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Impact

Dana-Farber.org and JimmyFund.org

THANKING THOSE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

The Jimmy Fund

Tina's Wish drives research to detect ovarian cancer early

Almost 80% of women with ovarian cancer are diagnosed at an advanced stage, when there is a diminished chance for a cure, according to the American Cancer Society. A test to detect ovarian cancer early could transform the outlook for this disease in the same way the Pap smear test has made cervical cancer almost completely preventable and treatable.

"Pap smears reveal proteins and biomarkers that are being produced by precancerous and cancerous cells in the cervix," said Sarah Hill, MD, PhD, a researcher in Dana-Farber's Susan F. Smith Center for Women's Cancers. "Our goal is to identify biomarkers generated by cells in the ovaries or the fallopian tube to achieve the same level of prevention in ovarian cancer."

To that end, Hill is creating organoids—three-dimensional structures derived from human tissue—to study the genesis of ovarian cancer and identify tell-tale biomarkers that signal the transition to malignancy.

Tina's Wish, a foundation solely dedicated to the prevention and early detection of ovarian cancer, is supporting Hill's innovative research with a grant of $150,000.

"We are excited to invest in Dr. Hill's novel research using organoids, which can greatly accelerate the pace of discovery," said Amy Kyle, Esq., board chair of Tina's Wish, Dana-Farber Trustee, and partner at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius."It is our hope that in the near future, any woman will be able to receive a routine test in her doctor's office that can detect ovarian cancer at its earliest stage or before it ever develops, allowing her to live a long, productive life."

Tina's Wish was founded in 2008 in memory of the Honorable Tina Brozman, a former chief judge of the SDNY U.S. Bankruptcy Court, who died two years after she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. ■

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