

FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2007 INITIAL GRANTS

The Cronin Foundation announced the award of its first three grants for 2007. They went to three organizations focusing on services to patients with ovarian cancer:

CANCER CONNECTION, FLORENCE MA

The Foundation awarded a grant of \$3500 to fund facilitation for its Ovarian Cancer Support Group; registration fees for participants in Camp-Mak-a-Dream in Montana; and airline fees for travel to Montana for three participants. The Foundation has supported this group for several years and Board members have come to know its facilitator and are impressed with her skills and commitment. One of the women who has participated in the camp wrote of her experience:

Those of us linked through the camp, and through Cancer Connection's Ovarian support group, know that life is truly easier for cancer fighters when we work together and support each other than it would be if we each tried to go it alone. I have been able to join these two groups because of a gift to Cancer Connection from the M. Patricia Cronin Foundation, and have found every moment memorable . . . I am so grateful to the [Cronin Foundation] for supporting Cancer Connection and the invaluable work it does for ovarian cancer survivors. It has made me more than a better patient; it has made me a better person.

BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER, BOSTON, MA

The Foundation renewed a grant for the Mind-Body Support Group for Ovarian Cancer Patients. Last year, a grant of \$2,000 provided seed funding to launch this support group, which served 11 ovarian cancer patients and their family members. The new grant will fund monthly lectures; provide for massage therapy and acupuncture at monthly meetings; send four patients to Camp Mak-a-Dream in Montana (air fare will be covered by other private donations); and rent a van to take group participants to a Cancer Survivor weekend in Stowe, VT, in May 2008, for a free retreat. The grant also covers parking fees and cab vouchers for some group participants (approximately 50% of BMC's patients are uninsured or on Medicaid). BMC has impressed the committee with its other activities, including connecting with Elizabeth Grady for complementary skin and make-up advice for patients at a support group meeting.

DANA-FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE, BOSTON, MA

The Foundation provided a \$2500 contribution toward a monthly support group for gynecological cancers, Special Topics Education Series. Dana-Farber staff members run a well-attended support group for an average of 6-8 women. This year, the staff will organize an educational series on topics including sexuality, single with cancer, nutrition and self-care and depression and anxiety. These groups are run by social workers and the group members fill out evaluations at the end of the sessions. The social workers and care coordinators aim to provide a safe and comfortable atmosphere in which women can express thoughts and feelings.