

# RAISE

AWARENESS • EDUCATION • FUNDS • SURVIVORS

SUMMER • 2018

## FROM AN EXPERT

### Vaccination and Testing Turning the Tide in the Effort to End Cervical Cancer



Ritu Salani, MD

*About 13,000 women in this country will be diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2018, and a little more than 4,000 will die from this disease, according to the American Cancer Society.*

*While each of these numbers is down dramatically compared to statistics from 50 years ago, they are “still too high,” according to Ritu Salani, MD, an associate professor in the Division of Gynecologic Oncology of The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center and James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James).*

*Salani is determined to reduce the number of cervical cancer diagnoses and deaths even further through education, vaccination and research. She recently completed the first phase of a clinical trial that shows great promise in treating women whose cervical cancer has returned and would otherwise have very poor prognoses.*

*“Cervical cancer is preventable,” Salani said.*

*January is Cervical Health Awareness Month—an opportunity to share information and education that will help reduce the rate of this form of cancer, which was once one of the most common causes of cancer deaths for American women. That rate declined by almost 70 percent between 1955 and 1992, due in large part to the combination of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination and Pap test.*

*Cervical cancer (the cervix is in the lower, narrow end of the uterus) is almost always caused by the HPV.*

*“Not everyone gets the HPV vaccination, and it’s vital that everyone does,” Salani said. When children—boys and girls—reach the age of 11 or 12, they should all receive two shots of the HPV vaccine six to 12 months apart.*

*continued on page 4*



Notes from TCC Founder and Cancer survivor, Diane Crawford

## FOCUSED

Hello and welcome to our summer edition of RAISE. I hope you have been able to enjoy the season doing things that make you SMILE!

We have so much to smile about at The Crawford Crew Foundation. Our board continues to grow with the addition of David Donaghy. David brings a life-long knack for building relationships and increasing awareness for HPV. We continue to focus on building our organizational structure to support our initiatives and momentum.

In our **From An Expert** article, Dr. Salani shares information about cervical cancer diagnosis, the importance of HPV vaccinations and much more. Thanks to the work of experts like Dr. Salani, there continues to be momentum in the decline of cervical cancer diagnoses and death rates. Now that’s something to smile about!

Our year of growth continues with a volunteer who paved the way for our intern program. Check out our TCC Spotlight to learn more about Chris Saylor and all that he has done for us.

Don’t miss out on any of our fun educational events coming up! Find all the details in the **Things to Plan On** and **What’s Happening with TCC**.

We have so much to smile about this season! TCC is thankful for all your support as we continue to grow this year. Be sure to stay connected with us to be a part of our growth!



SUBSCRIBE!

THE CRAWFORD  
CREW

Pulling together to prevent cervical cancer



## THINGS TO PLAN ON

- **HPV Summit:** Join fellow Public Health and Medical Professionals, Parents and Guardians, Community Leaders, and Cancer Survivors for this **FREE** educational program on **August 3, 2018**.
- **Save Our Sisters 5K:** Our Junior Board is hosting the race again this year on **August 12, 2018** at McNamara Park, Genoa Township. Register today at [thecrawfordcrew.org/5k/registration](http://thecrawfordcrew.org/5k/registration).
- **7th Annual Raise A Racket:** Save the date of **January 19, 2019!** More information on this coming soon.
- **Paint the 'Ville Teal:** We will be continuing our outreach initiative during National Cervical Cancer Awareness month in January 2019. To learn more about this event and to see pictures from last year's, [click here](#).



## TCC SPOTLIGHT CHRIS SAYLOR

VOLUNTEER & JR. BOARD MENTOR



### *How and when did you become involved with The Crawford Crew?*

I was working at a health fair at Otterbein University, which was a requirement for my Public Health major. Diane was there as a vendor representing The Crawford Crew. We met, and she shared her story and told me about TCC. Not too long after, my advisor, Dr. Rob Braun, asked if I would be interested in interviewing for an internship with TCC. I was excited about the opportunity and then became their first intern. Diane and I worked together to create the internship program which continues to evolve to this day. I am very thankful for the experience and the lifelong friend I found in Diane and The Crawford Crew.

### *Tell us about what you specifically do to support TCC?*

I do whatever I can for TCC. I volunteer at Raise A Racket and the Save our Sisters 5K. These events led me to want to do more on a consistent basis. So now I am a volunteer coordinator and I am a Jr. Board mentor.

Both roles are great because I am always meeting new people. I can support our younger volunteers and most importantly I can be part of The Crawford Crew family and impact our communities in a positive way.

### *How is TCC different than other volunteer or charitable organizations?*

This organization is about community, helping raise awareness about Cervical Cancer and HPV and truly making a difference. The energy in this group is mesmerizing. Diane once told me early on that I wasn't allowed to stop volunteering for TCC. Little did she know that the people around her, that are involved with TCC, are so passionate that it consumes you. It is an energy that grows and continues to spread.

### *How can someone help support TCC?*

Reach out to Diane, myself, any TCC member or go to our website [www.thecrawfordcrew.org](http://www.thecrawfordcrew.org). We are always looking for people who want to help. We have several events throughout the year and I promise, if you come to an event, you will be hooked.



