

## **Appendix A: Interview guide.**

### Interview Questions

I. Questions about identity and what it means to be an ovarian cancer patient or survivor.

1. I am \_\_\_\_\_. Fill in the blank with relevant identities.

If ovarian cancer patient/survivor is not on the list, ask why? What does it mean to be ovarian cancer patient/survivor?

Basic demographic information: Age? Ethnic background? Sexual Orientation?

Gender Identity? Relationship status? Education level? Work/Job/Career?

Children? Religion?

II. The lived experience of ovarian cancer

1. Tell me how your experience/journey with ovarian cancer started. How/when were you diagnosed? What stage was the cancer at? How was the diagnosis communicated to you?
2. How did you receive the news? Who was with you when you received the news (e.g. a friend, partner, family member)? Can you describe how their presence (what they said and/or did) contributed to how you received news of the diagnosis?
3. How would you describe your knowledge about ovarian cancer prior to your diagnosis? How did that prepare you for your diagnosis?
4. What first came to mind when you received news of your diagnosis? Who first came to mind as the person/group of people you could rely on for support during this stage of your life? Why did that person/group of people stand out among all the people in your life?
5. Tell me about your treatment. Are you still in treatment?
6. What are some of the considerations/factors that influence your choice of treatment (e.g. family history of cancer, completion of childbearing)?
7. How do you think the treatment will affect your life now and in the future?

III. Social identity and societal perceptions of ovarian cancer

1. How do social categories of identity including your race, religion, sexuality, and age influence your experience of ovarian cancer?

2. How would your experience of ovarian cancer be different were you positioned differently socially (in terms of race, religion, socio-economic status)?
3. What do you think of how ovarian cancer is talked about in the media and society in general? In terms of the female body? Does this reflect your experience?
4. Do you have any difficulties talking about your cancer experience? If so, what are they?
5. When your cancer experience comes up in conversations with family, friends, and acquaintances, how do you talk about it?
6. Do you have concerns about naming the ovaries when you talk about ovarian cancer? Why?

#### IV. Ovarian cancer and social support

1. Do you belong to any (ovarian) cancer support group? Why or why not? Is any of them online?
2. How has your association with support group and members impacted/enhanced your experience with ovarian cancer?
3. What role (if any) do others play in your experience with ovarian cancer? How do they support you in your journey/experience with ovarian cancer?
4. Do you use your experience to support others? How?