



SLOCA

St. Louis Ovarian Cancer Awareness

# TEALTALK

SUMMER/FALL 2018

## SLOCA'S SPECTACULAR 2018 GALA AFFAIR NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN!

On April 21st, **2018 SLOCA** patrons gathered in the Grand Lobby of the William D. Purser Center on the campus of Logan University, for an exhilarating evening of cocktails, fine dining, entertainment, celebration and an auction. Together they demonstrated their commitment to SLOCA's mission of impacting ovarian cancer survivorship by raising awareness, supporting survivors and funding research - and 100% of the evening's proceeds support these efforts. This year's Living Out Loud Gala and Auction net proceeds exceeded \$175,000.

Rene Knott, co-anchor on KSDK's Today in St. Louis, was an energetic Master of Ceremonies and Auctioneer. Some of the live auction items included "Louie" the Cavapoo puppy and a seven day Carnival Cruise for two including airfare. Patrons enjoyed the Kendra Scott jewelry pulls and bidding on an extensive collection of silent auction items. The guests' willingness to give overflowed during the Fund-a-Need portion of the evening.

Saint Louis University's only all-female a cappella group, Beyond All Reason, made a surprise appearance and entertained the audience with their rich, full sound.

And Butler's Pantry Catering served an exquisite meal.

Randallynn Vasel, this year's survivor speaker, shared her poignant story of being a 36-year-old single mother of two young children and surviving ovarian cancer in 2017. Her story was inspirational and extremely moving. She now has founded Kick Ovarian Cancer, a not-for-profit organization which helps build a sense of community for survivors.

Erin Sullivan was presented with this year's Teal Spirit award for her work organizing Teal Toes for SLOCA for the past five years. Teal Toes raises money to support SLOCA's mission while allowing participants to slow down, enjoy tasty food and beverages, a silent auction, raffle and be pampered with a pedicure. Over \$6,000 was raised in 2017.

Joanne Henderson, an 11-year ovarian cancer survivor, received the Volunteer Impact award marking her countless hours of volunteer work for SLOCA, her work as a volunteer SLOCA Ambassador for Dr. Kevin Easley and Dr. Karuna Murry and for her leadership serving as a past SLOCA board member.

Anindya Dey, PhD, Research Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, thanked SLOCA for the \$65,000 grant he received funded by SLOCA through the Foundation for Women's Cancer. The overall goal of Dr. Dey and his colleagues is to develop new therapeutic strategies to effectively treat advanced

*(Story continues on the next page)*



Elise Robben and Louie



Nancy Larson Vomund,  
Rodney and Sandi Tolliver



Erin and Susan Sullivan





Pam Martin and Phyllis Kelly



Rene Knott and Kathleen Radcliffe



Lisa Cannon Bearden and Cindy Becker



Sandra Brown, Barb Schnaare,  
Joanne Henderson and Joan Johns

(2018 GALA Continued)

chemotherapy-resistant cancers, making a difference in the lives of patients affected by these incurable diseases.

Many thanks to our sponsors! Myriad was the presenting sponsor. Other sponsors included World Wide Technology, TESARO, FamiliesROC, Ameren Missouri, Nidec Motor Corporation, Emerson, Maritz Travel, Graybar, Stifel, Mercy, Edward Jones, Spellman Brady & Company, Siteman Cancer Center, St. Luke's Hospital, Lewis Rice, J.W. Terrill, Mannen Financial Group, Merck, SLUCare, Anheuser-Busch, Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits, Fox Family Foundation, Genentech and Edgar & Elm.

And a big shout out to this year's planning committee and co-chairs, Cindy Becker and Lisa Cannon Bearden, who helped make the Gala an outstanding success!

Lisa and Cindy, summed up the evening, "Working together was fun - we made a great team. The evening couldn't have been better due to the amazing staff, volunteers and an enthusiastic and generous crowd. Rene Knott was a vivacious MC who led the guests to donate the impressive amount they did! Randalynn's inspirational speech was touching motivating everyone to be all they can be! We all share the same love and drive to promote SLOCA's mission of impacting ovarian cancer survivorship, finding a cure and supporting survivors. It was an amazing evening. Now we need to top it next year!"

Please mark your calendar for next year's Gala on April 13, 2019 on the campus of Logan University in the Grand Lobby of the William D. Purser Center.

