Ovarian cancer early detection gets a boost from Tina's Wish

Tina's Wish®
For the Early Detection of Ovarian Cancer
Know Early. Know Hope.®

Tina's Wish has continued its support of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through a $200,000 grant to advance early detection of ovarian cancer research led by Dipanjan Chowdhury, PhD. Through a previous Tina's Wish award, Chowdhury found that microRNA signatures in blood serum were successful in identifying malignant ovarian carcinomas, one of the most lethal gynecologic cancers. With this renewed funding, his team will analyze whether these signatures can help determine risk levels in individuals with a genetic predisposition to the disease.

There are currently 11 inherited genes that identify those at high risk of ovarian cancer, but these are present in just 20 percent of cases. Within this population, there is no way to determine who is at higher risk of developing the disease. Chowdhury hopes his serum microRNA signatures will be effective in identifying risk levels and detecting early disease in women who have a family history of ovarian cancer but may not have genetic markers.

"Many women with ovarian cancer are diagnosed late, with a bleak prognosis," says Amy Kyle, Esq., board chair of Tina's Wish, Dana-Farber Trustee, and partner at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius. "Dr. Chowdhury's efforts to effectively determine risk levels and detect early disease are vital in improving diagnoses and outcomes, which is our top priority."

Tina's Wish was founded in memory of the Honorable Tina Brozman, who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer at a late stage. Tina's Wish also recently funded Dana-Farber's Jarrod Marto, PhD, who is working to identify a biomarker for early stage cancers. ∎

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— AMY KYLE, Esq., Tina's Wish