



The Beacon

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

July 1, 2025

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He Found Hope When He Needed It Most



John Morley thought it was nothing, just a faint pink tint in his urine, likely the result of overexertion from jogging or hiking.

As an active, healthy guy, cancer was the last thing on his mind. But what started as a passing curiosity soon became a troubling pattern he could no longer ignore.

What followed was a whirlwind: doctor visits, a shocking moment during a routine scope, and a rollercoaster of hope and heartbreak. In the span of one phone call, everything changed. Plans shifted from preserving his bladder to preparing for chemotherapy and major surgery. But through it all—fear, doubt, and recovery—he found clarity, resilience, and a community that helped him face the unknown with strength.

[Read John's Story](#)

Upcoming Webinars

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.

July 3, 2025 | 2:30 PM ET

[Register here](#)

Understanding A New Treatment Option for Advanced Bladder Cancer

EV + pembrolizumab is reshaping advanced bladder cancer treatment, offering a new

option that has doubled patient survival compared to traditional chemotherapy. Join Dr. Vadim S. Koshkin, a Genitourinary Oncologist at UCSF, to learn how this therapy works, who it can benefit, and what patients can expect. You'll also hear directly from a patient who has received this treatment, sharing their experience and insights.

August 14, 2025 | 6:00 PM ET

[Register here](#)

Explore webinars & register!

Share Your Journey: Submit Your Story



BCAN's ***My Bladder Cancer Story*** campaign is a space for patients, survivors, caregivers, and loved ones to share their stories and connect with others who understand this journey. We invite you to [read more stories from this inspiring community](#).

Would you like to share your own patient or caregiver story with BCAN? You'll find that bladder cancer stories educate, uplift, and support others impacted by bladder cancer. We'd be honored to help share your voice.

Share your story

Meet July's Partner in Progress: ImmunityBio

We're happy to celebrate [ImmunityBio as BCAN's July Partner in Progress](#), working alongside us to improve the lives of bladder cancer patients and their families.

Their goal is to leverage and harmonize with the body's immune system to clear disease while ensuring their therapies also protect the immune system from damage. This includes their bladder cancer therapy, ANKTIVA®.



You can learn more about ImmunityBio by [visiting their Partner in Progress page](#) on the BCAN web site.

BCAN Advocacy In Action



On May 20th, [Meri-Margaret Deoudes](#), BCAN's CEO and our Senior Education and Advocacy Manager, [Patricia Rios](#), met with **Congressman Greg Murphy** of North Carolina. Dr. Murphy is a practicing urologist - the only practicing physician in the US Congress.

BCAN is grateful for the opportunity to meet with Congressman Murphy and thank him for his leadership on [the PACT Act](#) and for championing a Bladder Cancer Awareness Month proclamation.

During our conversation, they discussed the importance of ensuring that every bladder cancer patient receives a copy of [Bladder Cancer Basics](#), a vital resource for

understanding their diagnosis and treatment options. We also shared BCAN's core priorities: reaching all patients with timely information and support, engaging community providers to ensure high-quality care across all settings, and advancing research to drive progress toward better treatments and outcomes.

Thank you, Congressman Murphy, for your commitment to the bladder cancer community.

Fall Summit 2025: Building Connection, Knowledge, and Hope

Mark your calendar for **October 17–18, 2025**, and join us in Columbus, Ohio, for a free, inspiring event that brings the bladder cancer community together. BCAN's [Summit for Patients and Families](#) is a unique opportunity for patients, survivors, caregivers, and medical professionals to connect, share stories, and find support in an encouraging and hopeful environment.



This is a place to build connections, gain valuable knowledge, and rediscover hope with a community that truly understands. From sessions on life after treatment and survivorship to the latest breakthroughs in bladder cancer research, you'll walk away feeling supported, informed, and inspired. No matter where you are in your journey, this is a space where you belong. Join us in Columbus for an experience that will motivate, uplift, and empower!

[Register today!](#)

Want to know more? Explore videos from our [Spring 2025 Summit for Patients and Families](#).

Bladder Cancer Matters

a podcast by, for, and about the bladder cancer community, hosted by patient advocate and bladder cancer survivor, Rick Bangs





Listening is easy! You can [visit the BCAN web site](#) for all 96 episodes of Bladder Cancer Matters or listen and subscribe on your favorite podcasting platform like [Apple Podcasts](#) or [Spotify](#).

Subscribe & stream now!

You're Not Alone — Call Our Support Line



Bladder cancer is not an easy journey to navigate, and you don't have to do it alone. When you call [833-ASK-4-BCA \(833-275-4222\)](tel:833-ASK-4-BCA), you'll be connected with experienced oncology social workers who understand the challenges that patients, survivors, caregivers, and families face.

They're here to listen, provide emotional support, and help guide you through the practical questions and concerns that arise — including those that come with the loss of a loved one.

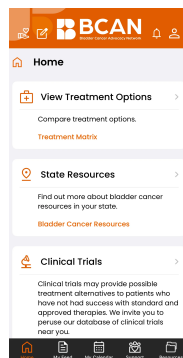
Contact the support line

FREE RESOURCES FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Bladder Cancer By State

The interactive map displays estimated bladder cancer cases by state, along with helpful resources for each area.



Bladder Cancer App

BCAN offers a free mobile app for iPhone



Bladder Cancer Treatments

Select your bladder cancer diagnosis, choose a treatment you're interested

[Explore here »](#)

and Android, making it easy to manage your bladder cancer journey — all in one convenient place.

[Download now »](#)

in, and view all available options.

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