

One Diagnosis, Millions Affected:

The Impacts and Inspirations of Ovarian Cancer



Cate Le,
Junior at Huntington Beach High School



Who I am:

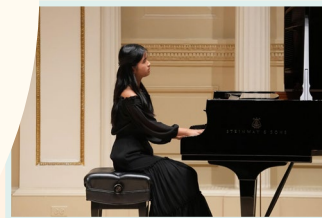
Cate Le



Junior at Huntington Beach High School:

- Advanced delegate in Model United Nations
- Co-President of Science Olympiad
- Captain of the Varsity Tennis Team
- Member of NHS

Pianist of 11 years



Founder of SMILE Music:
Sharing Music to Inspire,
Lead and Empower



Former fellow of:

- Dr. Fox Pathways to Stem Cell Research
- UCI GATI BEAM
- COSMOS: Tissue and Tumor Biology
- Akbari Neurocritical Care Lab

5th leading cause of death in women

Develops in lining of ovary, in germ cells,
or metastasizes towards the region

Most often caught in later stages due
to indistinguishable symptoms

Hereditary risk factors, BRCA1 and
BRCA2, identified

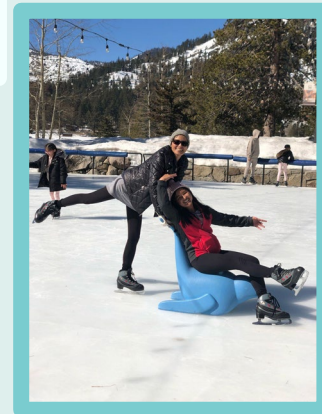
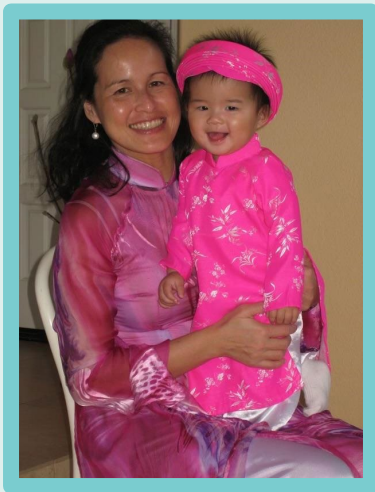
Emerging targeted treatments:

Monoclonal antibodies, immune checkpoint
inhibitors, PARP Inhibitors, anti-angiogenic regimens



September:
Ovarian Cancer
Awareness Month

My mom: Cathy Vo



Stage 3 epithelial ovarian cancer



- **Diagnosis** : 4/ 21/ 20
- **Hereditary testing**:
 - BRCA Negative and HRD positive
- **Neoadjuvant chemotherapy** -> tumor debulking surgery
- **Adjuvant chemotherapy**, platinum sensitive
- **Remission**
 - **PARP Inhibitor** (Niraparib) as a preventative to delay recurrence
- **Recurrence**: 10 months later
- **2nd Line Chemotherapy**, platinum sensitive
- **OC develops platinum resistance** -> 3rd, 4th, 5th Line chemotherapies
- **Clinical Trials?**



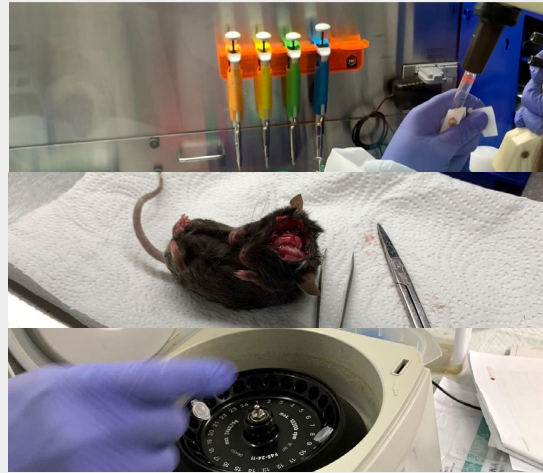
my journey:

