

## The GOG Foundation, Inc. History of Philanthropy



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**The GOG Foundation, Inc.** (GOG Foundation) is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization based in the United States with the mission of transforming the standard of care in gynecologic cancers. Over the course of 50 years, the GOG Foundation has evolved to become a leader among clinical trial groups studying gynecologic cancer. The Gynecologic Oncology Group, the earliest version of today's GOG Foundation, was founded in 1970 and housed within the American College of Obstetricians Gynecologists. It later became an independent not-for-profit with the formation of a 501(c)(3), providing a corporate home for NCI-sponsored cooperative group clinical trials. Since then, the GOG Foundation developed into a large organization with a robust clinical trial portfolio that enjoyed extensive support from the gynecologic cancer research community. The GOG Foundation is committed to maintaining the highest standards in clinical trial development, execution, analysis, and distribution of results and promotes awareness for gynecologic malignancies through communication, education, and clinical trials.

**The New Horizons Gynecologic Cancer Research Fund** (New Horizons) is the philanthropic arm for the GOG Foundation. Donations allow the GOG Foundation to enrich efforts to develop and deliver essential research tools needed to further clinical trial development and translational research programs. Donations from individuals directly fund the GOG educational and research initiatives. Funding initiatives will allow stronger scientific research and developments, with the hopes of finding a cure and helping transform the standard of care in gynecologic oncology. Funding the New Horizons research fund allows much needed resources to effectively work towards the prevention and treatment of gynecologic malignancies, accessible research funding, ability to men-

tor New Investigators through fellowship research awards, the opportunity to raise public awareness through education and research and translational research initiatives across the disease committees. Together, we collaborate with our community to find new treatments and more effective prevention while promoting excellence in scientific research in the field of gynecologic malignancies.

Although the legacy Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG), now The GOG Foundation, was consistently funded by a grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI), many worthy research projects are not undertaken due to the lack of adequate financial support. New Horizons was founded in 2002 by Philip Di Saia, MD, as an instrument to facilitate giving. This fund was supported by GOG staff members Jack Kellner and Kathy Shumaker, which created funding opportunities outside of pharmaceutical clinical trials or NCI dedicated trials. Contributions through the New Horizons Gynecologic Cancer Research Fund, which was incorporated in Washington, D.C., was formed to allow funding for important research outside of clinical trials research.

New Horizons was a very active charity arm for the GOG from 2002- 2017, providing opportunities to allow contributions in memory of survivors or loved ones. New Horizon's most active campaigns were the Stepping Out Fund; and an organized 5k race, that took place in Sturgis, Michigan Chasing the Cure with the tag line "One step at a time." Through these charitable organized events, individuals could send in donations that allowed GOG physicians and researchers funding opportunities for important research.



One step  at a time



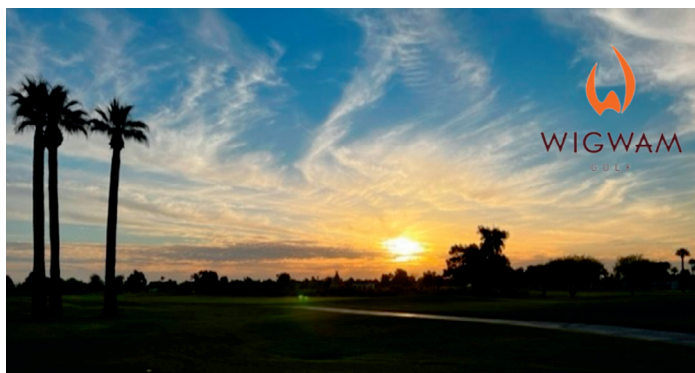
Due to staffing transitions, New Horizons became relatively dormant for a number of years. In 2021, staff restructuring allowed new focus and energy to be put back into the New Horizon's philanthropy opportunities. The GOG staff worked with the Communications Committee to rebrand the New Horizon's logo, look and feel. They created a new webpage dedicated to the New Horizon's philanthropic fund and built the opportunity for individuals to donate on-line, not just via check. Allowing online donations helped attract focus on the opportunity and benefits of cancer care research. The staff also created an Amazon Smile account, allowing New Horizons to benefit every time an individual shops on Amazon.

