A NEW TEST FOR OVARIAN CANCER

Our new project to find an early diagnosis for this “silent killer”

Wellbeing of Women is funding researchers trialling an innovative technique to find an urgently needed early test for ovarian cancer.

One in 52 women will be diagnosed with the disease, known as “the silent killer” as symptoms normally don’t show until the cancer is at an advanced stage, making it difficult to treat effectively.

70% of women are diagnosed at stages three and four, when the five year survival rates are just 20% and 5%, yet if ovarian cancer is diagnosed at its earliest stage, over 90% of women will survive.

Wellbeing of Women has invested more than £6 million in ovarian cancer research, and whilst advancements have helped the 5-year survival rate double, the number of cases of ovarian cancer have increased by 1/5 in this time.

Current tests often fail to detect the cancer in the early stages and improvements in diagnosis are desperately needed. We are funding two projects. Dr David Jeevan at the University of Birmingham is using the latest computer analytics to detect hormone changes in urine to pick up signs of the disease, having previously detected another cancer in that way.

Dr Garth Funston hopes to improve current blood test screening by comparing the effectiveness of the two existing tests, HE4 and CA125, and also investigating whether combining them would improve their accuracy.

Both projects hope to make early diagnosis of ovarian cancer a reality.
I felt helpless seeing the impact of ovarian cancer on patients. I had to do something...

Our new researcher Dr David Jeevan on trying to find a cure

I have been working in Gynaecology for 9 years and witnessed the terrible and distressing impact of Ovarian Cancer on my patients. Women I have treated, heroically endure extensive surgery and repeated cycles of chemotherapy but it is very disheartening to watch these patients deteriorate despite our best efforts. It led me to ask how this disease can appear to be insidious and then suddenly declare itself – often with a large mass and rampant tumour invasion in the body. But if the disease was picked up early we could change all that and save so many lives.

The statistics are bleak. One in 52 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer and only 43% survive five years. Break the figure down further, those diagnosed at the advanced stages 3 and 4, the five year survival rate falls to just 20% and 5% respectively. Because the early stage of the disease has non-specific symptoms, doctors are disadvantaged in detecting it; 70% of patients are in the aggressive advanced stage at diagnosis.

This makes it the most prolific killer of women amongst gynaec cancers. Dame Sally Davies, the Chief Medical Officer, has specifically called for an improvement into ovarian cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Eileen Cavalier OBE was one of Wellbeing of Women’s most passionate supporters, believing in the power of medical research. A leading figure in the beauty industry, Eileen founded The London College of Beauty Therapy in 1995 – the largest specialist college in the UK for beauty therapists. Her immense dedication was recognised in 2010 with an OBE for her services to Further Education. Eileen also worked tirelessly to raise money and awareness for charitable causes, both via fundraising events at the college and through her own personal capacity.

Having previously beaten advanced ovarian cancer, Wellbeing of Women’s research into gynecological cancers was a cause very close to her heart and she was determined to support innovative research to improve diagnosis and treatment. Right up until the end, Eileen and her whole family were convinced that her positivity, resilience and strength of character would see her overcome the cancer once again. Her daughter Christianne said, “She was such a beacon of strength and positivity, and always taught us that you can achieve anything you put your mind and effort in to”.

Eileen Cavalier OBE
Our recent research has led to two potential new treatments for womb cancer, now in clinical trial. Cases of womb cancer have soared by 65% in the last 40 years, and death rates have jumped by 18% in the last ten years alone.

Finding an effective treatment is one of our priorities and we funded two doctors to trial new drugs, with exciting results. Dr Vanitha Sivalingam has investigated whether diabetes drug Metformin, could be an effective treatment for womb cancer. The work has been a huge success showing it slows womb cancer cell growth and reduces the risk of recurrence. As a result, the team have won a £1.2m grant for full clinical trial of Metformin to treat womb cancer, which will hopefully bring it into clinical use.

