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The Beacon

e-Newsletter of the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network

BCAN.ORG

September 2022

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Karen: Our Bladder Cancer Story Has Been Like a Bad Netflix Series

Karen, a bladder cancer caregiver, recently told BCAN about her husband's medical journey and described it as a "bad Netflix series." She said, "My husband, Spencer, was diagnosed with small cell bladder cancer 3-1/2 years ago. If you are unfamiliar with this cancer, it is a rare and aggressive form of [bladder cancer](#). Sometimes these years of battling this cancer feels like a bad Netflix series, with episodes ranging from "In a state of shock" to "Maybe there is hope."

**Read Karen's
story**

Advocacy Alert!

We need your help! A change to how Medicare covers three diagnostic tests for bladder cancer might eliminate coverage for people who want or need these tests. A company, Novitas, creates policies that will be used to decide if Medicare should cover a

test. Their draft recommendation is that three bladder cancer tests **NOT** be covered under Medicare.

You can help impact this by [sending an email](#) before September 6, 2022.



ADVOCACY

Make your voice heard

Watch Think Tank 2022 Videos

On August 3-5, more than two hundred members of the bladder cancer research, medical and patient communities met in Denver for BCAN's annual Think Tank meeting.

For the first time, BCAN is making many of the [session recordings available on our web site](#). These ten recordings include exciting collaborative discussions in panel sessions, unique breakout sessions and BCAN-sponsored researcher presentations.



Sima P. Porten MD, MPH, Think Tank Co-chair

Watch Think Tank videos

BCAN Announces Groundbreaking Clinical Trial Research Award to Transform Bladder Cancer Care

On August 4, 2022, BCAN [announced its first-ever Translational Clinical Trial Award](#) (TCTA) to support patient-oriented research to transform bladder cancer care. The award will provide a maximum of \$3 million in funding over 36 months bringing a renewed



sense of urgency to help bladder cancer patients and families. It is designed to spark changes to the standard of care in bladder cancer, decrease over treatment, and significantly impact patient outcomes.

This first-ever award is being funded through a generous grant from [BCAN Board Member Duncan Alexander](#). Mr. Alexander has been a leader in the business community and has a long history of giving back through his philanthropic activities.

Read about the new
award

Researchers: New Career Development Award Available from BCAN

BCAN recognizes the critical need to support junior investigators who have yet to secure their first major research funding and aim to establish an independent bladder cancer research program. To meet this need, BCAN is pleased to offer the [Career Development Award \(CDA\)](#) for the first time and is now accepting applications.



The CDA is a three-year grant totaling \$250,000 that will support translational, clinical or epidemiological research that has direct applicability and relevance to bladder cancer. Projects must demonstrate the likelihood of translating new concepts into clinical practice.

Learn more and
apply

Welcome, Valérie Aldana

To help manage the exciting new research grant activities listed above, BCAN has hired a Senior Research Project Manager, [Valérie Aldana, MPH](#).

Valérie will support the implementation of BCAN's [research and grant activities](#), including post-award management and tracking award deliverables and outcomes. She will also work on project management and oversight, support of new or existing funding initiatives and processes, award management and reporting, monitoring programs and awards, as well as communications with applicants and awardees.



Valérie Aldana

Upcoming Webinars

Less Common Types of Bladder Cancer

September 19th

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM ET

[Register now](#)

Quality Care in the Community

September 21st

6:00 PM -7:00 PM ET

[Register now](#)

Physical and Psycho-Social Sexual Health After Bladder Cancer

October 12th

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM ET

[Register now](#)

Treatment Talk | Genetics and Bladder Cancer Treatments

November 7th

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET

[Register now](#)

Bladder Cancer Podcasts



BCAN has several new podcasts available for the bladder cancer community, including:

[Veterans and Bladder Cancer: What You Need to Know with Dr. Joshua Meeks](#)

[Bladder Cancer Can be Painful, Especially Financially, with Cindy Lawson DeVore](#)

[Being a Bladder Cancer Beacon of Hope with Karen Godfrey \(Part I\)](#)

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podcasts



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