

News Release
Ovations for the Cure
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OVATIONS FOR THE CURE COMMITS \$250,000 TO OVARIAN CANCER DESENSITIZATION PROGRAM AT BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

Natick, Mass. – April 18, 2007 – Ovations for the Cure today announced the designation of the Ovations for the Cure of Ovarian Cancer Desensitization Program Fund at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

The Desensitization Program, established in 1998 and directed by Dr. Mariana Castells, an allergist and researcher at Brigham and Women's Hospital, was developed as a life-saving process for patients who have allergic reactions to their chemotherapy treatment. The process, called rapid desensitization, involves delivering such minute infusions of the drug that it appears to fly under the immune system's radar. Once desensitized, patients can tolerate medications, like chemotherapy agents, that once caused adverse drug reactions. With limited drugs available for primary and recurrent ovarian cancer, rapid desensitization is a critical process that allows patients to receive the life-saving chemotherapy drugs they require.

Patricia Franchi Flaherty, the founder of Ovations for the Cure, is one such patient. Diagnosed with ovarian cancer eight years ago, Flaherty developed an allergy to her chemotherapy agent, carboplatin, shortly after initial treatment. Dr. Castells began the desensitization process with Flaherty, allowing her to continue to receive treatments. Today, Flaherty is an eight-year cancer survivor and the longest surviving ovarian cancer patient undergoing treatment via the desensitization process.

"I know first hand how critical the desensitization process is for cancer patients who are unable to tolerate their treatments," said Flaherty. "It is because of the incredible accomplishments of Dr. Castells' program that Ovations for the Cure has committed this financial gift to its continued success."

The Ovations donation will be used to provide dedicated space and personnel for ovarian cancer patient treatment at Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and to support the research efforts of the Desensitization Program.

About Ovations for the Cure

The Ovations for the Cure Foundation, a 501 (c) 3 not-for profit organization, is dedicated to the relentless pursuit of a cure for ovarian cancer in two critical ways: first by proliferating broad-spectrum awareness of ovarian cancer risk factors and its subtle warning signs; and second, through the continued support of new and ongoing ovarian cancer research and treatment initiatives. For more information about Ovations, please visit www.ovationsforthecure.org.

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