Dr Sarah Martin has been looking at repurposing the drug Triamterene, used for high blood pressure, to treat the 30% of womb cancers which do not respond to chemotherapy. She has shown that it can treat a range of tumours, not only womb cancer and hopes to take this to clinical trial.

"Womb cancer is killing more women than ever and we urgently need to find new ways of preventing, screening for, diagnosing and treating womb cancer. Very few funding committees specifically fund womb cancer research but Wellbeing of Women has funded two important studies that offer hope for womb cancer sufferers," said Dr Emma Crosbie, Senior Gynaecological Oncologist (pictured above).
Preterm Birth

- 60,000 preterm babies are born every year - 165 every day in the UK alone
- Preterm birth is the biggest killer of babies and children under 5

Our research was featured in the Daily Mail, article (pictured here).

Nearly 15 million babies are born prematurely worldwide every year. Medical advances mean that babies are surviving at an earlier stage than ever before, yet they are likely to suffer from complex health problems that can result in lifelong disability, including epilepsy, cerebral palsy, breathing or vision problems. The UK has one of the highest rates of preterm birth in Europe, yet research is vastly underfunded.

Every day spent in the womb is vital for a baby’s chance of survival and future health. Wellbeing of Women is prioritising preterm birth as a key focus and in late 2015, set up the Harris-Wellbeing of Women Preterm Birth Centre based at the University of Liverpool as a result of the incredible vision and generosity of Lord and Lady Harris of Peckham.

Led by Professor Zarko Alfirevic and Professor Sue Wray, the Centre’s interconnected research programme aims to improve understanding of the causes of preterm birth and what can be done to prevent it. There is a strong focus on developing personalised treatments. The work the centre carries out will draw upon national and international findings and research and will have worldwide implications.

There have been no new treatments to ease the agony of endometriosis for 50 years. With Prof Ando and Marie Turner first started experiencing extreme pain in her first year at university. It took 7 years of misdiagnoses, doctors’ appointments, hospital visits and surgery before she was given a diagnosis of stage 4 endometriosis. She had adhesions on her left ovary, her bladder and uterus were stuck together. Finally receiving specialist care, Marie says, ‘All it would have taken is just one person to believe me. One person. I’ve lost 7 years to pain.’

Endometriosis is a debilitatingly painful disease where tissue that lines the inside of the uterus grows elsewhere. The cells adhere to organs and each month during the menstrual cycle, these adhesions can become inflamed and cause significant pain. Symptoms can include very painful periods, excessive bleeding, vomiting, fertility issues and chronic pain.

Wellbeing of Women is one of the very few bodies funding research to find an effective new treatment to end the horrific suffering of endometriosis patients.

We joined The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Women’s Health whose report ‘Informed Choice? Giving women control of their healthcare’ is giving a voice to the 1.5 million endometriosis sufferers across the country.
The group surveyed over 2,600 women and found unacceptable treatment of women with endometriosis and fibroids, two of the most common gynaecological conditions. The report highlights the chronic lack of awareness among health professionals and sets out recommendations to bring about change to ensure women can access better diagnosis and treatment.

Chief Executive Tina Weaver says, “Wellbeing of Women has been fighting the corner of the women suffering from this cruel disease. They not only have to deal with crippling pain, but are also made to feel that they are making a fuss about nothing. We’re proud to be supporting several exciting projects which we believe could lead to the first effective new treatments in years. Professor Andrew Horne’s project will investigate anticancer drugs already in use as a new, more effective and non-invasive treatment for endometriosis.”

How can this research help women?

Professor Andrew Horne is heading an exciting research project which could bring about the first effective new treatment for endometriosis in 40 years.

In work funded by our supporters, Prof Horne made the discovery that endometriosis cells behave like cancer cells in the way that they spread and proliferate outside of the womb. In our new research project, he is trialling anticancer drugs to find out whether they are effective in preventing endometriosis and is on the brink of developing the first ever non-surgical and non-hormonal treatment for the disease. This could transform the lives of women with endometriosis worldwide.

