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**MINNESOTA OVARIAN CANCER ALLIANCE
AWARDS \$367,710 FOR OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH IN MINNESOTA**

MINNEAPOLIS, (May 31, 2007) – Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (MOCA) has awarded \$365,710 for six research grant projects on ovarian cancer.

The Molly Cade Memorial Research Grant, in the amount of \$25,000, was inaugurated this year in memory of MOCA's co-founder Molly Cade who passed away in 2003 after a courageous battle with the disease, but whose legacy lives on through the organization.

MOCA also awarded one \$25,000 grant as a result of funding received from KARE 11 when the Eleven Who Care program named MOCA the Agency of Distinction.

The grant recipients for the six research projects are as follows:

Molly Cade Memorial Research Award

Kimberly Kalli, Ph.D.

Mayo College of Medicine, Women's Health

Pre-clinical evaluation of a folate peptide vaccine for ovarian cancer

\$58,710 (This amount includes \$33,710 from the general MOCA research funds.)

MOCA's Agency of Distinction- Eleven Who Care Research Grant Award

Melissa Geller, MD

University of Minnesota, Department of Ob-Gyn and Women's Health

Phase II Study of 852A Administered Subcutaneously in Patients with Metastatic Ovarian, Fallopian Tube, Primary Peritoneal Carcinoma

\$25,000

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MOCA's Ovarian Cancer Research Awards

Amy Skubitz, Ph.D

Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology

University of Minnesota

Validation of potential biomarkers for ovarian cancer discovered by DIGE and iTraQ.

\$75,000

Viji Shridhar, Ph.D

Cancer Center and Division of Experimental Pathology, Mayo

Role of HtrA1 in Targeting sCLU Implicated in Chemoresistance

\$57,000

Kah-Whye Peng, Ph.D.

Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology

Pre-clinical Development of Measles Infected Cell Carriers for Ovarian Cancer

\$80,000

Csilla Szabo, Ph.D.

Department of Experimental Pathology, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine

Candidate Gene Approach for Identification of Novel Ovarian Cancer Susceptibility

Genes

\$70,000

MOCA's research program began in 2001 with \$91,000 in funding and has grown each year. The addition of \$365,710 in grants for 2007 brings the total awards given by MOCA, in just seven years, to \$1.7 million. Grants are awarded for ovarian cancer research projects conducted in the state of Minnesota that support early diagnosis, better treatment, 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 "

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

Grant award recipients discussed their research projects at MOCA's Annual Meeting, which was held May 8 at the Southdale Library in Edina.

About Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance

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.