



# The Beacon

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

June 2, 2025

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## Eugene's Bike Ride Across America



Meet [Eugene Bernosky](#) – a bladder and kidney cancer survivor who's proving that life after cancer can be just as full, active, and inspiring as before. After two journeys to remission, Eugene embraced the physical challenges of surgery and treatment—and came back stronger.

A lifelong cyclist, he's now an ultra-endurance athlete, competing in 12-hour world time trial championships and living life to the fullest.

On May 24, 2025, Eugene took on his biggest challenge yet: a 3,000-mile ride **from Oceanside, CA to Washington, DC in just 21 days**. He's not just riding for himself—he's riding to show that bladder cancer survivors can thrive.

[Learn more about Eugene](#)

## Advocacy Updates

### Suffering in Silence – Overcoming the Hidden Struggles of Bladder Cancer Caregivers

Caring for someone with bladder cancer is an act of deep love, but it often comes with emotional and physical challenges that go unnoticed. In this webinar, Reena Cherry, M.S., PA-C, from UC San Diego Health, will discuss the hidden struggles caregivers face and share practical strategies for finding support, balance, and emotional well-being.

**June 10, 2025 7:00 PM ET**

[Register here](#)

## Understanding ctDNA: A New Tool for Bladder Cancer Care

Doctors are using a simple blood test called ctDNA to find and monitor bladder cancer more effectively. This test detects tiny traces of cancer DNA in the blood and can help track treatment response or catch a recurrence early. In this webinar, Dr. Joaquín Bellmunt from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute explains how ctDNA works and how it may help guide treatment decisions and give patients greater peace of mind.

**Jun 26, 2025 06:00 PM ET**

[Register here](#)

**Explore webinars & register now!**

## Advocacy - Meeting with Rep. Murphy



Thank you for walking with us during this milestone year! As BCAN celebrates 20 years of impact, your participation in the [2025 Walks to End Bladder Cancer](#) means more than ever. Whether you joined us in one of 19 cities or walked virtually from home, you stood with patients, families, and survivors to honor every journey and fuel the future of bladder cancer awareness and research.

Because of you, we're building on two decades of progress and pushing forward with even greater purpose. Your steps brought us closer to hope, healing, and change. Thank you for being part of this incredible moment.

## Connect, Learn, Thrive: Fall Summit 2025

Save the date! Join us **October 17–18, 2025, in Columbus, Ohio**, for a meaningful and free event bringing the bladder cancer community together. The Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network's (BCAN's) [Summit for Bladder Cancer](#)



**Patients and Families** is a special opportunity for patients, survivors, caregivers, and medical professionals to connect, share experiences, and find support in a powerful, uplifting setting.



This is more than a conference—it's a chance to find real connection, trusted information, and genuine hope. With sessions focused on survivorship, life after treatment, and the latest research advances, you'll leave feeling empowered and supported. Whether you're newly diagnosed or further along in your journey, you'll be surrounded by a community that truly understands. [Join us in Columbus](#) and be part of an inspiring experience!

**Don't miss the summit!**

## Be Heard: Take the Survey Led by Dr. Nihal Mohammed

Help improve care for people living with **metastatic or locally advanced bladder cancer** by taking [a brief, confidential survey](#). BCAN is supporting a national research study led by Dr. Nihal Mohamed of the Icahn School of Medicine.

If you or someone you care for is navigating advanced bladder cancer, your input can help identify critical gaps in support and shape future care strategies. Your voice matters—click below to participate.



**Share your experience**

## We Had an Amazing Bladder Cancer Awareness Month!



**May is  
Bladder Cancer  
Awareness  
Month.**

Thanks to the incredible support and dedication from people like you, we experienced our biggest and most successful [Bladder Cancer Awareness Month](#) ever. Your passion and involvement made a powerful impact, helping us raise awareness, share important information, and bring our community closer together.

**In May alone, there were:**

- **Incredible Walks** in 19 cities and virtually that helped us **smash our \$1.2 million fundraising goal**
- **More than 3,200 votes** cast for our **2025 Beacon of Hope** award winner
- **Over 30 entries** submitted to our **Art as Therapy** program
- **More than 500 registrants** for our **Ask the Experts** Zoom event

[Read more about BCAM here](#)

## Beacon of Hope Winner: A Radiance of Resilience



It is our honor to present the **2025 [Beacon of Hope Award](#)** to **Maryellen Towey**. One nominator described her as “humble, kind, caring, and compassionate.” A nurse by profession, Maryellen is always ready to support others.

"Last year, she faced the immense challenge of caring for her husband during his battle with pancreatic cancer, all while fighting bladder cancer herself.

"After her husband's passing, she continued to be a pillar of strength for her grieving family, even as she underwent her own treatment. Through it all, Maryellen chooses joy every single day."

Congratulations, Maryellen and also to the two other finalists, Doug Cappiello and Sandy Weicher.

## Survivor to Survivor



Although bladder cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers, the journey can often feel isolating. That's why the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) created the **[Survivor 2 Survivor](#)** (S2S) program—to ensure that no one has to face it alone.

Through this program, newly diagnosed patients and their caregivers are paired with trained volunteers—bladder cancer survivors and co-survivors—who truly understand what they're going through.

These compassionate mentors offer a listening ear, share personal experiences, and provide valuable insights into diagnosis, treatment, and life beyond cancer.

[Request a match today](#)

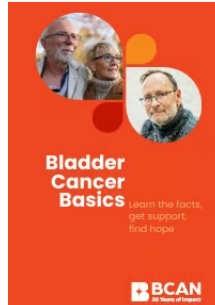
## FREE RESOURCES FOR OUR COMMUNITY



### Patient & Caregiver Stories

Read inspiring personal journeys from bladder cancer survivors, caregivers, and advocates who remind us all that no one is alone.

[Submit your story »](#)



### Bladder Cancer Basics

A bladder cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming, but you're not alone—our handbook offers answers, support, and hope.

[Download now »](#)



### Find Support

Explore our resources designed to support bladder cancer patients and caregivers every step of the way.

[Peruse here »](#)

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