Our exciting work was featured in the Daily Mail in May (pictured above).

Professor Andrew Horne will be speaking at our seminar, Endometriosis: The 1 in 10 on Thursday 29 June. See the website for more details: wellbeingofwomen.org.uk
Set on Scotland’s stunning Golf Coast in East Lothian, The Renaissance Club is one of the UK’s most prestigious and exclusive golf clubs. It was a spectacular day of sunshine and fundraising.

Great Yarmouth

Following their AGM on 1 Feb the committee at Great Yarmouth have had a busy start to the year flipping pancakes! Lots of guests supported this new event and everyone greatly enjoyed the Annual Lunch on 16 May. As ever, the event was over-subscribed and hugely popular with local supporters. The guest speaker was local businessman, Bruce Sturrock.

Brighton & Hove

Janet, Irene and Marilyn from the Brighton branch hosted 35 guests at a Dim Sum lunch in April 2017. They are now planning their Country and Vintage Fayre taking place in July.

Cambridge

The very popular Annual Cambridge Lunch was held on 27 February at Marco Pierre White Restaurant. Our Vice-Chairman, Eve Pollard OBE, welcomed guests and guest speaker, Dame Mary Archer DBE, a long term supporter, gave a fascinating insight into her career.

East Riding

Chairman Angie Almy-Phillips is excited to be hosting a Wellbeing of Women Tea Party in early August.

Edinburgh

Annie Morrison and the committee in Edinburgh held their second charity golf day in association with The Renaissance Club on Thursday 11 May.

£60k raised by our branches last year!
Hampshire (Ringwood)
The Ringwood branch are getting set for their Summer Tea Party later this summer season. Read more about hosting your own Tea Party on page 12.

Jersey
This year Jersey celebrated the 25th Anniversary of their wonderful Annual Golf Day, on 2 June! Sylvie Seymour made this a rather special occasion with 20 teams battling it out on the course to win one of the coveted prizes.

Lincoln
Beth Devonald in Lincoln is busy prepping for their Summer Tea Party on Wednesday, 23 June.

Nottingham
Long standing supporters Halimah Khaled and Professor Jim Thornton hosted their 19th Bollywood Ball at the Village Hotel on Saturday 5 March. Friends, family and guests enjoyed a wonderful hot buffet and were entertained by the marvellous R & R Bollywood Band. The fabulous event was rounded up with an auction and raffle raising a tremendous amount.

Thank you Halimah, Professor Jim and Mrs Sue Thornton for all their continued support. Finally, many congratulations to Halimah who is starting a new chapter in her busy life as Mayor of Broxtowe Borough Council. Halimah was honoured with an MBE by the Queen in 2015 in recognition of her services to charity and community relations.

Northern Ireland
In September, the branch members and guests are holding a Ladies Lunch at Glenarm Castle and on 29 October, 9 committee members have signed up to walk the Dublin Marathon.

Sheffield
Angela Scarfe, Chair of the Sheffield Branch was delighted to attend the cheque presentation at the Sheffield Cricket Lovers Society presented by Test Match Umpire, Richard Kettleborough. Angela and everyone at Wellbeing of Women would like to thank the Society for their continued support. The Sheffield Craft Fair & Luncheon was on 12 June, which included a raffle, Salmon and Strawberry lunch and various craft stalls.
PwC have scaled mountains across the globe in pursuit of reaching the highest peaks and fundraising goals for Wellbeing of Women.

This year 2 teams of PwC staff from across the UK, have set off to conquer the mountain tops for Wellbeing of Women. In February the first team trekked to the ‘Roof of Africa’ - Mount Kilimanjaro, and the second reached Everest Base Camp in April raising an incredible total of £50,000. The Everest trekkers updated their daily blog and Geoff Broad, PwC London tells us about their summit success:

An extract from Everest Base Camp Trip: On 10 April, the Intrepid PwC trekkers summited the Everest Base Camp at an altitude of 5,350m.