## SLOCA RECOGNIZED AT THE **SOCIETY OF GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY (SGO)** ANNUAL MEETING ON WOMEN'S CANCER

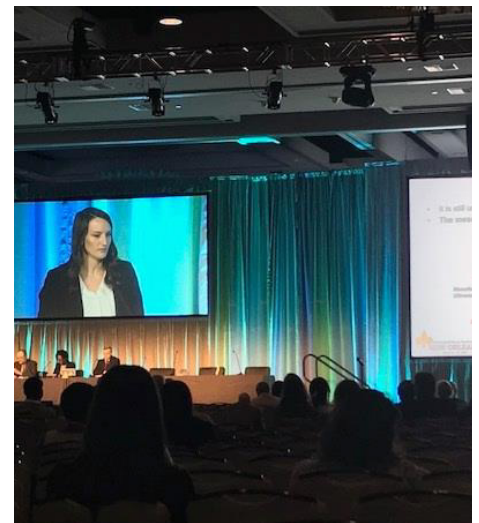
The Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO) Annual Meeting on Women's Cancer brings together the finest in the specialty of gynecologic oncology. They share the most up-to-date research and latest practice innovations in the treatment of gynecologic cancers.

In March, Susan Robben, SLOCA's Executive Director, attended this year's four-day annual meeting, held in New Orleans, where SLOCA was recognized as one of the Foundation for Women's Cancer (FWC) grant donors.

The bulk of the FWC's grants are awarded to young investigators - individuals just beginning their journey to become physician-scientists. In most cases, this is their first funded research project. These individuals are critical to advancing science and providing improved options and outcomes for women diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer.

One such grant funded by SLOCA was awarded to, Molly Greenwade, MD of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Center for Reproductive Health Sciences. Dr. Greenwade presented her research findings at the annual meeting.

SLOCA has proudly funded FWC research grants since 2005, awarding over \$364,000 to ten researchers, with the goal of mentoring and accelerating the success of young investigative scientists. Your donation to SLOCA helps fund this vital research!



Dr. Molly Greenwade, Susan Robben,  
Dr. Kathryn Fuh and Dr. Andrea Hagemann



# OCTOBER 14TH FAMILIESROC RUN FOR OVARIAN CANCER 5K AND ONE-MILE RUN/WALK

Presented by  
**TESARO**



Lace up your running shoes and join over 1,500 participants at the 12th annual FamiliesROC Run for Ovarian Cancer 5k and One-Mile Run/Walk to raise funds for SLOCA's ongoing awareness programs and crucial ovarian cancer research! This is the largest gathering devoted to ovarian cancer awareness in our community. Over the years, the event has raised more than \$325,000 to support research in the hope that one day there will be a world without ovarian cancer.

The Jorgensen family started the race in 2007 in honor of their wife and mother, Brenda, as she waged her personal fight against ovarian cancer. Brenda lost her fight with the disease in 2011; however, the race has continued each year in her memory, bringing family and friends together to rally around the women battling ovarian cancer, and raising awareness of the early warning signs. All proceeds donated fund ovarian cancer research and support SLOCA's ongoing awareness programs.

Event registration includes a T-shirt for all participants, as well as snacks and beverages. The event is family-friendly and will include entertainment by the School of Rock House Band, the Bubble Bus, the Photo Bus photo booth, appearances by Fredbird and Louie and much more!

Join us at **Soldier's Memorial, Downtown St. Louis**  
(1315 Chestnut, Street, St. Louis, MO 63103)

## Registration now open!

Sign up today to participate - You can join as an individual or create a team.

Register at [sloca.org](http://sloca.org) or call the SLOCA office at **(314)-966-7562**. Participants can register for a timed 5k run/walk, a 1-mile fun run/walk or even "ROC It from Home" if they cannot make the event.

**1-Mile Registration: \$30** (Increases to \$35 Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018)

**5K Registration: \$35** (Increases to \$40 Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018)

### Packet Pick-Up:

Big River Running Co  
13969 Manchester Rd  
10am-7pm - Fri 10/12  
10am-6pm - Sat 10/13

### Race Day Schedule:

7:00 am - Registration  
8:30 am - Survivor Ceremony  
8:40 am - National Anthem  
8:45 am - Race Start  
9:30 am - Awards Ceremony  
10:00 am - Raffle Drawing

It takes many volunteers to host the Race! Volunteer needs include: packet pick-up, race registration, race setup, course marshals, water stop management, help at food tables, help at the start and finish line, and race clean-up. Please call the SLOCA office or visit our website at [sloca.org](http://sloca.org) to get involved!

Sponsorships and in-kind donations are still needed. For more information please contact, Susan Robben, Executive Director at the SLOCA office to discuss these opportunities:

**Teal Sponsor:** \$5,000  
**Gold Sponsor:** \$2,500

**Silver Sponsor:** \$1,000  
**Bronze Sponsor:** \$500

In-kind donations on our wish list include: box truck, bottled water, sports drinks, individual bags of chips, breakfast bars, kegs of beer, donuts and bananas

**Please join us for the 12th annual FamiliesROC Run for Ovarian Cancer 5k and 1-Mile Run/Walk presented by TESARO!**





# "TEAL ON WHEELS"

A PEDAL THE CAUSE CYCLING TEAM

**Teal on Wheels** is a collaboration of patients, survivors, doctors, nurses, research assistants, caregivers, families and friends, all with the same goals in mind – bringing awareness to gynecological cancers, living the best life we can and raising money to support world-class cancer research at Siteman Cancer Center, all in hopes of creating a world without cancer!

