



The Beacon

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

July 1, 2026

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Salley's Story: They Thought It Was Just Another UTI

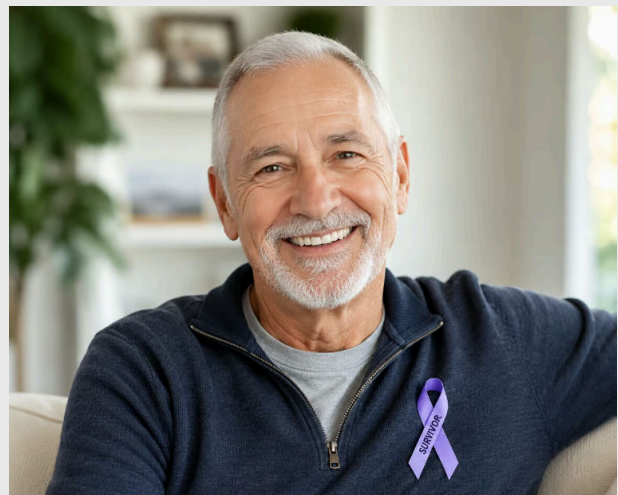


For months, Salley believed she was dealing with a series of routine urinary tract infections. Then one frightening morning, she could no longer urinate—and her life changed forever. In this powerful story, Salley shares how a **stage 2 muscle-invasive bladder cancer diagnosis** led to chemotherapy, bladder removal surgery, a challenging recovery and ultimately a renewed sense of purpose. Her journey is a powerful reminder that persistent urinary symptoms should never be ignored and that life after bladder cancer is possible.

[Read Salley's Story](#)

June Was National Cancer Survivor's Month

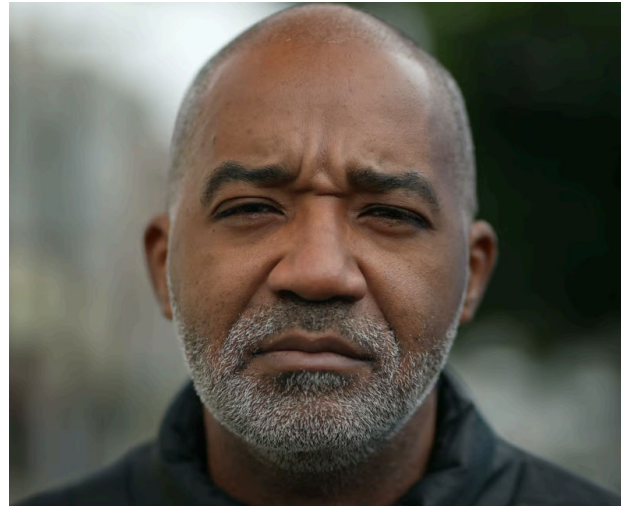
A cancer diagnosis changes your life, but it does not define it. During [National Cancer Survivors Month](#), BCAN celebrated the strength, resilience and determination of everyone impacted by bladder cancer while recognizing that **survivorship begins the day you are diagnosed**. Whether you are in treatment, living with no evidence of disease, managing long-term side effects or supporting a loved one,



BCAN's survivorship resources, peer support programs and community connections can help you navigate the challenges ahead with confidence, hope and the reassurance that you are not alone.

Get Matched with a Fellow Survivor

Are you facing or undergoing bladder cancer treatment and feeling a little overwhelmed? BCAN can help. We offer a free service called "[Survivor to Survivor](#)" (S2S) in which we match bladder cancer patients currently undergoing treatment with fellow survivors who have undergone similar circumstances with diagnosis and treatment.



It's easy to be connected with a trained S2S volunteer. Simply [visit this page](#), enter some information and BCAN will reach out to you to match you with someone who truly understands.

[Request a Survivor to Survivor Match](#)

Are You a Woman Who Has Received a Bladder Cancer Diagnosis? This is For You.



