine
Department of Experimental Pathology
Women's Cancer Program, Mayo Clinic
***Regulation of Hsulf-1 Expression by vHNF(TCF2): A Marker for Ovarian
Clear Cell Carcinoma***

Amy Skubitz, PhD. **\$86,000**
Professor
Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology
University of Minnesota
Ovarian Cancer Biomarker Discovery by Proteomic Techniques

Molly Cade Memorial Research Grant

Jeremy Chien, Ph.D.

\$62,000

Assistant Professor

Department of Experimental Pathology

Mayo Clinic College of Medicine

Genomic, Genetic, and Functional Studies in Ovarian Cancer

William Cliby, M.D.

\$72,000

Associate Professor

Women's Cancer Program, Mayo Clinic

Targeting the Mullerian Inhibiting Substance Receptor for Therapy and Imaging in Ovarian Cancer

MOCA's research program began in 2001 with \$91,000 in funding and has grown each year. The addition of \$375,000 in grants for 2008 brings the total awards given by MOCA, in just eight years, to more than \$2 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 and five at-large MOCA members including one MOCA Board Member. The recommended awards are then voted on by MOCA's Board of Directors.

Grant award recipients will present their research projects at MOCA's Annual Meeting on May 13 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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