



The Beacon

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

May 1, 2026

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Bladder Cancer Awareness Month is Here!



BLADDER CANCER FACTS

May is Bladder Cancer Awareness Month. Sharing this graphic helps save lives.

MAY IS BLADDER CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

May 1st marks the start of [Bladder Cancer Awareness Month](#) (BCAM) 31 days that bring our community together to spotlight a disease that impacts hundreds of thousands of people but still flies under the radar. It's a moment to stand with patients, survivors, families, and caregivers - raising our voices, sharing what people need to know about symptoms and risk factors, and pushing for earlier detection that can truly save lives.

This year, getting involved is simple. Our free [BCAM Toolkit](#) gives you everything you need to make an impact - eye-catching infographics, ready-to-share social media graphics and pre-written posts designed to spark meaningful conversations. Every post you share and every conversation you start helps drive awareness, encourage action, and strengthen support for those who need it most.

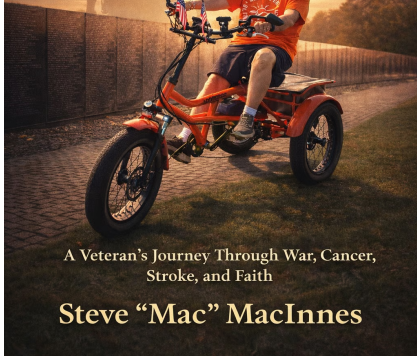
Be part of the movement this May. Help shine a brighter light on bladder cancer—and make sure more people know what to look for and where to turn.

[Learn more about BCAM](#)

Steve's Journey: From Diagnosis to Ongoing Resilience and Advocacy



At 70, a Vietnam veteran never expected a routine visit to lead to a bladder cancer diagnosis, beginning a journey marked by tough decisions, setbacks and resilience.



Today, Steve continues to navigate new health challenges while using his voice to raise awareness and support fellow veterans facing similar battles.

Read his full story to see how his journey continues to evolve and inspire hope, strength and action.

[Read Steve's Story](#)

Female Focus Support Group



The online support group for women impacted by bladder cancer

FEMALE FOCUS SUPPORT GROUP



Free Zoom support sessions are held on the first Tuesday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 PM ET, with registration required for each session.

Join our monthly support group for women impacted by bladder cancer; a warm, supportive space to connect with others who understand your journey. Each session starts with a brief presentation, followed by small, guided discussions led by BCAN staff, nurse and patient advocate Karen Sachse, RN, MSN, and social worker Miriam Pomerantz Kadosh, MSW, LCSW.

Topic for May 5, 2026: *Finding Your Voice: Bladder Cancer Awareness & Advocacy*

[Register here](#)

Vote for Your 2026 Beacon of Hope Award Finalist

We're excited to introduce the three

2026 Beacon of

inspiring finalists for the [2026 Beacon of Hope Award](#): **Megan Bertozzi, Doug and Camille Capiello, and Gail Dykstra.** Each has made a meaningful impact in the bladder cancer community, and now it's your turn to help recognize their incredible contributions.

We encourage you to read what others had to say about them and cast your vote. Your voice matters. **Voting is open through Sunday, May 17, 2026, and you can vote once per day**, so be sure to come back and make your voice heard!

Hope Finalists



Megan Bertozzi

Doug and Camille Capiello

WALK SEND
Gail Dykstra



Vote today!

Art As Therapy From the Bladder Cancer Community in 2026



In honor of [Bladder Cancer Awareness Month 2026](#), members of the BCAN community shared meaningful artwork that has brought comfort, healing and purpose throughout their bladder cancer journeys. Each piece reflects the creativity, strength and resilience within this community.

We invite you to explore these powerful submissions. Click through to view the artwork and read the personal stories behind each one.

[View here](#)

Together, We Keep Stepping Forward!



For more than ten years, the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) has been bringing communities together nationwide through its [Walks to End Bladder Cancer](#), ongoing, mission-driven events that continue to raise awareness, uplift patients and families and support critical research and education efforts. These walks are currently happening across the country and have already united thousands of dedicated advocates, generating over \$6 million to advance BCAN's work in hope, education and advocacy.

There is still time to [join a Walk near you](#). When you sign up and start fundraising, you're doing more than participating in an event; you're fueling meaningful, life-changing progress for everyone impacted by bladder cancer. Set your goal, gather your team and step forward with intention.

Together, each stride continues to move us closer to a world without bladder cancer.

[Join today!](#)

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: [LOXO-435 in Patients With Cancer With a Change in a Gene Called FGFR3](#)

Description: This is an early Phase 1 study of LOXO-435 in people with advanced cancers that have an FGFR3 genetic change, including metastatic urothelial cancer. Researchers will first test different doses to find the safest and most effective one, then use that dose to treat more participants.

You can find more clinical trials on [BCAN's Clinical Trial Dashboard](#).

2026 Bladder Cancer Awareness Month Toolkit

FACTS ABOUT BLADDER CANCER

This year, **more than 84,000** people in the US will receive a bladder cancer diagnosis.

Bladder cancer is the **7th** most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States.

Bladder cancer is the **4th** most common cancer in men.

Women often have a **delayed diagnosis** and **worse outcomes** than men at every stage of the disease.

Signs of bladder cancer:

- Blood in the urine
- Painful urination
- Urgent need to urinate
- Inability to pass urine
- Abdominal pain
- Lower back pain
- Fatigue
- Losing weight without trying

BCAN The Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network, or BCAN, was founded in 2005 and provides patients with the critical information and community support they need to thrive today — and champions innovative research and responsive national policy to inspire hope for tomorrow.

Support [Bladder Cancer Awareness Month](#) by helping raise visibility and spark important conversations. Click the button below, choose an image from the page, download it with a quick right-click, and share it on Facebook, LinkedIn, or Instagram.

Each graphic is perfectly sized for social media, making it easy to spread awareness and show your support.

[See what our toolkit has to offer](#)

FREE RESOURCES FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Newly Diagnosed With Bladder Cancer?

A new bladder cancer diagnosis can bring many emotions, but you're not alone. We're here to support you.

[Learn more »](#)



Bladder Cancer Research Impact

BCAN-funded research is driving progress in bladder cancer care. Read more to see the impact.

[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 »](#)

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