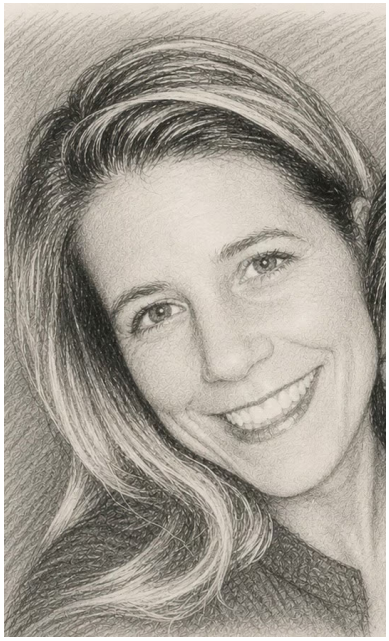
The Beacon

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

October 1, 2026

Read prior editions

Kim's Story: “Life doesn’t stop when you have cancer.”



In October of 2024, Kim earned her Ph.D. and had plans of retiring early and becoming a professor. Then, on a random snow day just three months later, she was diagnosed with bladder cancer and her life changed forever.

After getting an Indiana pouch in a surgery that lasted over 12 hours, Kim realized the physical part of her recovery would be harder than she imagined. As an active person, she never thought something as simple as taking a walk around the block to be difficult, but it was. She learned that accepting her new body was a key factor in starting to feel like herself again.

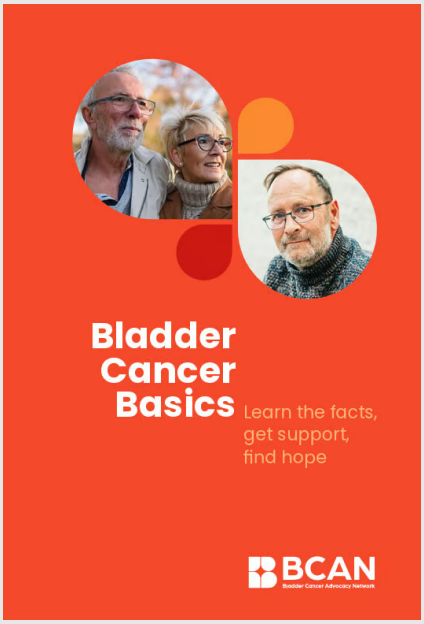
Read Kim's Story

Bladder Cancer Basics: Free Handbook

When you’ve been diagnosed with bladder cancer, it can be very scary, and you’ll likely have many questions.

Our **Bladder Cancer Basics** handbook can help you learn the facts, get support, and find hope for your future.

Learn as much as you can about your condition and options for treatment. The more you know, the better you’ll feel about taking charge of your treatment and your life.



Download Bladder Cancer Basics

Bladder Cancer Types, Stages, and Grades

Bladder cancer is classified in three key ways:

- **Type**: The form and origin of the tumor (e.g., urothelial carcinoma)
- **Stage**: How far the cancer has spread (0–4)
- **Grade**: How abnormal and aggressive the cancer cells appear



These classifications help doctors choose the most effective treatment, predict how the cancer may behave, and estimate risk of the cancer coming back or getting worse.

Learn more about types, stages, and grades

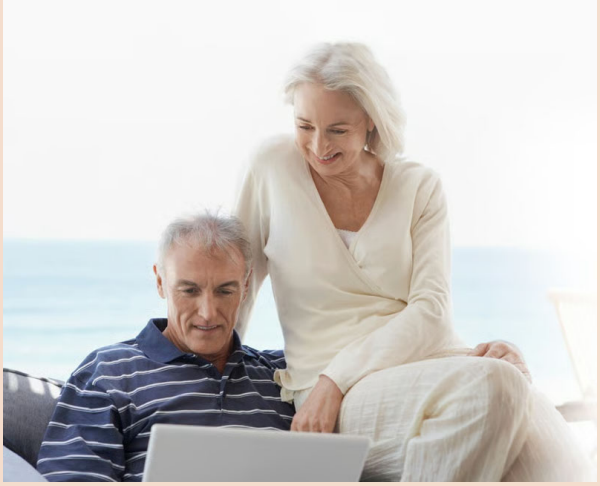
Upcoming Bladder Cancer Webinars

BCAN offers **free, expert-led bladder cancer webinars** for patients, survivors, caregivers, and healthcare professionals. These live and recorded sessions cover topics such as diagnosis, treatment options, clinical trials, survivorship, nutrition, and caregiver support. See below for upcoming webinars:

Managing Stress and Uncertainty: Tools for Coping with Bladder Cancer
🗓️ October 7, 2026, 4:00pm ET
Register here

Understanding Systemic Therapies in MIBC: When, Why, and What Are Your Options?
🗓️ November 3, 2026, 5:00pm ET

Register here



Learn more about our webinars

October 6th Female Focus Support Group Meeting



On the first Tuesday of every month, BCAN hosts a virtual support group in which women talk about issues and concerns that are unique to them. Join us and meet others who know what you are going through. It is moderated by nurse and BCAN patient advocate Karen Sachse, RN, MSN and social worker Miriam Pomerantz Kadosh, MSW, LCSW.

On Tuesday, October 6 at 7pm ET, the session will focus on **seeking professional psychological support and emotional health/mental well-being**. You must register for each session you plan to attend. We look forward to seeing you!

Register now

DIY Fundraising: BCAN Your Way



Looking for a way to make a difference? **BCAN Your Way** is an opportunity for people with a deep commitment to the bladder cancer cause to raise awareness and critical funds for BCAN in support of our mission.

DIY fundraisers have the potential to connect the bladder cancer cause to new communities. Look no further than The Beacon of Love Musical Campaign to see how compassionate individuals can directly support bladder cancer patients, caregivers and families with a little time and creativity. You can also learn more and get some great fundraising ideas from our BCAN Your Way guide.

No matter how you choose to fundraise, every effort helps raise awareness, inspires support, and makes a difference for the bladder cancer community.

Start a fundraiser

BCAN's Furry Friends



Behind BCAN is a staff of passionate individuals dedicated to creating better todays and more tomorrows for bladder cancer patients and families. But did you know that behind our staff is a team of furry friends dedicated to that same mission?

From our Research Pawject Manager to our Feline-thropy Officers, our pets work hard to remind us what unconditional support looks like so we can offer the same to you, and we couldn't be more grateful. ❤️ 🐾

Check out our pets!

FREE RESOURCES FOR OUR COMMUNITY







Animated Videos About Bladder Cancer

Learn about important bladder cancer terms and procedures via short, easy-to-digest videos.

Explore our library »

Tips for Caregivers

This handbook supports bladder cancer caregivers with helpful tools and resources to navigate these challenging journeys.

Download for free »

Resources for Veterans

This page provides veterans with veteran-specific bladder cancer educational resources from BCAN and more.

Learn more »

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