
The revelations from research on the cancer genome have led to significant advances in the treatment of many types of cancer in the past ~ 20 years. And, finally, in December of last year, ovarian cancer patients also benefitted. Olaparib (Lynparza) and bevacizumab (Avastin) were approved for the treatment of recurrent ovarian cancer patients who are BRCA1/2 germline mutation carriers and platinum-resistant, respectively.

We hope that the approval of these drugs harkens a new era for ovarian cancer patients and that drug development successes will come rapidly and not take another 20 years!

Clarity's Founder, Dr. Laura Shawver, describes how Clarity may assist in the identification of these next effective drugs and expedite the path to their approval in her provocative contribution to this Patient Newsletter. This article includes a summary of a recently-published case study, featuring one of Clarity's patients, named Nadejda, battling an uncommon ovarian cancer, who received an unconventional treatment based on her tumor profile.

Dr. Deborah Zajchowski
Clarity's Scientific Director

MOLECULAR PROFILING AS A NECESSITY FOR UNCOMMON OVARIAN CANCERS

by Laura Shawver, PhD

Clarity's Founder and 9-year Ovarian Cancer Survivor

In 1998, Herceptin was approved for women with breast cancer whose tumors have extra copies of the Her2/ERBB2 gene and since that time, there have been more than 25 drugs approved to treat cancers with specific genetic alterations. These so called targeted drugs have changed the lives of many people with cancer. For example, lung cancer is now treated based on the tissue type (called histology) that it resembles and also the underlying molecular alteration that is predicted to be driving cancer growth.

Ovarian cancers can be more than five different histology types (for example , high grade serous, low grade serous, clear cell, endometrioid, mucinous) and the molecular changes that are found in them mirror those found in other cancers. In spite of this complexity, there is typically one front-line therapy (platinum + taxane doublet) that is administered to all patients with advanced stage ovarian cancer, regardless of her cancer's histology.

While more than 70% of patients diagnosed with high grade serous ovarian cancer (the most common type) have good responses to platinum-based treatment, it has been established that this standard treatment is not as effective against other histologies such as clear cell and mucinous and carcinosarcoma of the ovary. For example, only 11% of clear cell ovarian tumors respond well to platinum-based treatment.

[Click here](#) to continue reading.

I am forever grateful to Clarity Foundation for showing me the way to personalized medicine. Because of the tests they ordered for tumor profiling, I am still alive today.

From the patient service team to Deb, the scientist, who spent hours explaining the results from the tests and keeps following up on my well being, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

- Nadejda M.

DR. LAURA SHAWVER TO BE FEATURED IN NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL EVENT

Support Connection, Inc. will be hosting a Toll-Free National Teleconference for Women with Ovarian Cancer on Thursday, Sept. 17, from 8-9pm Eastern.

In addition to offering educational information, the teleconference format enables women living with ovarian cancer to make connections with and gain support from other survivors, regardless of where they live.

The presentation will address issues pertaining to women with ovarian cancer who are diagnosed at stage 3 or 4, and those dealing with a recurrence.



Speaker:
Laura Shawver, PhD

[LEARN MORE](#)

WHAT EVERYONE'S READING

- [*Generic Heart Medication Shown to Prolong Ovarian Cancer Patients' Survival*](#) - MD Anderson Cancer Center (August 23, 2015)
 - [*Recurrent Ovarian Cancer Patients May Have Hope*](#) - Harvard Gazette (July 27, 2015)
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SUPPORT WHEEL TO SURVIVE SAN FRANCISCO

Show your support for Clarity by participating in Be the Difference Foundation's Wheel to Survive indoor cycling event November 2.

[Click here](#) for more.



Wheel to Survive
presented by **be the difference foundation**

November 1, 2015
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Bay Club Redwood Shores

Ride to be the difference in the fight against ovarian cancer!