1. Involvement in biomedical research
2. Establishment of SMILE Music

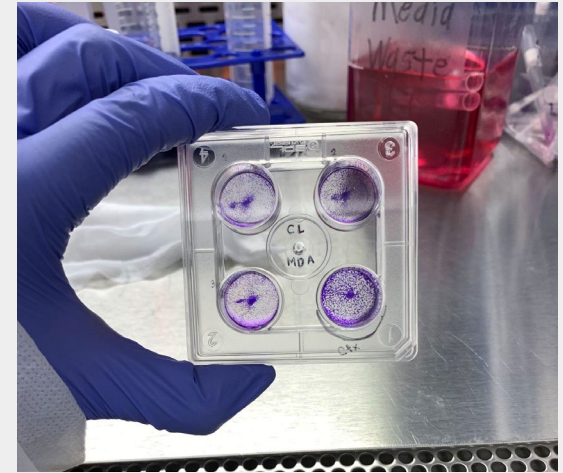
Summer of 2022



Lectures on the application of stem cell research in upcoming therapies



Learning in -vitro cell culture lab techniques (pipetting, reprogramming hiPSCs isolating neural stem cells, etc.)



Conducting migration staining assay on cancer cell line ECM and effects on metastasis

SMILE Music: ♡

Sharing Music to Inspire, Lead, and Empower





**First SMILE Piano
Benefit Recital :**
May 28, 2023 ~
\$2500



The UCI Cancer Research Institute



UCI GATI BEAM: The Akbari Lab

(Summer 2023)

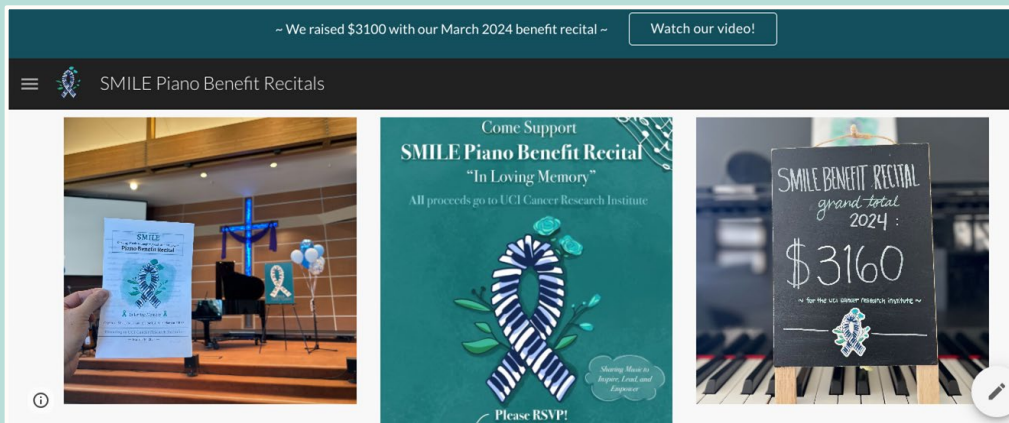




My Mom: 1967 - 2023



SMILE Music (2022): 2023 - present

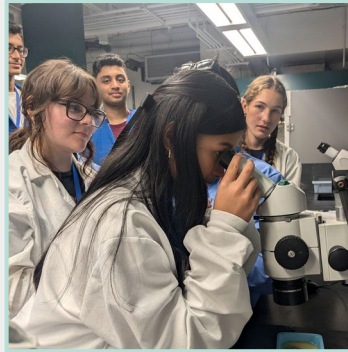


2nd Annual SMILE Benefit Recital: March 16, 2024 ~ \$3160



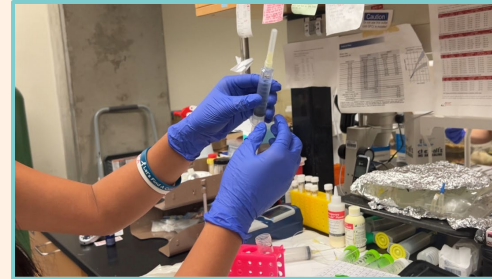
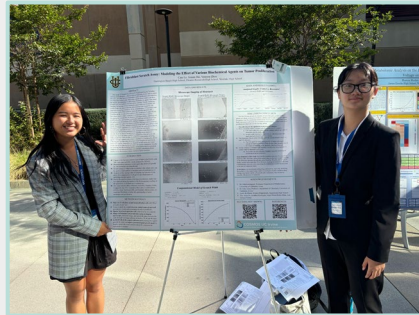
Summer 2024

UCI COSMOS: Tissue and Tumor Biology



Akbari Lab:

Undergraduate Fellowship (in-vivo)



WE'RE BACK IN BUSINESS

thank you for your time

Cate Le
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