Patricia O’Connell is an ovarian cancer survivor with a deep passion for both ovarian cancer awareness and research. She is honored to have joined the HOW Board of Directors in 2018 and with the most difficult part of her journey to recovery behind her, she now spends any extra time she has, dedicated to the growth and success of the H.O.W foundation.

Patricia received a bachelor’s degree in psychology with concentration in both biology and chemistry from Saint Mary’s College of Notre Dame in 2007. She spent the first two years of her career working at The University of Chicago Women’s Hospital in pharmaceutical research. In 2009, she joined the staff in the psychology department at The University of Notre Dame where she held the position as project manager for a longitudinal research program entitled, The Family Communication Project.

She and Patrick lost their first-born son, John Reid to heart disease in 2012, and as a result Patricia became an advocate for premature birth and cardiovascular disease in infants. The family was blessed with the adoption of Peter Ryan O’Connell in 2013 and Mary Elizabeth was a joyous and healthy surprise in early 2014. After the birth of her last child, she began feeling ill and it was only through her persistence and confidence in listening to her body that in 2017, she was diagnosed with stage 2C clear cell ovarian cancer. It took nearly three years to find an accurate diagnosis. As a result, in 2017 she underwent two major operations and six rounds of platinum-based chemotherapy, she remains in remission today.

Patricia was born and raised in Lighthouse Point, FL and currently resides in Palm Beach Gardens with her husband, Patrick and three children, Jane (7), Peter (5) and Mary (5). Presently, she works as the office manager for her husband’s architecture firm in Palm Beach and continues to be a devoted mother to her three young children.