Andrea R. Hagemann, MD, is Team Captain of "Teal on Wheels." Dr. Hagemann is a clinically active gynecologic oncologist at the Siteman Cancer Center in St. Louis, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Washington University School of Medicine. One of her patients, Randalynn Vassel, is Co-captain of "Teal on Wheels." Randalynn is an ovarian cancer survivor and SLOCA board member who started "KickOvarianCancer.com." She has dedicated herself to spreading the word about this cancer and how it can be overcome. SLOCA reached out to them and this is what they had to say about the "Teal on Wheels" cycling team riding in this year's Pedal the Cause.

## Q. What is the history behind the team?

**A. Randalynn** – In 2014, Dr. David Mutch, SLOCA's Medical Advisor and Washington University Gynecology Division Director founded "Teal on Wheels." He was the first Team Captain. Dr. Hagemann has taken over the last couple of years. This year is the first year they've had not only a co-captain, but an ovarian cancer survivor.

**A. Dr. Hagemann** – There is such amazing collective energy in our clinic, from our patients, nurses, physicians, pharmacists, medical assistants... you name it. We wanted to take that energy and create a team to show we are stronger than cancer will ever be when we work together.

## Q. Who makes up the team?

**A. Randalynn** – You will find members of the gynecological oncology team, cancer survivors who are either currently in remission or still receiving treatment, their family members and friends along with their children and grandchildren.

**A. Dr. Hagemann** – We also have several OB/GYN residents and fellows, pharmacists, nutritionists, nurses, physicians, along with Susan Robben, SLOCA's Executive Director. Everyone is welcome!

## Q. How much money has the team raised?

**A. Randalynn** – At this point in time we've raised almost \$18,000. Our fundraising goal this year is \$40,000, with a push goal of \$60,000. We'd obviously love to hit the \$60,000 mark, for sure!



Dr. Andrea Hagemann and Randalynn Vassel

## Q. Who benefits?

**A. Randalynn** – All funds from Pedal the Cause go directly to Siteman and Siteman Kids, using 100% of public donations to fund world-class cancer research.

## Q. Why is participating on the team important?

**A. Randalynn** – For me, it's important for a few reasons. First, it raises awareness for ovarian cancer. The most important reason, to me, is that by participating as a rider in the 100 mile portion less than 15 months since my last chemo treatment means I'm fighting back and not letting an ovarian cancer diagnosis define me, giving other women in similar situations hope. I'm also a firm believer in health and fitness playing a key role in the survivorship life, which hopefully helps to keep recurrences at bay.

**A. Dr. Hagemann** – I think PTC embodies the best of cancer prevention, and also survivorship. Everyone who comes out on a bike to ride, spin or cheer, is doing something active to prevent cancer. A healthy lifestyle is so important in cancer prevention, and in thriving through treatment and beyond. When we all come together and cheer each other on through this, the energy is amazing and it carries forward to everything we do back at the clinic, the operating room and the lab. We are all more empowered in whatever role we play.

I love seeing the kids ride – it's so great to see the energy they bring! I watch them ride and think how they will be our next great researchers!

## Q. What makes the team unique?

**A. Randalynn** – I think the number of women still receiving treatment, riding alongside their oncologists, is a pretty amazing thing. Ovarian cancer isn't for the weak. It's hard, day-in and day-out, so to see survivors out there, literally pedaling on the pavement – it's pretty impressive!

**A. Dr. Hagemann** – I agree, gynecologic cancers hit us in a very personal, intimate way. Everyone who has seen someone affected by this is motivated to ride a little harder, do a little more to make a difference. And it does make a difference!



# GRIEVING FAMILY TEAMS UP WITH LOCAL IRISH PUB TO **"PAY IT FORWARD"**

Fallon's Bar & Grill, an Irish Pub in Olivette, Missouri, wanted to "pay it forward" for their 9th anniversary celebration by giving 9% of their proceeds for one day to a local charity.

Emily Christman Rohman had just tragically lost her Mother, Kathy or "Kade," to ovarian cancer after a grueling seven-year battle. In this time of deep grief, and the subsequent healing process, Emily wanted to honor her mother and hopefully ebb the pain from her loss. Emily came across a Facebook post looking for a beneficiary for Fallon's charity event, so she submitted SLOCA's name in honor of her mom.