Join BCAN's "[Female Focus](#)" [online support group](#) each month to talk about topics unique to women facing bladder cancer and to meet others who know what you are going through.

July's Female Focus Topic: Sexual Health and Intimacy After Bladder Cancer

Guest Speaker: Rebecca DiPatri, RN, BSN, OCN® from Inova

Time: 7 PM ET to 8:30 PM ET

Date: July 7, 2026 **Female Focus is always the first Tuesday of the month*

[Register here](#)

Upcoming Bladder Cancer Webinars

Webinar: Managing Stress and Uncertainty: Tools for Coping with Bladder Cancer

When: Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 4:00 PM ET

What: A bladder cancer diagnosis can bring ongoing emotional challenges for both patients and caregivers. In this session, Jenna Sangastiano from Inova Peterson Life with Cancer will share practical coping strategies and resilience-building techniques to help individuals better manage stress, anxiety, and uncertainty throughout the cancer journey.

[Register for the free webinar here](#)

Patient Summit in San Diego This August

Join BCAN's free [Bladder Cancer Summit for Patients and their Families](#) in **San Diego on August 28 and 29**, to connect with patients and caregivers in a supportive and empowering environment. Whether you're newly diagnosed, in treatment, or navigating survivorship, the Summit offers valuable information, practical tools, and inspiring patient stories to help you better understand bladder cancer and feel more confident on your journey. You'll also hear directly from medical experts about the latest advancements in bladder cancer care.



We'll see you in sunny San Diego!

[**Join us in San Diego**](#)

Clinical Trial of the Month

CLINICAL TRIALS

Research today.
Better treatments
tomorrow.



Advance
medical
research



Help improve
care for
others



Access new
treatment
options



Your participation
can **make a difference.**



Clinical trials are carefully designed studies that help researchers develop new and better approaches to detecting, preventing and treating diseases such as bladder cancer.

For many patients, they can offer access to promising treatment options while advancing the scientific knowledge that drives future progress in cancer care.

[This month's featured clinical trial](#) is intended for people with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial cancer (bladder cancer that has spread or cannot be removed with surgery) whose cancer got worse during or after treatment with enfortumab vedotin (Padcev®) and pembrolizumab (Keytruda®). Researchers are comparing a newer drug called Dato-DXd, given with either carboplatin or cisplatin chemotherapy, against the current standard treatment of gemcitabine plus carboplatin or cisplatin to see which approach works better.

[Learn about the featured trial of the month](#)

"Bladder Cancer Matters" Podcasts

Listen to insightful information from bladder cancer doctors, patients and survivors while you're on the treadmill, driving in your car or curled up at home. [BCAN's podcasts](#) bring you leading experts and patients who can help demystify a bladder cancer journey.

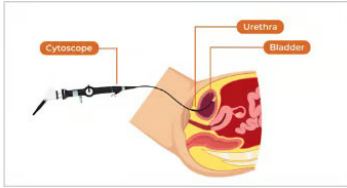
While you can subscribe by searching for "Bladder Cancer Matters" in your favorite podcasting app, click below to listen to a few of the more than 100 episodes we've published.

- [Beyond BCG: What Comes Next for Patients](#)
- [A Lifeline for Women Facing Bladder Cancer](#)
- [What Happens After TURBT Matters More Than You Think](#)
- [What to Expect with a Radical Cystectomy, Parts 1, 2, and 3](#)

**BLADDER
CANCER
MATTERS**
PODCAST

PRESENTED BY BCAN
BLADDER CANCER ADVOCACY NETWORK

FREE RESOURCES FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Demystify Bladder Cancer

BCAN provides a library of downloadable, one-page fact sheets that help make sense of common bladder cancer terms.

[Learn more »](#)



Bladder Cancer Research Impact

Did you know that BCAN has funded more than \$13 million in bladder cancer research?

[Learn more »](#)



Know the warning signs

Knowing these bladder cancer signs and symptoms can help catch it in its early stages.

[Learn the signs »](#)

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