

Hope, Health & Awareness

A newsletter published by the Women's Cancer Awareness Group

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR GYN CANCER AWARENESS

HOPE AWARD

The First Annual WCAG Hope Award was presented to Gayle McKenna at our Taste for Life Celebration in San Francisco on September 17th.

Gayle is an outstanding example of how to be an effective advocate. As president of the Ovarian Cancer Coalition of Greater CA Gayle is the heart of the Ovarian Cancer Run which brought together 2,200 people this year! She is a 17 year survivor who is always willing to collaborate with other groups. Special thanks to Telik for sponsoring the event and to Gayle for flying up from Los Angeles for the Taste for Life Celebration. Congratulations Gayle!

OCNA CONFERENCE

The 7th Annual Ovarian Cancer National Alliance conference was a great success! Over 200 survivors and advocates from

across the nation flew to Atlanta to hear topics including: Integrative Medicine, Talking with Children about Cancer, Understanding Statistics, Power Foods, Genetics, Navigating Insurance Coverage, Palliative Care, Sexuality Issues and much more. If you would like to have a copy of a handout, please send a request to LHZipp@juno.com or call 707-481-5640.

If you are interested in hearing any of these topics at our Education & Empowerment program, please let us know.



Bethan Powell, MD, Gayle McKenna, Lydia Zipp, Rita Wyrick and Matt Hansen

NEW TARGETED THERAPY IN LATE-STAGE CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT FOR OVARIAN CANCER

Following article by Linda Duska, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital and Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School

An important trend in new cancer drug development is to target treatment specifically to cancer cells. The objective of targeted treatment is to improve the likelihood of successful outcomes while avoiding the serious toxicities of standard chemotherapy.

A novel twist on the targeted approach is now in late stage clinical development in women with advanced ovarian cancer. This approach uses a cancer cell's own defensive machinery to "turn on" the drug while at the same time making the cancer cell more susceptible to treatment. The investigational drug,

TELCYTA, has shown good tolerability and strong evidence of anti-tumor activity in several Phase 2 clinical trials, including trials in women with advanced ovarian cancer whose disease recurred following standard treatments.

We treated several women in one of the Phase 2 trials in which TELCYTA was administered

along with carboplatin to patients whose ovarian cancer had become resistant to carboplatin-based therapy. Preliminary results from this trial we reported at an international gynecologic cancer meeting demonstrated that more than half of patients responded to treatment. This result is particularly exciting because the treatment options for women with platinum-resistant ovarian cancer are few and limited in effectiveness.

Based on this encouraging Phase 2 trial, recruitment is actively ongoing at Harvard Medical School and nationwide for ASSIST-3, a Phase 3 trial that is evaluating the TELCYTA plus carboplatin regimen as second-line treatment for women whose disease has progressed despite first-line treatment with a platinum-based regimen. More information on the ASSIST-3 is available at www.assist-ovarian.com. Results from earlier Phase 3 trials of TELCYTA administered as a single agent in advanced ovarian cancer and non-small cell lung cancer are expected to be available next year.

THIRD ANNUAL FUNDRAISER APRIL 22, 2006

Women's Cancer Awareness Group is proud to announce that our third annual fundraiser will be held on Saturday April 22, 2006 at the Petaluma Women's Club.

The theme of the event is "An Evening in New York" and will include a drawing from all entry tickets sold for a trip for two to New York City (need not be present to win). The prize will include roundtrip airfare, hotel and dinner.

The party will include fabulous food from Chef Cindy Race of Four Star Chefs, door prizes and a terrific silent auction.

The cost for the event is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. 100% of the proceeds will go to fund our education and outreach programs.

Tickets available in January at the Redwood Health Library, Petaluma

Tickets by Phone: 707-481-5640



OVARIAN CANCER SYMPTOMS

- ◆ Abdominal bloating, pressure, or discomfort
- ◆ Indigestion, gas, constipation, or frequent urination.
- ◆ Abnormal bleeding
- ◆ Unexplained weight loss or gain
- ◆ Unusual fatigue
- ◆ Shortness of breath

Take Action...

if any symptoms last more than 2 - 3 weeks. Experts suggest a combination pelvic/rectal exam, CA 125 blood test, and a transvaginal sonogram.

