



The Beacon

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

January 2, 2026

[Read prior editions](#)

A New Year of Hope, Stories and Strength

2025: A Year Full of Stories from the BCAN Community



Voices, journeys, and hope—creating better
todays and more tomorrows together.



In 2025, we were honored to share powerful stories from across the bladder cancer community—patients, survivors, caregivers and advocates who opened their hearts to help others feel less alone. Each story brought insight, strength, and hope, reminding us why these voices matter.

Visit our stories page to read them all, and as we look ahead to 2026, we can't wait to lift up even more voices and continue sharing the experiences that inspire, educate and connect our community.

[Read Inspiring Stories from 2025](#)

Thank You For Your Generosity

On December 31st, we concluded what we believe will be our **most successful year-end fundraising campaign ever**.



We want to offer a sincere "thank you" to all who shared their time and treasure to help BCAN continue to offer free educational materials and support programs for the more than 725,000 bladder cancer patients and families in the United States. Year-end gifts that we received **will be doubled due to the generosity of Drew and Sally Quale**.

BCAN exists solely because of the amazing support from our community and we are so grateful. Thank you.

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. Ziho 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](#)

Webinar: Working Smarter to Prevent Bladder Cancer: Understanding How Jobs and the Environment Affect Risk

When: Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 4:00 PM ET

What: Join a timely conversation with experts from Johns Hopkins Medicine and the National Cancer Institute on how workplace and environmental exposures, especially for veterans, firefighters and other high-risk professions, can increase bladder cancer risk.

[Register for the free webinar here](#)

2026 Spring Bladder Cancer Summit for Patients and Families

Get ready for BCAN's next free **Bladder Cancer Summit** in Baltimore on March 13 & 14! Join patients and caregivers from all stages of the bladder cancer journey to connect with old friends, make new ones and learn from top medical experts. Gain practical tools to thrive through treatment and beyond, and hear inspiring stories from patient advocates that will empower you to take charge of your journey from diagnosis to survivorship. This is an experience you won't want to miss!



[Learn more and register](#)

One Community, One Mission: 2026 Walk to End Bladder Cancer



For more than ten years, the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) has united communities across the country through our **Walks to End Bladder Cancer**, powerful events that raise awareness, support patients and families and fund critical research and education. With participants in more than 47 states, these walks have brought together thousands of supporters and raised more than \$6 million to fuel BCAN's

mission of hope, education and advocacy.

When you register and fundraise, you're doing more than showing up; you're helping create real change for those impacted by bladder cancer.

Set a goal, gather your friends and family, and take meaningful steps toward a future without bladder cancer. Together, every stride moves us closer to lasting impact.

[Register now!](#)

Featured Trial of the Month

A [clinical trial](#) is a research study that tries to find better ways to prevent, screen for, diagnose or treat a disease like bladder cancer. They are an essential part of cancer research. Trials may provide possible treatment alternatives to patients who have not had success with standard and approved therapies.



Featured Trial of the Month: [BT8009-230 in Participants With Locally Advanced or Metastatic Urothelial Cancer \(Duravelo-2\)](#)

Description: This study is happening in many hospitals around the world. The purpose is to see how well a drug called BT8009 works by itself and how well it works when used together with another drug called pembrolizumab. The study will look at how well these treatments can help people with urothelial cancer that has spread or cannot be removed by surgery, and it will also check how safe the treatments are.

You can read more information in [BCAN's Clinical Trial Dashboard](#).

Inova **BCAN** Inova Schar Cancer & Inova Peterson Life with Cancer

Knowledge for Your Journey: What's New in Bladder Cancer?

In partnership with the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN), join us for an informative and educational webinar featuring leading Inova experts in bladder cancer. Each speaker will provide a concise 10-minute overview of key topics on bladder cancer across the treatment spectrum, followed by an extended Q&A session. Gain insights into current standards of care, emerging strategies, and the evolving landscape of bladder cancer management—all in a concise, engaging, online format.



Tuesday, February 17
6:30PM - 8:00PM EST



Online via Zoom

Topics & Speakers:

- Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC) Treatments – Dr. Inger Rosner
- Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (MIBC) Treatment – Dr. Angel Yu
- Metastatic Bladder Cancer – Dr. Joshua Allen
- Role of ctDNA in Bladder Cancer – Dr. Jeanny Aragon-Ching
- Clinical Trials & Future Horizons in Bladder Cancer – Dr. Laura Linville



For more information and to register, visit events.lifewithcancer.org or scan QR code.

In partnership with Inova Health, join us for an informative and educational webinar featuring leading experts in bladder cancer. Each speaker will provide a concise 10-minute overview of key topics in urothelial carcinoma (UC) across the treatment spectrum, followed by an extended Q&A session. Gain insights into current standards of care, emerging strategies and the evolving landscape of UC management—all in a concise, engaging, online format.

[Click here to learn more](#)

Volunteer: Become a Community Patient Advocate!

Be a Voice for Bladder Cancer:

Volunteer as a Community
Patient Advocate

Community patient advocates

play a vital role in creating awareness and connecting healthcare providers to BCAN's free educational and support resources.

What BCAN Provides: Educational materials to share with providers, interactive training, ongoing support, and the chance to make a real impact.

Who Can Participate:

Patients, survivors and caregivers—no experience needed.

Register Here:

<https://www.research.net/r/KFGBLPK>



For more information: contact Allison Aitken,
301-298-2011 ext 218
aaiken@bcan.org



The Community Advocate Program empowers bladder cancer survivors and caregivers to raise awareness and connect local healthcare providers with BCAN's free education and support resources. Advocates help extend BCAN's reach by sharing materials directly with providers, ensuring more patients across the U.S. learn about available support.

Participants receive a starter kit that includes educational booklets and fact sheets, information on BCAN support services, a provider introduction letter, QR code postcard, name tag and carrying folder. Those interested can register online and learn more about volunteering with BCAN by clicking the button below.

[Volunteer today](#)

FREE RESOURCES FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Tips for Caregivers

BCAN offers an online and print *Tips for Caregivers Handbook* to provide bladder cancer caregivers with practical tools and support throughout their journey.

[Learn more »](#)



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.

[Download today »](#)

[Share this email with a friend](#)



Click here to [unsubscribe](#) | Sent to: mstory@bcan.org