



The Ovarian Cancer Control Initiative *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

The Ovarian Cancer National Alliance (OCNA) calls upon Congress to provide \$10 million in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education (LHHS) Appropriations measure to support the Ovarian Cancer Control Initiative (OCCI), housed at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Additional funding for the OCCI will help increase early detection of ovarian cancer, improve treatment practices for women with ovarian cancer, and enhance survivorship of those women.

OCCI: Improving Early Detection and Saving Women's Lives

Since there are currently no effective screening tools for ovarian cancer, the OCCI focuses on increasing early detection, improving symptom awareness among women and health care providers, and improving treatment and clinical practice. With its extensive network of cancer registries and access to health professionals, the CDC leverages its resources and proves to be the optimal agency to undertake such work. The OCCI supports a wide-variety of critical projects that work to enhance survivorship for ovarian cancer, including:

- The development of the *General Practitioners' Awareness and Adherence to Ovarian Cancer Screening Guidelines*;
- Evaluation of physicians' self-reported ovarian cancer screening and testing practices, measurement of physician awareness of published guidelines for routine ovarian cancer screening, and assessment of physicians' adherence to published guidelines on ovarian cancer screening to inform future efforts to improve health professional awareness of the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer;
- Efforts regarding risk screening and risk perception for women at high risk for ovarian cancer;
- Initiatives to improve clinical practices in the follow-up of ovarian masses;
- Research into the relationship between symptoms and time-to-diagnosis; and
- Tracking both incidence and surgical interventions of ovarian cancer.

Ovarian Cancer Has a Devastating Impact on Women, Families and the Nation

Ovarian cancer will kill more than 15,000 women this year, and due to the lack of an effective early detection test, less than 20 percent of ovarian cancer patients are diagnosed early, when the disease is most treatable. Tragically, the overall death rate from ovarian cancer essentially has remained unchanged over the past twenty years. With more than 21,000 new ovarian cancer diagnoses each year, more must be done to identify this deadly disease at its earliest and most treatable stage.

For more information about ovarian cancer and OCNA's public policy program, please contact Cara Tenenbaum, Vice President of Policy and External Affairs (ctenenbaum@ovariancancer.org, 202/331-1332, ext. 300).