There was a feeling of elation as we gathered around the collection of prayer flags that mark the entrance to the restricted area of the camp beyond which only summit expedition crew are permitted.

There were mixed emotions across the group including enormous satisfaction and relief that, as a team, we had accomplished the goal we set out to achieve, mixed with sadness for the individuals who had not been able to continue to this point due to the effects of altitude. Tomorrow we will begin our descent from altitude at first light, but for now suffice to say...Wow, Mission Accomplished! Geoff Broad, PwC Base Camp Trekker

“Truth be told, Kili was not on my ‘to do’ list. I am not a hiker, I have never done any outdoor adventure holidays & I have never slept in a tent! This year I created a ‘30 before 30’ list, focussing on overcoming fears & fulfilling dreams, achieving great things & experiences as a result!... How best to fulfill this than climb the highest freestanding peak in the world?!

I am proud to support Wellbeing of Women, both for their work & the fact it taps into my feminist side. I am impressed by their areas of focus, being a doctor’s daughter I believe that health research & education is fundamental to resolving root problems. Further, their medical discoveries will ultimately help women worldwide.”

Swathi Thalinki, Killimanjaro trekker PwC, London
Virgin London Marathon 2017

A huge congratulations to our wonderful marathon runners, who took on the incredible 26.2 mile route through the London landmarks as part of the 2017 Virgin Money London Marathon.

Ten runners competed on behalf of Wellbeing of Women and they raised a combined total of over £30,000 towards our work.

What a fantastic show of dedication and support for our pioneering research to find cures and treatments for women’s reproductive health and childbirth. From all of us, thank you and well done!

To apply for a place for the 2018 marathon please contact: vward@wellbeingofwomen.org.uk for more information.

With thanks to our fantastic runners Patricia Crowley, Matt Bolton and Guy Thorpe-Beeston (pictured front cover) Jennifer Lee (pictured above), Johnny Yu, Bea Churchill, Dr Natalie Suff, Dr Jane Currie, Jia Yin and Professor Andrew Curtain.
Farewell to Vogue’s Alexandra Shulman

After 25 years at the helm, Alexandra announced that she would be stepping down from her role as Editor-in-Chief of British Vogue, sending social media and the fashion world into meltdown! We were delighted to host our first Literary Lunch in February 2017 and hear more from Alexandra and her latest book, Inside Vogue: A Diary of My 100th Year.

Our Vice Chair, Eve Pollard OBE, grilled Alexandra about the demands of her role as she shared some of the highs and lows of preparing for the magazine’s landmark centenary in 2016. We are grateful to Alexandra for giving up her time and to all our guests who helped to raise a record total.

An Audience with Alexandra Shulman

Tuesday 3 October 2017, 12 noon, Holkham Hall, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, NR23 1AB

Join Alexandra Shulman as she talks about her amazing life and career at the helm of Vogue. Held in the stunning 18th century country house, Holkham Hall, this is set to be a fabulous event. For more information contact: Nicky Milner at nickymilner@icloud.com

Record amount raised from our Women’s Lunch

Wellbeing of Women’s Annual Lunch took place on Thursday 2 March, at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, generously sponsored by PwC and hosted by Sky News presenter, Kay Burley.

We were joined by supporters who came together to celebrate our pioneering research. Professor Lesley Regan, Wellbeing of Women’s Vice President and the first female President of RCOG in 64 years, was the keynote speaker. She explained how an early grant from Wellbeing of Women helped shape her remarkable career, resulting in her becoming one of the UK’s leading experts on recurrent miscarriage. Professor Regan’s work has subsequently helped many thousands of couples achieve their dreams of starting a family.

Our doctors spoke about their brilliant research into three very crucial areas of women’s health.

