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DONOR OF THE DAY

Donor of the Day: Susheel Kirpalani Donates \$100,000 to Help Ovarian-Cancer Researchers Collaborate

Goal Is to Find Early-Detection and Prevention Protocol

By *Melanie Grayce West*

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Tina L. Brozman was a well-known attorney, mentor and judge who at one time served as the chief judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. She was a wife and mother.

Rita M. Kirpalani was born in Mumbai, India, and moved to Queens in the 1960s. She had an inviting personality, made friends with everyone, hosted Thanksgiving dinners and loved all sweets. She lived on Long Island and raised two sons.

Ms. Brozman died in 2007 and Mrs. Kirpalani died in 2005. Both women succumbed to ovarian cancer and both were diagnosed at a late stage, when there are fewer available treatments.

Finding an early and effective screening test for ovarian cancer is the mission of Tina's Wish, a New York-based nonprofit founded by Ms. Brozman's friends and family.



Susheel Kirpalani

With a gift of \$100,000 to Tina's Wish, Susheel Kirpalani is funding a consortium that will gather doctors and researchers from five institutions for the purpose of finding an early-detection and prevention protocol for ovarian cancer. The consortium will be named in memory of his mother, Rita.

Consortium members include the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, University of Pennsylvania Ovarian Cancer Research Center and Yale School of Medicine/Yale Cancer Center.

Mr. Kirpalani, 44 years old, is the chairman of the bankruptcy and restructuring group at New York's Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP. He knew Ms. Brozman as a practicing attorney and admired how she mentored young lawyers.

"I think she was one of the smartest people I ever met," he said.

Mr. Kirpalani has been involved with Tina's Wish for many years but was approached last year to step up his involvement. After meeting with some of the doctors involved in the research funded by Tina's Wish, he said, an idea emerged to gather the doctors to work in a more collaborative way, leaving aside "credit and personal achievement," said Mr. Kirpalani. From there, the idea for a consortium was born.

According to the National Cancer Institute, about 14,000 women die in the U.S. from ovarian cancer annually.

Mrs. Kirpalani was diagnosed at stage 4, the most advanced.

"I didn't really have long with her in the last several months," said Mr. Kirpalani. "She had a real miserable fight with chemotherapy and, ultimately, recognized that there was no hope."

The night before his mother died, Mr. Kirpalani decided to stay with her at the hospice center. He spent the night reading to her the kind of religious stories she read to him as a child.

"I had the true blessing of my life of being the last person to see her alive," he said

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