The GOG Foundation was asked to be the recipient of a major golf tournament, the Wigwam Country Club & Wigwam Women's Golf Association Charity Golf Tournament, benefiting New Horizons. On March 31, 2022, the Wigwam Women's Golf Association (WWGA) kicked off their annual charity golf tournament with an 8am shotgun start on a beautiful Arizona morning. For the 2022 Charity Golf Tournament, the WWGA chose New Horizons to honor a fellow WWGA member that is currently participating in a GOG endometrial clinical trial study. Dressed in peach to celebrate their honoree, the 144 golfers took to the golf course to enjoy a wonderful morning of fun, friendship and celebration. Following the golf tourna-

ment, the participants enjoyed lunch, awards and special guest speaker, Bradley J. Monk, MD, FACOG, FACS, University of Arizona College of Medicine, Creighton University School of Medicine at St. Joseph's Hospital Phoenix, Arizona, Director, Principal Investigator, Community Research Development, HonorHealth Research Institute. Dr. Monk spoke with passion. He shared his experience as a gynecologic oncologist, explaining how donations will allow the GOG to enrich efforts, develop and deliver essential research tools needed, and further clinical trial development and translational research programs. The GOG and the New Horizons Gynecologic Cancer Research Fund expressed our sincere gratitude to the Wigwam Country Club and Wigwam's Women's Golf Association Charity Golf Tournament as the selected charity in 2022. We are incredibly appreciative for the WWGA's generous contributions that will help GOG transform the standard of care in gynecologic oncology.

Additional funding opportunities are under development to fund a tissue biobank to allow The GOG Foundation, Inc. to establish a "biobank" where biospecimens from consenting patients can be collected and stored for molecular analyses and subsequent investigation. This biobank would focus solely on ovarian, fallopian tube and primary peritoneal cancer biospecimens, as these collective diseases reflect a broad unmet medical need. It has become evident that future drug discovery and meaningful advances are going to require a more robust identification of "targetable" and "actionable" alterations, as the paradigm of cancer therapy has evolved from non-specific patient grouping to a more granular approach in care. This is perhaps best evidenced in the evolution of a novel class of drugs targeting specific molecules present on the surface of tumor cells known as "cell surface antigens"; as well as the transformative impact PARP inhibitors have had on the survival of BRCA mutation carriers.

The physician leaders at GOG Foundation believe that investing in the establishment of this biobank will have the greatest chance to impact ovarian cancer treatment in a meaningful way. To ensure that this biobank will be of the highest standards, the GOG Foundation will collaborate with the Biopathology Center (BPC), part of the Abigail Wexner Research Institute (AWRI) at Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) in Columbus, Ohio. The Gynecologic Oncology Group, the earliest version of today's GOG Foundation, has a longstanding relationship with the BPC dating back to the early 1990s. Additionally, many of the sites (for example, hospitals and clinics) participating in GOG Foundation clinical trials have shared this longstanding relationship with the BPC and are most familiar



Wigwam Country Club, site of the Wigwam Country Club and Wigwam Women's Golf Association Charity Golf Tournament, benefiting the New Horizons.

with the processes required for the successful collection and storage of high quality biospecimens and associated clinical data elements. The storage of biospecimens for use in research is called "biobanking." Biospecimens collected for biobanking purposes are collected in a standard way. In addition to the physical biospecimen, patient clinical information is also collected to provide "annotation" of the patient's biospecimen. This annotation may include clinical data elements such as the patient's age, the type of cancer they had, and how they responded to treatment. This high quality, clinically annotated biospecimen are necessary to conduct molecular testing, driving biologic discoveries that can ultimately inform disease prevention, early detection and treatment. Currently, the majority of ovarian cancer therapeutic research is funded by pharmaceutical companies and, therefore, access to

comprehensively annotated and appropriately stored patient biospecimens from such studies is limited. The physician leaders at the GOG Foundation are confident that this biobank will help ensure the preservation of these precious patient sample. Traditionally, in some cases, tumor tissue samples are discarded or are held under the direction of for-profit pharmaceutical companies, restricting access and scientific discovery. Through these additional funding opportunities, the GOG-F is eager to transform this paradigm. In collaboration with the BPC, this funding will allow researchers access to high quality, clinically annotated biospecimens for research. Such research will help catalyze the identification of effective treatment strategies and, in parallel, help answer difficult clinical questions in the ovarian cancer space. There are clear priorities that have emerged in the treatment of patients with ovarian, fallopian tube, and primary peritoneal cancer, and despite significant and meaningful gains, there are large patient populations that continue to battle this aggressive disease. It is our hope that this partnership and biobank will begin to inform future treatment strategies, improve cancer outcomes, and, most importantly, the lives of patients diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

The GOG Foundation will continue to build opportunities within the New Horizons philanthropic arm to help the physician leadership and other individuals fund ways to transform the standard of care in gynecologic oncology.

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