Over £33k raised

Dr David Jeevan spoke of his vital work to develop an early test for ovarian cancer, Dr Alexandra Ridout explained how inflammation and infection can trigger preterm birth, and how her work has already helped pregnant women to delay labour.

Finally, Dr Nicola Tempest whose work is supported by PwC, is studying the role of stem cells in the womb lining to develop new treatments for both womb cancer and endometriosis.

L to R: Dr David Jeevan, Dr Angharad Care, Dr Alexandra Ridout, Prof. Lesley Regan, Dr Nicola Tempest, Sir Victor Blank, our Chairman.
Dates for Your Diary

Endometriosis: The 1 in 10
Two leading endometriosis experts, Prof Andrew Horne and clinical nurse specialist, Cathy Deam will be offering the latest research and medical information for sufferers, whilst registered nutritional therapist, Rebecca Pilkington will be on hand with practical dietary advice to help manage symptoms.

Date: Thursday 29 June, 6-8pm
Tickets: (£30 each) wellbeingofwomen.org.uk
Address: Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1G 0AE

City Christmas Fair
A highlight of the City’s festive calendar boasting amazing stalls filled with luxury items, from exquisite jewellery to delicious food, unique gifts and fabulous stocking fillers – all from fabulous independent retailers.

Date: Monday 4 December
Tickets: £10 each or 3 for £20
Address: Drapers’ Hall, Throgmorton Street, London, EC2Y 8HQ

Forthcoming Events
We have a number of events planned for the Autumn. Please keep an eye on our website to find out more!

To find out more about any of our events please contact Chantelle: cmorgan@wellbeingofwomen.org.uk or phone 020 3697 7000.

Marvellous Midwives
Our International Research Midwife, Lucy November, has been raising funds for us while carrying out her great work in Sierra Leone. Lucy is looking at why so many adolescent mothers are dying during birth and what midwives can do about it. Sierra Leone has the highest maternal mortality rate in the world, particularly for young women under 20. Lucy is developing strategies which will reduce the risks for these young mothers and hopes to set up a mentoring programme to support pregnant teenagers in Freetown.

The Wellbeing of Women Midwifery Research Programme is funded in partnership with The Burdett Trust for Nursing and The Royal College of Midwives. We are extremely grateful for their fantastic contribution to these awards for vital research into improving the practice of midwifery and maternity care for women and their babies worldwide.
Host a Tea Party for Wellbeing of Women

This summer, we at Wellbeing of Women would be delighted if you would host a Summer Tea Party to raise funds for our vital research. It could be a cream tea, coffee and cakes, or even a Rosé wine or Pimms and strawberries drinks reception. We’ve named the event the Summer Tea Party for Wellbeing of Women and hope that our fantastic supporters like you can help.

If you want to focus the event on one of our key areas of research priorities like raising funds for an early test for ovarian cancer, or our great work trying to help prevent the number of babies being born dangerously early, we can provide literature around the subjects. We can also provide you with fundraising ideas for the day and as much help as you need to make your tea party a real success! People can purchase tickets to come, buy cakes on the day, take part in a raffle and even play games like ‘guess the weight of the cake’ and ‘guess the ingredients’.

If this is something you think you would like to organise, simply get in touch with Victoria Ward who will be pleased to give you advice and support before and during your event. You can email her on vward@wellbeingofwomen.org.uk or call on 0203 697 6332.

Become a regular donor today

Become a regular donor today and help us to save lives by finding cures, new treatments and quick and simple diagnostic techniques.

Your small monthly donation is so important because it will build to a significant sum over time, which will allow us to plan ahead. It also gives our expert doctors, scientists and midwives peace of mind in the knowledge that your regular donation will ensure they are able to complete their vital research.

You can support Wellbeing of Women into the future by setting up a Direct Debit today. Simply visit our website at wellbeingofwomen.org.uk and click ‘donate now’ or call us on 0203 697 7000.