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PRESS RELEASE
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FORCE Announces 2018 Spirit of Empowerment Awards Recipients

*Acknowledging Pioneers who Foster Change in
Hereditary Breast, Ovarian and Related Cancers*

Tampa, FL (August 1, 2018) -- Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE), the nation's only nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting hereditary breast, ovarian and related cancers, is pleased announce the recipients of its 2018 Spirit of Empowerment Awards. The awards recognize leaders in the community who, in collaboration with FORCE, have made significant contributions to research, advocacy, clinical care, education, awareness, and/or support of those impacted by hereditary cancer. The awards will be presented on October 20, 2018 at the 11th annual Joining FORCEs Conference in San Diego, CA.

"Through the Spirit of Empowerment Awards, FORCE acknowledges extraordinary people and organizations whose actions improve the lives of individuals and families affected by hereditary breast, ovarian and other cancers—including men, women, survivors and previvors," stated Sue Friedman, FORCE's Executive Director.

The 2018 Spirit of Empowerment honorees are:

- **Research: Dr. Susan Domchek** – Susan Domchek, MD is Basser Professor in Oncology at the University of Pennsylvania and serves as Director of the Basser Center for BRCA at the Abramson Cancer Center. Her work focuses on the genetic evaluation and medical management of individuals with inherited risk factors for cancer. Dr. Domchek is particularly interested in developing new cancer therapies, such as PARP inhibitors, for those with genetic risk factors. An elected member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation, Dr. Domchek is also a member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. She has authored more than 250 articles in scholarly journals and serves on a number of editorial review boards, including the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, as well as on the Scientific Advisory Board for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and FORCE.
- **Research: Dr. Mary-Claire King, PhD** – Dr. Mary-Claire King received her BA cum laude in Mathematics from Carleton College. While she began her PhD in Statistics at the University of California at Berkeley, she soon switched to Genetics and turned her attention to breast cancer. Over the past 40 years, Dr. King's passion for genetics has changed the way the world thinks about hereditary cancer. She was the first to show that in some families, susceptibility to





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breast cancer is inherited as a result of mutations in a gene she named BRCA1. She also pioneered the use of genetic tools to support global human-rights efforts. In addition to her continuing work on hereditary cancers, her research interests include the genetic bases of schizophrenia and the genetic underpinnings of disorders such as autism in children. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including the National Medal of Science and the prestigious Lasker~Koshland Special Achievement Award in Medical Science. She is currently an American Cancer Society Professor at the University of Washington.

- **Individual Commitment: Dave and Jessie Bushman** – Ever since Dave Bushman learned that he carries a BRCA1 genetic mutation, FORCE has been an important part of his family’s life. His mother died from breast and ovarian cancer at age 42 and he was always aware of the terrible toll cancer took on his family. Jessie, Dave’s wife, does not carry a BRCA mutation but had breast cancer three years ago. As a mother, spouse, and survivor, she has provided valuable emotional support and practical advice to families affected by inherited cancer-causing mutations and people dealing with breast cancer. Their daughter Dana also tested positive for a BRCA mutation. At her urging, Dave and Jessie became actively involved in FORCE in 2012 and currently serve as peer navigators and peer support group leaders for the Northern New Jersey FORCE network. They speak at various community meetings, symposiums and panels about hereditary cancers. Additionally, Dave is a graduate of the FORCE Research Advocate Training program and serves on the ABOUT Network governance, providing guidance on its research registry and study collaborations.

For more information on the conference or how to attend, please visit our website http://www.facingourrisk.org/events/annual_conference/index.php.

About FORCE

No one should have to face hereditary cancer alone. FORCE is the voice of the hereditary cancer community, providing support, education and awareness to help those facing hereditary breast, ovarian and related cancers know their healthcare options and make informed decisions. The organization is the de facto leader in guiding critical research and policy issues that impact the hereditary cancer community. For more information about FORCE and hereditary breast, ovarian and related cancers, please visit www.facingourrisk.org.

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