

December 15, 2023

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support and generous donations. It is with great pleasure and pride that I write to share recent news and activities of The Lewin Fund to Fight Women's Cancers.

Our support for the Woman to Woman Program at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City continues. This flagship program, now over 20 years in existence, serves as the model for peer mentoring and support programs for women with gynecologic cancers across the country. The Transportation Fund continues to fill an essential need for patients from all socio-economic backgrounds. Even though we are not dealing with COVID restrictions, many underserved women face transportation challenges. Assisting them with safe transportation to their various appointments means a lot; they are grateful for this necessary support and indicate such in their glowing testimonials.

In addition to the Transportation Fund, we are supporting the Woman to Woman semiannual reunions that not only provide needed companionship but also education from well-renowned speakers. This year, we piloted two new programs: (1) assisting young underserved women with support for fertility sparing treatments and (2) acupuncture to prevent and ameliorate the side effects of cancer treatment. It is heart-warming to help support women in these critical areas. We look forward to building upon these programs in the coming year and supporting similar programs within the New Jersey and tristate communities.

Our research partnership with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston relentlessly expands. Dana-Farber is an international leader in gynecologic oncology research. We completed funding to support uterine carcinoma research under the direction of Joyce Liu, MD, MPH. Her groundbreaking work was featured at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) annual meeting, the first and largest cancer research organization in the world. Data from this critical and necessary work now serves as the foundation for Dana-Farber's application for a Program Project (P01) Grant in endometrial cancer to the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

This builds on our earlier gift to support uterine cancer research conducted by Panos Konstantinopoulos, MD, PhD. Both gifts were made in Mary Lou Ashford's memory.

We have committed a substantial multi-year research grant to continue supporting Dana-Farber's critical work in both endometrial and ovarian cancers. We will update you on the research progress.

We would like to thank the families of Ali Satran and Jamie Williams for their kind and generous support for our work. Both families planned and sponsored events, raising money in loving memory of Ali and Jamie. These funds were matched and sent to Dana-Farber to support critical ovarian and uterine cancer research.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to the Herbert Allen Foundation and the Judith Ehm Foundation for their continued support of our mission and work.

As you may know, uterine cancer is the most common gynecologic malignancy in the United States, with rising cases annually. Unfortunately, mortality is also increasing, especially for underserved and high-risk populations. This disease, like most gynecologic malignancies, is woefully underfunded. Your continued support is greatly appreciated and critical to changing the outcomes for women with these cancers.

We continue to host and participate in educational symposia covering various timely topics on health, wellness, cancer prevention, signs and symptoms of cancer, and state of the art treatment for gynecologic malignancies. In our symposia, guest speakers highlighted the importance of nutrition, exercise, immune boosting activities, and the need to continue all health maintenance procedures. We educated the community through virtual and in-person events and through social media channels. Global data indicates that less than half of women were aware of the signs and symptoms prior to their cancer diagnosis. Nearly half never attended a screening program.

The recent Walk for Women's Cancers was a tremendous success. The caring, joy, and compassionate support expressed from the many participants touched us all. As many of you know, connecting with those going through treatment as well as survivors and their family members inspires powerful responses, and we all felt the love all day long. Being a part of this organization provides us with powerful connections. As Board Members, we do not receive any compensation. We receive hugs and appreciation; for that we are grateful. Our commitment to supporting women with gynecologic cancers and their families provides us with the utmost satisfaction.

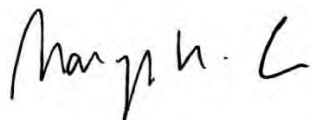
We would like to extend a very special thank you to Andrea Sheridan and our friends at both Bergen County Technical Schools and Bergen Community College who spearheaded our successful Walk for Women's Cancers as well as a local clothing drive. Our first tricky tray was also a huge success. These events exceeded our expectations and helped raise significant funds as well as heighten awareness about women's cancers and cancer prevention.

We will provide more information on upcoming events planned for 2024. Outreach and financial support will continue for women and their underserved families, expanding more services focused on local New Jersey communities and beyond.

One of the things I treasure most about The Lewin Fund is that no matter how large it gets, it remains personal. We make a difference helping women who face daily challenges; we are unique in our approach and our response. We adapt quickly to the needs of our communities.

Your support is greatly appreciated and helps us continue this important mission.

Heartfelt wishes to you and yours.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharyn N. Lewin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "L".

SHARYN N. LEWIN, MD

PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR