



# The Beacon

e-Newsletter of the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network

BCAN.ORG

MAY IS BLADDER CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

## *Bladder Cancer Awareness Month - May 2021*

Don't let the **first time** you hear about bladder cancer be at **diagnosis**.

Learn more at [www.BCAN.org](http://www.BCAN.org)  
#BladderCancerAware

MAY IS BLADDER CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

### Help Us Bring Awareness to Bladder Cancer This Month

In May, we redouble our efforts to raise awareness of bladder cancer and save lives during [Bladder Cancer Awareness Month](#).

Please join us for free, fun and festive activities and help us work toward a world without bladder cancer.

Join us

### Virtual Walk to End Bladder Cancer Was a Big Success



On May 1, hundreds of people participated in the 2021 [Virtual Walk to End Bladder Cancer](#), joined together by the desire of end this terrible disease and support those who are impacted by it. Together, we have taken **over 21 million steps to end bladder cancer**.

### Two New Bladder Cancer Podcasts Available Now

There are two new "[Bladder Cancer Matters](#)" podcasts available.

In "[The Bladder Cancer Room Where it Happens](#)," host Rick Bangs interviews [Dr. Elizabeth Plimack](#) of Fox Chase Cancer Center, where she is the Chief of the Division of Genitourinary Medical Oncology. Dr. Plimack is also Chair of BCAN's Scientific Advisory Board. Rick and Dr. Plimack discuss:

- The importance of supporting bladder cancer research
- Resources that BCAN has for bladder cancer patients, caregivers, researchers and doctors
- The role that patient advocacy organizations like BCAN can play for bladder cancer patients.

The Virtual Walk was highlighted in a broadcast on BCAN's social media channels.

This year's Walk featured:

- 1,425 walkers
- 166 teams
- 714 cities, 47 states + Washington, DC and Puerto Rico, and
- 11 countries

In case you missed the Walk, it's not too late to sign up. Throughout the month of May, all those who register and raise at least \$100 will receive a free 2021 [Walk to End Bladder Cancer](#) t-shirt.

Walk with us

The second new podcast is "[Being a Bladder Cancer Patient](#)."

In it, bladder cancer survivor, Rick Bangs interviews [Carlos Glender](#), a non-muscle invasive bladder cancer survivor himself.

Rick and Carlos talk about the symptoms that Carlos experienced that led him to go to his doctor, what it was like to receive a bladder cancer diagnosis, and being treated with BCG in a time when the drug is in short supply.

Listen now



## Vote for the 2021 Beacon of Hope Award Winner

There are three finalists for the first-ever bladder cancer Beacon of Hope award and [you get to decide the winner](#). The Beacon of hope will be awarded to a special person who has been a beacon of light in someone's bladder cancer journey.

Read more about the finalists below and [be sure to vote](#).

John De La Garza



John has been a caretaker for his wife, Dorothy.

Noel Lipman



Noel is a bladder cancer survivor who helped Dan with his own Stage IV diagnosis.

Dr. Jonathan Wright



Dr. Wright was nominated by two people - a patient and a caregiver.

Vote for the Beacon of Hope winner

Thank You, BCAN Volunteers



Since its founding in 2005, the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) has been mission-driven but volunteer-led.

During Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 18-24, 2021), BCAN CEO [Andrea Maddox-Smith](#) thanked the hundreds of people who have given their time, talent and treasure to help bladder cancer patients and those who love them.

## Expert Videos in May and June

### *Treatment Talk:*

What you need to know about immunotherapy for bladder cancer  
May 19, 2021 at 5:00 PM ET

[Register](#)

### *Webinar:*

Treating Bladder Cancer | Bladder Removal Surgery Part 1: radical cystectomy options  
June 8, 2021 at 6:00 PM ET

[Register](#)

### *Webinar:*

Treating Bladder Cancer | Bladder Removal Surgery Part 2: managing the psycho-social impact of radical cystectomy

June 15, 2021 at 6:00 PM ET

[Register](#)

### *Webinar:*

Black Families Bladder Cancer Awareness

June 17, 2021 at 7:00 PM ET

[Register](#)



## Got a Bladder Cancer Question? Ask the Experts

Ask the Experts is a free, unique opportunity for bladder cancer patients and caregivers to interact online with two leading experts in the field.

On May 26, 2021, bladder cancer patients will have a unique opportunity to get their questions answered at our **Ask the Experts** event. As part of [Bladder Cancer Awareness Month](#), BCAN is connecting two of the leading bladder cancer doctors in the country - with you!

During the hour long event, you will be able to ask questions of Dr. Kent Mouw of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and Dr. Sarah Psutka of the University of Washington.

The winner of the inaugural **Beacon of Hope Award** will also be announced during the broadcast.

Registration is free, but required. Sign up today!

[Register and Ask the Experts](#)

## Glenn: My Mother Had Bladder Cancer, Then I Got Bladder Cancer

In the summer of 2009, Glenn began having trouble urinating. At the time, he thought that it might have been his prostate, but it eventually went away. Just a couple of months later, Glenn noticed the same issues. At the time, he did not connect that his mother had survived bladder cancer too.



Glenn and his family

Glenn told BCAN: *"I had my mental ups and downs and I was incredibly open with friends and acquaintances about what I was going through. I found that I was talking about it all the time. I was telling people what was going on, telling people what I was going through. It helped me a lot to talk about it and have a sense of humor about what I was going through, especially while doing my treatments."*

[Read Glenn's story](#)

