



August 3, 2026

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Chris's Story: Finding Joy in the Fight



Before a bladder cancer diagnosis upended his plans, Chris Parente spent his mornings as an award winning news co-anchor in Denver, looking forward to a leisurely retirement with his husband. Instead, discovering blood in his urine led to a diagnosis that reshaped everything in just over a week.

What's carried him through since has been a lesson he didn't expect to learn: you can't do this alone. Leaning on his loved ones, a trusted nurse, and an oncology therapist, Chris found that it's not just about surviving bladder cancer, but finding a way to live while fighting it.

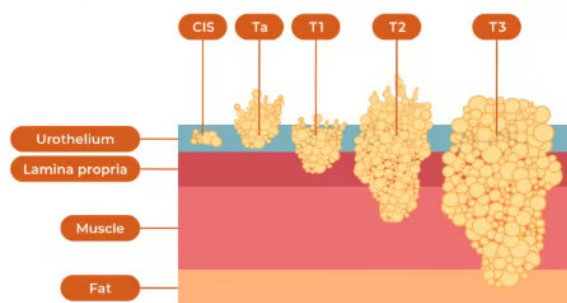
[Read Chris's Story](#)

Bladder Cancer Types, Stages, and Grades: What You Need to Know

Bladder cancer types, stages and grades describe how the cancer looks, how far it has spread, and how aggressive it is.

Types refer to tumor appearance and cell origin, **stages** range from 0–4 based on spread, and **grades** indicate how abnormal the cancer cells are. Together, they guide treatment decisions and prognosis.

Stages and cancer invasion into bladder wall



[Learn more about types, stages, and grades](#)

Patient Summit in San Diego on August 28 & 29

Don't miss BCAN's free [Bladder Cancer Summit for Patients and their Families](#), taking place in San Diego, CA on **August 28 and 29**. This gathering brings together patients and caregivers in a warm, supportive space designed to inform and empower. No matter where you are in your journey, you'll walk away with practical resources, useful tools, and real stories from fellow patients that can help build your understanding of bladder cancer and boost your confidence moving forward. Leading medical experts will also be on hand to share the newest developments in bladder cancer treatment and care.



Through August 3rd ONLY BCAN is offering a \$100 per night hotel stipend lowering the cost of a room to \$178 per night plus taxes and fees. Reserve your spot and your room NOW!

We hope to see you there!

[Register for free today](#)

Learn the Four Bladder Cancer Disease States

If you or someone you care for has been diagnosed, you may have heard terms that feel overwhelming, like “non-muscle invasive” or “metastatic.” **You are not alone in feeling this way.** Many patients and caregivers say that understanding the diagnosis is one of the hardest parts at the beginning.



The four main **bladder cancer disease states** are:

- [Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer \(NMIBC\)](#)
- [Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer \(MIBC\)](#)
- [Upper Tract Urothelial Carcinoma \(UTUC\)](#)
- [Advanced and Metastatic Bladder Cancer](#)

Each type is defined by how deeply the cancer has grown and whether it has spread. These differences help doctors choose the most appropriate treatment and guide what to expect.

Protect What Matters Most with FreeWill



It's National Make-A-Will Month

Secure your loved one's future in just 20 minutes with FreeWill.

August marks **National Make-A-Will Month**, and BCAN is proud to give our community a free, straightforward way to put a legally binding will in place. Through our partnership with [FreeWill](#), a simple online tool, you can take care of this important task in about 20 minutes.

Taking this step this month means peace of mind for you, protection for the people you love, and the option to leave a legacy that supports BCAN's future work. Nearly 67% of American adults still don't have a will—making this the perfect moment to plan ahead and make sure your wishes are documented and honored.

Click below to access this free and valuable resource.

[Tell me more about FreeWill](#)

Meet This Month's Partner in Progress: enGene

BCAN is proud to feature enGene Therapeutics, Inc. (enGene) as [August's Partner in Progress](#). Together, we are committed to advancing innovation, education, and support for people impacted by bladder cancer.



enGene is focused on advancing a new bladder-sparing therapy for people living with non-muscle invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC), particularly those facing limited treatment options and difficult decisions about their care. The company's proprietary technology platform enables the delivery of immunostimulatory gene therapies directly into the bladder without the use of traditional viral vectors, which often require increased storage, handling, and post-treatment biosafety requirements. This novel approach may offer a more streamlined treatment experience for providers, patients, and caregivers.

[Learn more about enGene](#)

Clinical Trial of the Month



[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 high-grade CIS non-muscle invasive bladder cancer, an early-stage form of the disease that is isolated to the inner lining of the bladder and has not spread into the muscle layer. Researchers are determining whether TARA-002 is a safe and effective treatment for adult patients with this type of bladder cancer.

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

The Leading Cause of Bladder Cancer: Smoking

August 1 was [World Lung Cancer Day](#). While it's widely known that smoking can cause lung cancer, many people don't realize that **smoking tobacco is a top risk factor for bladder cancer**.

More than half of all bladder cancer diagnoses can be linked to smoking.



[Explore our section on smoking and bladder cancer](#)

FREE RESOURCES FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Bladder Cancer Basics Handbook

BCAN provides a free, downloadable handbook to help you learn the facts, get support, and find hope for your future.

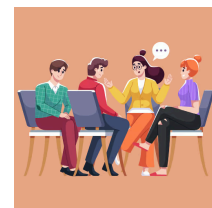
[Learn more »](#)



"Bladder Cancer Matters" Podcast

BCAN's podcasts bring you leading experts and patients who can help demystify a bladder cancer journey.

[Start listening »](#)



Find a Support Group

BCAN can connect you with a variety of virtual, in-person, or hybrid groups to support you in your or your loved one's bladder cancer journey.

[Explore your options »](#)

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