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The Beacon

e-Newsletter of the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network

BCAN.ORG

February 2024

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Dean's Story: Life Does Not End When You're Diagnosed with Bladder Cancer



An overseas restroom stop transformed into an unforeseen encounter for Dean. The presence of blood in his urine hinted at more than a momentary worry. Upon returning to the States, he confronted an unexpected twist in his life's path—a bladder cancer diagnosis. Yet, his journey is one of resilience and triumph over unforeseen hurdles.

**Read Dean's
story**

BCAN Advocacy Corner

Advocacy is in our name and BCAN is always working to improve outcomes for bladder cancer patients and families by working with legislators and regulators.

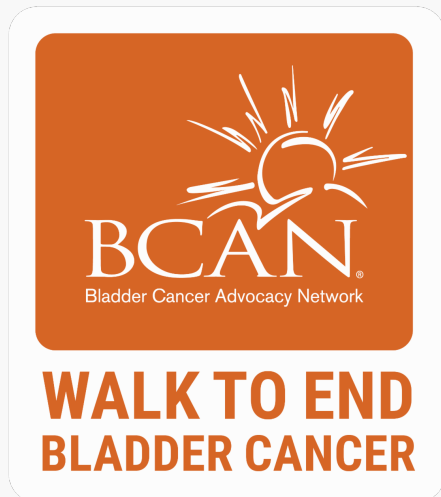
In 2024, one of our key priorities is advocating for the inclusion of bladder cancer as a presumptive

illness in the Department of Veterans Affairs' [Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics \(PACT\) Act](#) of 2022.

This crucial amendment seeks to extend similar benefits to Gulf War and post-9/11 era veterans exposed to burn pits, paralleling the support provided to veterans exposed to Agent Orange under the original PACT ACT authorization.



If you are a military veteran and would like to be part of our advocacy efforts, [please click on this link](#).



Take Steps to End Bladder Cancer

Our signature events, [Walks to End Bladder Cancer](#), are coming soon! Our aim this year is to **raise \$1 million** to support individuals with bladder cancer, and we need your help!

We invite you to sign up for an in-person or virtual Walk and join us in launching the Walk season. The earlier we begin, the **greater impact we can make** for bladder cancer patients and their loved ones. We appreciate your support!

Walk Cities Include:

- [Albany, NY](#)
- [Austin, TX](#)
- [Baltimore, MD](#)
- [Boston, MA](#)
- [Chapel Hill, NC](#)
- [Chicago, IL](#)
- [Cleveland, OH](#)
- [Columbus, OH](#)
- [Denver, CO](#)
- [Myrtle Beach, SC](#)
- [New York, NY](#)
- [Philadelphia, PA](#)
- [Pittsburgh, PA](#)
- [Portland, ME](#)
- [Richmond, VA](#)
- [San Diego, CA](#)
- [Seattle, WA](#)
- [Washington, DC](#)

Choose to Walk
Virtually

**BCAN Spring Summit for
Patients and Families**



Imagine yourself in a place surrounded by people who genuinely understand the challenges you are facing.

The BCAN [Spring Summit for Bladder Cancer Patients and Families](#) will take place on March 8th and 9th, 2024 at the Marriott Seattle Airport. These Summits serve as essential and uplifting gatherings for bladder cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers.

Our Summits create the opportunity for those impacted by bladder cancer to unite, exchange stories, and get valuable perspectives from top medical experts.

[Join Us at the Spring Summit](#)

BCAN Makes a \$250,000 Research Award



Did you know that BCAN has committed **more than \$10 million** to bladder cancer research grants?

Please join us in congratulating our newest award recipient, Filipe De Carvalho, MD, PhD, an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School for his [2023 Career Development Award](#).

Dr. De Carvalho's awarded proposal seeks to provide novel insights into treatment strategies to overcome resistance to chemotherapy and immunotherapy in patients with muscle invasive bladder cancer. Click below to read more about this award.

[Read about Dr. Carvalho's project](#)

Downloadable Fact Sheets About Bladder Cancer

Receiving a bladder cancer diagnosis is hard enough, but the medical terminology can be overwhelming. That's why BCAN created a [series of fact sheets](#) about bladder cancer that explain some of the treatments and

procedures. We invite you to peruse our list of fact sheets below.

Read bladder cancer Fact Sheets

Upcoming Webinars

Bench to Bedside: Clinical trials to treat bladder cancer?

April 18, 2024 | 7:00 PM ET

Have you ever wondered how new treatments for bladder cancer come to be? It's a fascinating journey from the research lab to the doctor's office, and you play a crucial role in it.

[Register here](#)



Treatment Talk | How Does Precision Medicine Tailor Treatment for Bladder Cancer?

April 25, 2024 | 4:00 PM ET

In this webinar, medical oncologist, Brendan Guercio, MD from the University of Rochester Wilmot Cancer Institute, will guide viewers through a comprehensive review of current and promising precision medicine initiatives

[Register here](#)

You can also get a sneak peek into Dr. Guercio's thoughts on immunotherapy by listening [to this Bladder Cancer Matters](#) podcast episode.

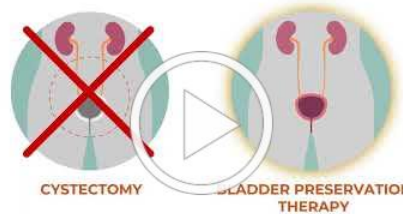
View past BCAN webinars here

What is Bladder Preservation Therapy?

Bladder preservation is about keeping the bladder you were born with. It's also called Combined-Modality Therapy (CMT) or Tri-Modality Therapy (TMT).

Click the video to the right to learn more.

These treatments begin with an aggressive resection of the visible tumor then following it with radiation therapy given together with chemotherapy.



We invite you to visit our web page [about bladder preservation](#) for more information.



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