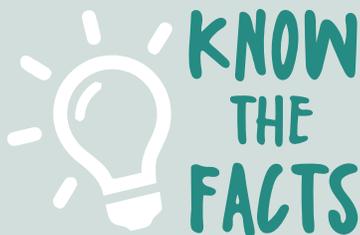
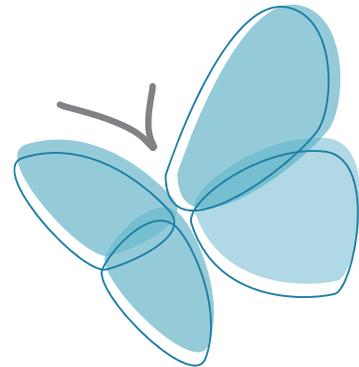
# WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH TCC

## HPV Summit - August 3, 2018

Education is a pillar of our mission that we take very seriously. We strive to show people the importance of education regarding prevention. The more we educate about cancer prevention the more growth we will have in our society of cancer **survivors**.

Over the past year, we have enjoyed working with The Ohio Chapter of The American Cancer Society (ACS) and Mount Carmel Health to create a new program – **The Ohio Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Summit**. This **free** event will bring together people of all ages to learn in a fun interactive way. The Summit will cover current screening guidelines, HPV-related diseases, community interventions, oral health practices and survivor stories. There will be four different speakers and a free complimentary lunch provided during the event. Special thanks to Mount Carmel Health and ACS for partnering with The Crawford Crew on this one-of-a-kind initiative! Please share this event on our Facebook page to help spread the word.

Be sure to review Things to Plan On for more details on the HPV Summit. Also, keep us in mind for your future health, wellness, safety, and prevention programs. We will take our show on the road and adapt the program to fit your audience at no cost to you. The need for education in the area of cancer prevention is imperative to the longevity of our community. It is a great privilege and honor to bring together expert speakers to answer your questions and provide you with this critical information.



### Types of Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer is usually one of the following types, which are named for the type of cell where they develop. The most common types of cervical cancer are:

**Squamous cell carcinoma (cancer):** This is the main type of cervical cancer and is found in 80% to 90% of cases. It develops in the lining of the cervix.

**Adenocarcinoma** develops in gland cells that produce cervical mucus. About 10% to 20% of cervical cancers are adenocarcinomas.

**Mixed carcinoma (cancer):** Occasionally, cervical cancer has features of squamous cell carcinoma and adenocarcinoma.

In rare instances, other types of cancer, such as neuroendocrine (small and large cell cervical cancer), melanoma, sarcoma and lymphoma, are found in the cervix.

Source:

<https://www.mdanderson.org/cancer-types/cervical-cancer/cervical-cancer-facts.html>



**EACH DAY**  
in the United States,

**33** WOMEN  
are diagnosed  
with HPV-related  
**CERVICAL CANCER.**



## FROM AN EXPERT *continued from page 1*

HPV can cause cancers of the cervix, vagina and vulva in women; cancers of the penis in men; and cancers of the anus and the back of the throat, including the base of the tongue and tonsils (oropharynx), in both women and men, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This is why the vaccination is so important. About 80 million Americans are currently infected with HPV, and another 14 million people, including teens, become infected every year.

The Pap test detects pre-cancerous lesions in the cervix that can easily be removed, or cervical cancer in the early stages when it is most curable.

“The problem is access to care; a lot of women don’t receive the Pap test,” Salani said, adding that another problem is the frequency of false-negative results, “or a misinterpretation of the test results or inappropriate management and treatment of the test results.”

Prevention and early diagnosis are important because approximately 35 percent of the women diagnosed and treated for cervical cancer will develop “a recurrent or persistent disease,” Salani said. “The prognosis is they’ll only have 18 months to 24 months.”

Research is another key to beating cervical cancer, and Salani and the OSUCCC – James are part of a recently completed phase 1 clinical trial that utilized a more targeted treatment for patients who experience a recurrence. “Chemotherapy has been the recommended treatment, but there’s limited success as the cancer often finds a way to grow,” Salani said.

To help the chemotherapy do its job more effectively, this new clinical trial also treated patients with a PARP inhibitor. PARP is an enzyme found in cells that has many functions, including the repair of DNA damage. By inhibiting—or blocking—the PARP in the cervical cancer cells from doing their job, “the cancer cells can’t repair themselves and they will die,” Salani said.

This clinical trial was a national effort organized by the Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG) Foundation, an independent and international non-profit organization, of which Salani is a member.

“We had 29 patients with evaluable disease on study and we had a 75-percent clinical benefit rate, which exceeds the current standards,” Salani said.

The next step is to find funding for a larger, phase 2 clinical trial.

Salani is optimistic that the incidence and death rate from cervical cancer will continue to decline. Reaching this goal motivates her.

“What drives me is my patients and their families—that’s why I do this” she said. “We’re making an impact on this disease and we’re on the cusp of some big breakthroughs.”

Source:

<https://cancer.osu.edu/blog/vaccination-and-testing-turning-the-tide-in-the-effort-to-end-cervical-cancer>.



## RAISE YOUR VOICE

Donate and make a difference  
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OUTREACH/EDUCATION

RESEARCH



SUBSCRIBE!

OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE MONEY AND POUR IT INTO EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS FOR CERVICAL CANCER AND OTHER GYNECOLOGICAL CANCERS.

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