EDUCATION & EMPOWERMENT EVENT CALENDAR

Sonoma County
 Tuesday December 6, 2005
 320 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma
 12:00 - 1:30
 WCAG Holiday Potluck

Wednesday January 25, 2005
 Cancer Center Library
 3555 Roundbarn Circle - Santa Rosa
 12:00 - 1:00
 "Sexuality Issues for Survivors"
 Presented by: Bethan Powell, MC UCSF

RSVP: 707-849-4781

Solano County
 Monday December 5, 2005
 611 Village Drive, Suisun
 12:00 - 1:30
 WCAG Holiday Potluck
 Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

RSVP: 707-481-5640

SAVE THE DATE
4/22/06

WCAG 3rd Annual Fundraiser
 For Tickets Call: 707-481-5640



The Gynecologic Cancer Foundation is pleased to present:
FREE Telephone Education Workshop on
CA 125 Levels and What They Mean For Your Treatment
DATE: Friday, December 16, 2005
TIME: 2:00 - 3:00 Pacific Time



Women's Cancer Awareness Group
 5055 Business Center Dr., #108 PMB 136
 Fairfield, CA 94534
 707-481-5640

THANK YOU TELIK!

Our friends at Telik, Inc. have given us a generous donation which will pay for the printing of our Resource Brochure (available in January). The brochure was researched and designed by a group of 12 advocates and survivors and includes online resources as well as telephone hotline numbers. If you would like a copy of this new brochure, please mail a self addressed stamped envelope to:
 Resource Brochure
 5055 Business Center Drive #108, PMB 136
 Fairfield, CA 94534

EDUCATION & EMPOWERMENT 1.25.06

SEXUALITY ISSUES FOR SURVIVORS
 Mark your calendars for January 25, 2006 WCAG in collaboration with the Cancer Center Library in Santa Rosa will be hosting a

WCAG AWARENESS QUILT

We are seeking designers to help create our WCAG awareness quilt. We will send you a 12 x 12 square that you can design as you wish. Your square creation will be put together with eight other designs to honor and remember women affected by gynecologic cancer. When the quilt is completed it will be displayed at hospitals, cancer centers and health fairs to promote hope and awareness. Please contact Lydia Zipp at: 707-481-5640 or LHZipp@juno.com

special presentation for cancer survivors about Sexuality Issues. The program will be presented by Bethan Powell, MD - UCSF. Please make a reservation at least three days in advance. 707-522-6883

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Women's Cancer Awareness Group is proud to offer a variety of volunteer opportunities. We currently need volunteers to help with the New York, NY fundraiser on April 22, 2006 and with our monthly Education & Empowerment program. Please let us know if you are interested in any of the opportunities listed in the next column.

Maile Forbert - Volunteer Coordinator:
 Phone: 707-642-6530
 E-mail: mmm4bear@yahoo.com

- New York, NY Party
- * Ticket Sales
 - * Set Up
 - * Kitchen Angels
 - * Silent Auction
 - * Clean Up Crew



- Education & Empowerment
- * Mailings
 - * Set Up
 - * Welcome Table
 - * Clean Up Crew
 - * Cookie Committee

Easy Pumpkin Muffins: 1 Box of Spice Cake Mix, 1 small can of pumpkin. Mix together and bake as directed. Delicious and low fat!

SAVE THE DATE

2006
Ovarian Cancer Survivors Course

Saturday, January 21, 2006

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Registration
 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Course

Moores UCSD Cancer Center
 Lee and Frank Goldberg Auditorium
 3855 Health Sciences Drive • La Jolla, CA 92093

A FREE Course for all ovarian cancer survivors, friends, family members and others who are interested in hearing from the leading U.S. experts in ovarian cancer research. These experts will share new information about ovarian cancer, and time for questions and answers will be provided. The course brochure with registration will be distributed shortly.

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In Partnership with



Raising awareness,
 one conversation at a time.