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## **TGEN RESEARCH STUDY TO BEGIN DURING NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

*Anne Rita Monahan Foundation Expedites TGen's Study to Combat Ovarian Cancer  
Foundation Plans Fundraisers to Combat the Disease Through Research*

**PHOENIX — Sept. 15, 2008** — As part of September's National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, the Anne Rita Monahan Foundation (ARM) is planning two fundraising events that will help speed a new research project at the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen):

- 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, at Bentley Projects, a contemporary art gallery at 215 E. Grant St., two blocks south and west of the Chase Field ballpark in downtown Phoenix. This public event will feature inspirational photos of Valley women fighting ovarian cancer, including Anne Rita Monahan, who launched her non-profit foundation in 2007 to promote awareness and fund research into this deadly disease.
- 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9, at Duck & Decanter, a restaurant at 1651 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. This public event will feature wine tasting, food and raffles.

In addition, Hothouse Botanicals, a Chandler firm that sells natural and organic aromatherapy bath and body products, will donate 25 percent of profits from September sales of its signature Body Butter to the ARM Foundation.

ARM, which calls on women to "ARM Yourself Against Ovarian Cancer," partnered in February with TGen to raise funds for an ovarian cancer research project set to start this month.

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**ARM FIGHTS OVARIAN CANCER WITH RESEARCH**

“We are working on a robust test that will predict whether a patient’s ovarian cancer will be sensitive or resistant to chemotherapy at the time of diagnosis,” said Dr. Heather Cunliffe, head of the Breast and Ovarian Cancer Research Unit at TGen. “The Anne Rita Monahan Foundation’s support has allowed us to expedite the design of the study and accelerate its implementation, from a typical nine-month-to-one-year timeframe, down to just three months.”

As part of the study, TGEN will work with local hospitals during the next two years to collect 100 patient specimens of ovarian cancer, which causes more deaths than any other cancer of the female reproductive system.

The ARM Foundation has raised \$15,000, and plans to raise an additional \$85,000 this year to fund the TGen study.

“I am a living reason for why this research is so critical,” said Anne Monahan, founder and president of ARM. “I want this research done right now so that other women will have a good chance at early detection and this disease can be caught and stopped early.”

Monahan waged her battle against this unyielding disease in 2001 when she was diagnosed with an advanced stage of ovarian cancer on her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. After a 17-month remission, she was told the disease had reoccurred and would continue to reoccur for the rest of her life.

Fighting her way through the physical, emotional and financial burdens of this deadly disease, Monahan decided that launching her own foundation would help put a face and a reality on this disease. Through her work, she hopes women – working with their doctors and specialists – will take charge of their health and know their bodies well enough to be vigilant against this disease.

Symptoms of ovarian cancer can include: bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, and urgent or frequent urination. Women experiencing these symptoms for more than two weeks are encouraged to see a gynecologist.

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**ARM FIGHTS OVARIAN CANCER WITH RESEARCH**

***About the Anne Rita Monahan Foundation***

*The Anne Rita Monahan Foundation is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, established Sept. 1, 2007. The Foundation's aim is to create awareness of the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer in order to encourage early detection and decrease cases of misdiagnosis. In addition, the Foundation raises funds to aid in finding a reliable screening test for this disease. For more information on the ARM Foundation and its upcoming fundraisers, or for information about volunteering or contributing to this important cause, please visit [www.anneritamonahan.org](http://www.anneritamonahan.org) or call 602-264-5539.*

***About TGen***

*The Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the performance of groundbreaking research with life changing results. Research at TGen is focused on developing earlier diagnostics and smarter treatments for diseases such as cancer, neurological disorders and diabetes. TGen is on the cutting edge of translational research where investigators are able to unravel the genetic components of common and complex diseases. Working with collaborators in the scientific and medical communities, TGen believes it can make a substantial contribution to the efficiency and effectiveness of the translational process. TGen's vision is of a world where an understanding of genomic variation can be rapidly translated to the diagnosis and treatment of disease in a manner tailored to individual patients.*

***About Hothouse Botanicals***

*Visit Hothouse Botanicals at 4939 W. Ray Road, Suite 4217, or at [www.bothousebotanicals.com](http://www.bothousebotanicals.com) or call (480) 993-2309.*

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