

February 18, 2025

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued generosity and support. It is with pride that I write to share updates on The Lewin Fund to Fight Women's Cancers and our impact over the past year.

Our support for the Woman to Woman Program at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City flourishes. This flagship program serves as a national model for peer mentoring and support programs for women with gynecologic cancers. We continue to support the Woman to Woman semiannual reunions, which provide both needed companionship and education from well-renowned speakers. This year, the Woman to Woman team celebrated their 25th Reunion on September 28, 2024, featuring Jaqui Brynn, MS, RN, FNLP, a nationally recognized functional nutritionist and wellness educator. The feedback was, as always, excellent.

The Transportation Fund continues to meet a critical need, ensuring that patients from all socio-economic backgrounds can access essential medical care. Many underserved women face increasing transportation challenges, as various support organizations have reduced service. Your contributions make it possible for these women to reach their medical appointments safely, and their heartfelt testimonials reflect their deep gratitude.

In addition to the Transportation Fund, we piloted three new programs: (1) assisting young, underserved women with support for fertility sparing treatments, (2) providing house cleaning grants, and (3) increasing mental health resources including individual psychosocial support and counseling. It is heartwarming to help support women in these critical areas. Looking ahead, we are committed to strengthening these programs and supporting similar initiatives within the New Jersey and tri-state communities. We are proud to announce our new patient fund at Holy Name Medical Center, which will provide much-needed support for transportation and food supply.

Our research partnership with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston continues to exponentially grow. Dana-Farber is an international leader in gynecologic oncology research, and, last year, we completed funding for groundbreaking research on uterine carcinoma support led by Joyce Liu, MD, MPH. Her 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 served as the foundation for Dana-Farber's application for a Program Project (P01) Grant in endometrial cancer to the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Dr. Liu has made key advances in understanding defects in DNA repair and the vulnerabilities to novel targeted therapies in certain high-risk forms of aggressive uterine cancers.

Additionally, we are supporting an important clinical trial and translational component regarding an antibody-drug conjugate targeting the HER2 receptor that carries a topoisomerase 1-inhibiting payload in HER2-expressing solid tumors. This vital work, led by Elizabeth Lee, MD, aims to improve targeted therapies and brings new hope to patients whose cancers express this receptor. This work is at the forefront of clinical trial and translational research in oncology today.

As you may know, uterine cancer is the most common gynecologic malignancy in the United States, with incidence and mortality rates rising – especially among underserved and high-risk populations. Despite its prevalence, uterine cancer remains woefully underfunded. Your continued support has been critical to advancing research and improving outcomes for women affected by this disease.

We remain dedicated to education and awareness, hosting and participating in numerous events focused 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 routine health maintenance. Through virtual and in-person events, as well as social media outreach, we have educated the community. Alarming, global data indicates that fewer than half of women recognize the signs and symptoms of gynecologic cancers before diagnosis, and nearly 50% have never attended a screening program. Your support allows us to bridge this knowledge gap and empower women with life-saving information.

Our 5th Annual Walk for Women's Cancers was a tremendous success, raising \$92,000 to support our initiatives. The caring, joy, and compassionate support expressed from the many participants touched us all. Connecting with those undergoing treatment and celebrating survivors inspires a tremendous amount of hope and strength. As Board Members, we receive no compensation – our greatest rewards are the hugs, appreciation, and the satisfaction of knowing we are making a tangible difference.

As we continue into 2025, we look forward to expanding our outreach, support programs, and educational initiatives, with a particular focus on underserved communities in New Jersey and beyond. Our first ever Tricky Tray fundraiser will be on March 6, 2025, at Bergen Community College. The Lewin Fund is also honored to be the beneficiary of the 8th Annual Roast and Toast Charity Event, and we are looking forward to our 6th Annual Walk for Women's Cancers on October 5, 2025!

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