

Survivors Teaching Students



Ovarian Cancer Canada presents Survivors Teaching Students

Survivors Teaching Students brings the faces and voices of ovarian cancer survivors into the classrooms of medical students, nursing students, pharmacy students and others to share firsthand experiences of dealing with a devastating diagnosis.

In addition to the psychosocial aspects of coping with a serious disease, students learn about the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer and the experience of the treatment and post-treatment trajectory. **Survivors Teaching Students** presentations are face-to-face; real-life, candid patient narratives are unique teaching tools that compel students to engage with, and retain, information.

Survivors Teaching Students:

- Offered free of charge
- Adaptable to your class schedule
- Suitable for small and large groups
- Not dependant on audio-video technology
- Originally offered to third-year medical students during their obstetrics-gynecological rotation, but now presented to a wide variety of audiences
- Evaluated by researchers from Odette Cancer Centre, Toronto

A typical presentation consists of:

- A brief introduction including the basic facts about ovarian cancer

- Survivors sharing their stories
- An open dialogue between survivors and students

Program History:

Survivors Teaching Students was developed in 2002 by Betty Reiser, an ovarian cancer survivor. It is a signature program of Ovarian Cancer National Alliance, the U.S. sister organization of Ovarian Cancer Canada. With a generous grant from The GlaxoSmithKline Foundation, Ovarian Cancer Canada launched the program in Canada in the fall of 2006.

Survivors Teaching Students has reached 5,000 undergraduate medical students, residents in obstetrics and gynecology programs, undergraduate and post-graduate

nursing students and pharmacy students across Canada.

Testimonies from students after participating in **Survivors Teaching Students** highlight key features of the program:

"Effective way of presenting a difficult subject."

"This was a very useful educational experience, especially because it was different from many other oncology-related presentations we've had."

"Better understanding of how clients need to be supported upon diagnosis and through the disease process."



Faculty members were equally enthusiastic:

"Hearing personal experiences is one of the best known methods of teaching and promoting awareness. Your group has complemented an already innovative curriculum and offered the students the opportunity to further develop their awareness of women's health care. We are thrilled to include your presentation as part of our teaching."

"...the women balanced seriousness with some humour. They also left a big impact..."

Ovarian Cancer Canada offers **Survivors Teaching Students** to medical schools, nursing faculties, pharmacy schools and other health professional education institutions in Canada. Contact OCC to schedule a presentation.