

December 15, 2017

Dear Friends of The Lewin Fund,

It is with great pleasure that we update you on the Fund's activities this past year. The Fund is growing and strengthening each and every day. We are laser focused on the three pillars of our Mission: Education and Prevention, Quality of Life Improvement, and Research. As many of you know, the world of cancer is complex, and those affected need a myriad of support to achieve and maintain a strong quality of life. At the same time, knowledge of this complex disease is expanding and discoveries are often exciting. New drug therapies and tailored treatments are being developed as researchers identify specific genes that impact disease and improve treatment. Thus, we are ever hopeful, but also cautious. We appreciate the enormous challenges of this disease.

### **Education and Prevention**

"Knowledge is Power." This year The Lewin Fund supported several events designed to educate, inform, and update its audience on the latest advances in early detection and treatment. We honor the memory of Mary Lou Ashford with a focus on endometrial cancer. The JCC event on November 12th offered information on prevention and sought to increase awareness of warning signs and early symptoms. A panel of experts armed the audience with facts regarding what to look for and what to ask health care providers regarding any changes, especially in the post-menopausal years. This presentation included lifestyle habits that support optimum health: diet, exercise, and maintaining a healthy body weight. The role of hereditary factors was shared, and participants had the opportunity to take a genetics quiz designed by Myriad Genetics. Over 100 participants attended the free JCC event and feedback was outstanding. Information on gynecologic cancers was also provided. Ovarian cancer, often referred to as the Silent Killer, was emphasized.

The "Tell 10 Women" event held on April 30th—organized by Maureen Mack in honor of her daughter, Laura Mack, an ovarian cancer survivor—was attended by over 100 women. The power of this event involves ten women each telling ten women the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer. As there is no specific screening test for this disease, women must be well informed and advocate for their own health. This event provided tools essential for participation in personal health care.

### **Quality of Life and Support**

Once a cancer patient completes treatment, a support system is essential for optimal quality of life. The Lewin Fund, through its collaboration with the Woman to Woman Program, provides this support. Two reunions were held in 2017. Both were well attended and well received. A number of attendees commented that the peer-to-peer support enabled them to maintain a positive outlook.

We established a transportation fund with Woman to Woman at Mt. Sinai to provide transportation for underserved women to get to their chemotherapy appointments. This funding is a lifeline for women with stretched financial resources. Mt. Sinai social workers diligently monitor the program and a minimum of paperwork is required.

The Bold Brothers and Sisters Program—support for teens and young adults with a mother or grandmother with cancer—trains mentors to provide peer-to-peer support. Dealing with school, financial issues, and trying to navigate the healthcare system, this support is a lifeline for the young people it serves. This groundbreaking program underscores the need to expand similar services to multiple locations.

### **Scientific Research**

The research we are supporting at Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center is advancing the knowledge of genes related to a specific type of ovarian cancer. Currently, over 90 tissue samples have been sequenced with the intent of targeting specific drugs to treat cancer.

### **We Need Your On-going Support**

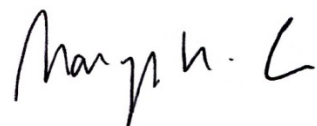
Increased funding to support additional research in gynecologic cancers is a major goal of the Fund. Early screenings that detect changes before symptoms appear are essential. Targeted therapies are advancing the field, yet there is much to do. Advances do not happen quickly, but we must maintain the momentum we now have.

Our website has been updated and reflects the Fund's current activities. We are proud that no individual receives a salary for the work they do for the Fund. Since our inception we have raised more than we have spent and thus can continue to support the programs that have been making a real difference to participants.

As this year is rapidly ending, we thank you and ask for your continued support. With the changing political climate, you may want to consider donating before the end of 2017. Your donations are supporting individuals and programs that we can confidently state are making a true difference.

Warm wishes to you and yours for this holiday season and throughout the New Year.

With best personal regards,

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