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How One Question Led to an Early Bladder Cancer Diagnosis



Luis Farias' story begins with a simple question: *What should early detection really mean?* For years, he focused on monitoring one health concern, only to have a completely different issue quietly unfolding in the background, something no one initially suspected. Through persistence, second opinions, and a willingness to ask for deeper answers, Luis uncovered a diagnosis that reshaped his understanding of "incidental" findings.

His experience shows how easily signs can be missed, how powerful patient advocacy can be, and why he now believes certain high-risk groups deserve better tools for true early detection.

[Read Luis's Story](#)

Upcoming Bladder Cancer Webinars

Webinar: What's the Deal with Carcinoma in Situ (CIS) and Why Does It Matter?

When: Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 7:00 PM ET

What: In this webinar, Dr. Eugene Pietzak and Dr. Andres Matoso will explain what carcinoma in situ (CIS) is and what researchers are discovering about how CIS develops and how these insights are shaping treatment approaches.

[Register for the free webinar here](#)

Webinar: Living with a Stoma – Understanding and Managing Parastomal Hernias

When: Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 5:00 PM ET

What: Many bladder cancer patients who undergo a radical cystectomy may develop a stoma, which can sometimes lead to a parastomal hernia. Join Dr. Zihong Lee as he explains risks, treatment options, and ways to maintain quality of life whether you're new

to life with a stoma or have had one for years.

[Register for the free webinar here](#)

Stride for Change: BCAN Walks to End Bladder Cancer



For more than a decade, the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) has brought communities together nationwide through our [Walks to End Bladder Cancer](#), meaningful events that raise awareness, support patients and families, and fund vital research and education. These walks have united thousands of participants across 47 states and have generated more than \$6 million to advance BCAN's mission of hope, education, and advocacy.

By registering and fundraising, you're not only standing with those impacted by bladder cancer, but you're also helping drive real change. BCAN's fundraising incentive program also makes it fun and rewarding, with more than 40 exciting prizes available for participants.

Set your goal, rally your friends and family, and take a step toward a future without bladder cancer. Together, we can create meaningful impact, one stride at a time.

[Register now!](#)

New Tax Changes Are Coming: What It Means for You

Supporting BCAN is a meaningful way to make a real impact on the lives of bladder



cancer patients while also taking advantage of potential tax benefits. As tax laws continue to evolve, it's important to consider how recent changes may affect your charitable giving. By planning your gift thoughtfully, you can maximize both your impact on BCAN's mission and any available tax advantages.



As the year comes to a close, now is a great time to think about ways to leave a lasting impact through BCAN. For guidance on the most effective ways to include BCAN in your estate or legacy plans, reach out to Christina Todosow, BCAN's Vice President of Development, at 516.527.2520 or ctodosow@bcan.org. She can provide personalized advice to help ensure your gift supports bladder cancer patients and advances BCAN's mission for years to come.

[Click here to learn more](#)

A promotional graphic for BCAN's 20th anniversary. It features the BCAN logo (20 Years of Impact) at the top left. The main text reads "CELEBRATING BCAN'S FURRY FRIENDS" in a large, orange, serif font. Below this is a circular image of a grey and white kitten and a golden retriever puppy. The text "I LOVE MY PET" is written in a curved path around the left side of the image, and "MY PET, MY LIFE" is written in a curved path around the right side. There are also orange paw print icons. At the bottom, a brown bar contains the text "Click the image to see some of our furry friends!".

Innovating for Impact: BCAN's Work in Research Advancement

BCAN largely funds research that will inform therapeutics, with a sizeable proportion of awards supporting research on patient-centered care.

Therapeutics (67%)



Patient-Centered Care (30%)

Epidemiology (3%)



Since 2005, BCAN has been at the forefront of bladder cancer research, bringing attention to a disease that was often overlooked. Our mission is simple but powerful: equip patients with the information and support they need to thrive today, while advancing innovative research and advocating for national policies that offer hope for a brighter tomorrow.

[Learn more](#)

FREE RESOURCES FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Risk Factors

Certain behaviors, environmental exposures, and inherited factors can increase the risk of bladder cancer.

[Read here »](#)



Ina®, the Intelligent Nutrition Assistant

BCAN has teamed up with Savor Health® to provide personalized nutrition support for people with bladder cancer during treatment and beyond.

[Visit now »](#)



Bladder Cancer App

BCAN offers a free iPhone and Android app to help manage your bladder cancer journey in one convenient place.

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