



# The Beacon

E-NEWSLETTER OF THE BLADDER CANCER ADVOCACY NETWORK • BCAN.ORG

January 2, 2025

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## 2025: Together, Celebrating 20 Years of Impact



As the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) celebrates [its 20th anniversary in 2025](#), we honor our collective efforts over two decades of empowering patients and families, advancing research, and supporting each other in challenging times.

Together—with patients, survivors, caregivers, researchers, and advocates—we've made tremendous strides in improving bladder cancer care, raising awareness, and offering critical resources to those who need it most. Thanks to the collective dedication of this community, BCAN has helped thousands of people navigate their diagnosis, access life-saving information, and connect with others who truly understand their journey.

This milestone is a celebration of what we've achieved together—and a call to action for the future. Together, we can make an even greater impact.

[Learn more here](#)

### New BCAN Branding!

To help commemorate BCAN's 20th anniversary, we have updated our look and feel!



As you'll see from this newsletter and when you visit [BCAN's web site](#) or peruse the [items in the BCAN store](#), you'll note that we have updated our branding to better reflect the modern organization that we have become.

## Kick Off 2025 with Purpose: Register for a Walk to End Bladder Cancer

As we step into the new year, there's no better time to commit to making a difference. Join us for the [2025 Walk to End Bladder Cancer](#) and help us celebrate 20 years of BCAN's impact. By registering, you'll become part of a movement that brings hope and support to thousands of patients, families, and caregivers.



This year's walk is more than just an event—it's a celebration of community, progress, and the power of coming together for a common cause. Let's start 2025 with purpose and take steps toward a brighter future.

[Find your nearest Walk](#)

## Major News for Veterans: Bladder Cancer Recognized in PACT Act Interim Final Rule

At BCAN, one of our top [advocacy priorities](#) is ensuring veterans and service members with bladder cancer receive the health care and benefits they deserve. In 2024, we proudly led efforts to advocate for the recognition of **bladder cancer as a service-connected condition** for veterans exposed to burn pits under the PACT Act.



We are delighted to announce that our collective efforts have yielded incredible results. Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) issued an Interim Final Rule (IFR) **establishing a “Presumptive Service Connection for Bladder, Ureter, and Related Genitourinary Cancers Due to Exposure to Fine Particulate Matter.”** Once the interim period ends and comments are received, the final rule will be published.

This monumental achievement was made possible thanks to the unwavering support

and dedication of our patient and caregiver community, scientific experts, and industry partners. Together, we have taken a significant step forward in ensuring that veterans receive the care and recognition they have earned.

**We'll be sharing more detailed information about the ruling and its impact on our community in the coming days.**

Click [here](#) to read the official notice in the Federal Register and [here to read more](#) about BCAN's work for our nation's veterans.

## Rick's Story: "We're stronger than we think."



Rick Lyman's journey is one of strength, resilience, and hope. Like many, he dismissed subtle symptoms, until the day he noticed small blood clots. That moment prompted him to seek medical advice, leading to a bladder cancer diagnosis that would change his life.

What followed was a challenging and inspiring journey through uncertainty, treatment, and ultimately, a renewed perspective on life. Rick's experience serves as a reminder of the power of perseverance and the importance of listening to your body.

[Read Rick's story](#)

## Upcoming Webinars

### Intimacy Redefined: Navigating Sexuality During Bladder Cancer Treatment

January 9, 2025 | 4 PM ET

[Click here to register](#)

Bladder cancer treatments such as chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation can profoundly impact physical and emotional aspects of sexuality, posing challenges for patients and their partners. Join **Daniela Wittmann, PhD, LMSW** from the University of Michigan for an engaging discussion on the intersection of cancer care and sexual health. This webinar will explore common concerns, effective communication strategies, and resources to help patients navigate these changes. Don't miss this opportunity to gain insights from leading experts and learn how to address sexuality as part of holistic cancer care.

# Join Us at Our Spring 2025 Summit for Patients and Families



Join us in San Diego on **March 7th and 8th, 2025** for the Spring Summit for Bladder Cancer Patients and Families—a transformative two-day event designed to empower and inspire. You'll gain invaluable insights into survivorship, learn strategies to manage post-treatment challenges, and hear directly from leading experts about the latest research breakthroughs shaping the future of bladder cancer care.

## Why attend?

1. **Empower Your Journey:** Gain practical tools, knowledge, and resources to navigate life after a bladder cancer diagnosis with confidence.
2. **Connect and Thrive:** Meet others who truly understand your experience, building meaningful connections within a compassionate and supportive community.

Don't miss this opportunity to feel inspired, informed, and ready for the future. We look forward to welcoming you to San Diego this March!

[Learn more and register here](#)

## January's Partner in Progress - Ferring

Each month during 2025, our 20th anniversary, BCAN is proud to spotlight a pharmaceutical company partner that has shown outstanding commitment to supporting bladder cancer patients and their families.

These dedicated partners play a vital role in advancing research, raising awareness, and improving the lives of those impacted by bladder cancer.



This month's partner is [Ferring Pharmaceuticals](#). We invite you to click on the link below to learn more about Ferring's commitment to improving the lives of bladder cancer patients and families.

[Learn more about Ferring Pharmaceuticals](#)

## We Are So Very Grateful

As we begin a new year full of promise, we want to express our deepest gratitude to the entire BCAN community. Your support—whether as a patient, survivor, caregiver, medical professional, researcher, volunteer, donor, or advocate—has made a profound difference.

Because of you, we've advanced research, provided vital education, and fostered hope for those facing bladder cancer. Together, we are building better todays and more tomorrows.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We look forward to an even brighter year ahead!



## Doing Bladder Cancer Research? Submit Your Letter of Intent for BCAN's Research Innovation Award



The Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) invites researchers and clinicians to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) for our [Research Innovation Award](#). This \$300,000 funding opportunity supports groundbreaking ideas that address critical gaps in bladder cancer research and advance patient care.

Independent investigators with a medical or doctoral degree in the U.S. or Canada are eligible to apply, and researchers from outside the bladder cancer field are encouraged to participate.

[Learn more and apply](#)

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## FREE RESOURCES FOR OUR COMMUNITY



BCAN

### Animated Videos

BCAN offers a host of animated videos that help explain diagnoses and procedures.

[Peruse library »](#)



### BCAN Glossary

Bladder cancer can be frightening and confusing. BCAN provides a glossary of common terms.

[Visit glossary »](#)



### BCAN Research Grants

Did you know that BCAN has allocated more than \$10 million in bladder cancer research grants?

[Learn more »](#)

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