During her fight against ovarian cancer, Kade was adamant about SLOCA's mission regarding the importance of awareness and early detection of the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer - which can often be very difficult to detect. In her honor, Kade's friends and family formed #teamkade (approximately 150 members) and participated in SLOCA's annual Family Run for Ovarian Cancer for six consecutive years. Emily saw the opportunity with Fallon's Bar & Grill as a neat little package to spread awareness and honor her mom. She was delighted when SLOCA was selected to be the charity for Fallon's "pay it forward" event.

Kade had always been proud of her Irish heritage, and Fallon's was the perfect personification of that heritage.

Lexi, the event coordinator, and the staff at Fallon's worked closely with Emily to make the evening special. In addition to delicious food and drinks, they had live music, a silent auction, a raffle and "Painting with a Purpose" with an experienced artist who helped the guests create their own personal masterpieces to take home. The event raised \$3,325 for SLOCA to continue its mission!

This year Emily, her family and #teamkade will continue to honor Kade by again running in SLOCA's annual Family Run for Ovarian Cancer, and celebrating at Fallon's after the run.



## A **BIG SHOUT OUT** TO SAM'S CLUB IN DES PERES!

We'd like to thank our neighbor, Sam's Club in Des Peres, for declaring SLOCA as the charity of the month this past April and collecting over \$750.00 from their patrons and the Sam's Club associates.

Sam's Club generosity has also supported SLOCA by giving us a \$500 grant and making an in-kind donation of bananas and drinking water, valued at \$150.00, for SLOCA's Families Run for Ovarian Cancer 5K and one-mile Run/Walk last year.

Way to go, Sam's!!!





# SLOCA HAPPENINGS FOR SEPTEMBER NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



## Sept. 4th Cookie Baking for Survivors

Put on your apron and join us Sept. 4th at the Dierbergs Cooking School kitchen in Des Peres to bake Teal Ribbon cookies. These scrumptious treats will be given to St. Louis ovarian cancer patients and their caregivers at local gynecologic oncologists' offices. Please visit [sloca.org](http://sloca.org) to sign up!

## Sept. 11th Teal Toes

Pamper yourself for a good cause! Join us Sept. 11th at Nail Pro in Des Peres for a pedicure (teal color not required), tasty treats, beverages, silent auction and raffle. A portion of the day's proceeds benefits SLOCA. Reserve your pedicure appointment online at [SLOCA.org](http://SLOCA.org).



Ashley Pierce, Brandy Smith,  
Demi Pierce and Sharon Smith



Fredbird, Roger Bearden and Ryan Sheriff

## Sept. 23rd Ovarian Cancer: Survive and Shine Course

Join St. Louis area oncologists, genetic, nutrition and mental health experts for a variety of educational sessions geared specifically to ovarian cancer survivors and their caregivers.

Jonna Tamases, cancer survivor, is the keynote speaker, performing her award winning solo performance called, **"Jonna's Body, Please Hold,"** an emotionally riveting, yet comical look at Jonna's own cancer journey. Experience the wonderment and zest for life in every moment of this strikingly original, hilarious, and incredibly uplifting show. Jonna has created a fun, totally new performance that challenges despair.

SLOCA is partnering with **Cancer Support Community** and **Sharsheret Supports St. Louis** to bring you this incredible experience. Join us for a day of inspiration. This event is FREE for ovarian cancer survivors and caregivers with complimentary breakfast and lunch at the Jewish Community Center in Creve Coeur. Registration will open at 8:30 am, with the event beginning at 9 am and concluding at 1:00 pm. For more information and to make a reservation, visit [sloca.org](http://sloca.org). Reservations are required.

## Sept. 14th SLOCA Night at Busch Stadium

Wear your teal and join us when the Cards take on the Dodgers, 7:15pm on Sept. 14th at Busch Stadium. Tickets are only \$35 per person (face value \$63) and include a FREE jumbo hot dog and soda. Seats are located in the lower right field box sections - Ovarian cancer survivors are free. Tickets will go fast so order yours online today at [sloca.org](http://sloca.org) or call the SLOCA office at (314) 966-7562. Let's turn the ballpark teal!





# THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS WERE MADE TO SLOCA IN THE SPRING & SUMMER OF 2018.



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Flynn's Wedding





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## MISSION STATEMENT

St. Louis Ovarian Cancer Awareness is committed to impacting ovarian cancer survivorship by promoting awareness of early warning signs and standards of care, funding ovarian cancer research, and supporting survivors.

## SEND DONATIONS

SLOCA is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. Donations may be made at **[www.sloca.org/donate](http://www.sloca.org/donate)** or by **mailing a check to 12015 Manchester Road, Suite 130, Des Peres, MO 63131**. Please note if the donation is in memory or honor of someone.

## STAY IN TOUCH

We publish Teal Talk twice a year and send e-mail blasts intermittently. We hope you'll share your e-mail address so that we can stay in touch; go to [www.sloca.org/newsletters](http://www.sloca.org/newsletters).

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