



BCAN

Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network



FALL 2026 SUMMIT
AUGUST 28-29 • SAN DIEGO, CA



About 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. Contact the BCAN team:

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Fall Summit Agenda

Day One | Friday, August 28, 2026

9:30 AM

Registration and Information Fair Open

- Coffee and light refreshments
- First-Time Attendee Meet & Greet with BCAN's Council of Patient Advisors and BCAN San Diego Chapter

10:30–11:00 AM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Meri-Margaret Deoudes, BCAN CEO

11:00–12:00 PM

Getting Started: BCAN Resources for Patients and Caregivers

Learn about BCAN's programs and services that are designed to support you in understanding and managing your diagnosis, presented by Patricia Rios, MBA, MPH, BCAN's Director of Education and Advocacy.

12:00–1:15 PM

Lunch

1:15–2:30 PM

Managing the Unexpected Side Effects of Bladder Cancer Treatment

Knowing what to expect can make it easier to navigate bladder cancer treatment. This session will explore common side effects associated with different treatment approaches, including urinary, physical and quality-of-life concerns. Experts will share practical tips for managing symptoms and knowing when to seek additional support.

Arman Walia, MD, Unio Specialty Care; Nataliya Mar, MD, UCI Health

2:30–2:45 PM

Break

Schedule continues on the next page>

2:45–4:00 PM

Thriving After Treatment: Tools for Recovery and Rehabilitation

Many physical side effects of bladder cancer treatment can be improved with the right support and rehabilitation. Learn how specialists in ostomy care, pelvic floor therapy and lymphedema management can help address common concerns, improve function and enhance quality of life throughout recovery and survivorship.

Davita Essien, RN, CWON, Houston Methodist; Stephanie Ramsay, PT, DPT, University of California San Diego; Kayla Wei, OTD, OTR/L, City of Hope

4:00–4:15 PM

Break

4:15–5:30 PM

The Heart of Survivorship: Nurturing Emotional Well-Being

Emotional well-being is an important part of living with bladder cancer. This session will explore practical strategies for coping with the uncertainty of recurrence, nurturing hope and resilience and navigating relationships with family, friends and caregivers throughout the cancer journey.

Deane L. Wolcott, MD, DLFAPA, FAPOS, FACLP, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

5:30–8:30 PM

Social Hour & Dinner

Caregiver Workshop

Build Your Toolkit: Practical Strategies for Caregivers
Saturday at 8:00–9:15 AM | Location: Sandpiper Salon



Created exclusively for caregivers, this interactive workshop offers practical strategies, valuable resources, and peer support to help you care for your loved one—and yourself.

Led by Reena Cherry, M.S. PA-C, University of California San Diego Health

Day Two | Saturday, August 29, 2026

8:00 AM

Registration, Breakfast and Information Fair

- Registration and information fair open
- Light breakfast available
- Caregiver workshop

9:30-10:30 AM

Living Beyond Bladder Cancer: Patient and Caregiver Stories

Every bladder cancer journey is unique. Join a panel of patients and caregivers as they share personal stories, insights and lessons learned while navigating diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and life beyond cancer.

10:30-10:45 AM

Break | Resource Fair Closes

10:45-12:15 PM

Intimacy and Sexual Health After Bladder Cancer

Bladder cancer and its treatments can affect intimacy and sexual health in ways that are often difficult to talk about. This session will address common concerns and offer practical strategies for navigating intimacy and sexual well-being after bladder cancer.

Krisztina Emodi, NP, University of California San Francisco; Mary W. Dunn, NP, University of North Carolina School of Medicine

12:15-1:30 PM

Lunch

1:30-2:45 PM

Bladder Cancer Care Today - and What's Next

Stay up to date on the latest developments in bladder cancer care. Experts will discuss current treatment approaches and emerging therapies across the bladder cancer journey, helping patients and caregivers better understand their options and navigate informed treatment decisions.

Amirali Salmasi, MD, MSCR, University of California San Diego Health; Sandy Liu, MD, UCI Health

2:45-3:00 PM

Summit Reflection

3:00 PM

Closing

Fall Summit Speakers

Reena Cherry, MS, PA-C



Reena is a highly accomplished board-certified Physician Assistant with a distinguished career spanning 24 years serving the oncology community. Throughout this time, Reena has worked as an expert clinician at two of the nation's most prestigious healthcare institutions: MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas and UC San Diego Health in her beloved hometown. Reena brings a wealth of experience to the field of oncology, specializing in bladder cancer, kidney cancer, and prostate cancer. With a deep commitment to compassionate patient care, Reena also dedicates her time to supporting the needs of informal caregivers who are an essential component of our healthcare system. Reena received her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia and her Master of Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

Mary W. Dunn, MSN, RN, OCN, NP-C



Mary has served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of North Carolina School of Nursing since 2011. In her multidisciplinary

nurse practitioner role with Urology and Medical Oncology, she provides autonomous, patient-centered care while collaborating closely with leading urologic oncology providers and researchers. She is also a member of the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and co-chairs BCAN's Survivorship Task Force.

Krisztina Emodi, FNP, MPH, CNS



Krisztina is a nurse practitioner specializing in kidney and bladder cancer care, as well as ostomies, neobladder reconstruction, and complex urinary tract infections. She also supports cancer survivors through cancer surveillance and quality of life care. Krisztina earned her bachelor's in molecular biology and a master's in public health from UC Berkeley, with a Fulbright fellowship in Brazil. She holds a Master's Degree in nursing from the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) and is a member of the American Urological Association and Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates.

Davita Essien, BSN, RN, CWON



Davita is a highly skilled and dedicated Inpatient Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurse at Houston Methodist. With a strong clinical foundation

and a passion for specialized patient care, Davita focuses on improving the quality of life for individuals facing complex acute and chronic conditions. Davita earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. As she advanced her education in specialized nursing practice, she was recognized with a prestigious scholarship from the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society (WOCN).

Sandy Liu, MD



Dr. Liu is a medical oncologist specializing in genitourinary cancers, including bladder, kidney, prostate, testicular, and urethral cancers. Her clinical and research interests focus on immunotherapy and clinical trials, helping bring innovative treatments to patients. She is committed to providing personalized, compassionate care throughout the cancer journey.

Nataliya Mar, MD



Dr. Mar is a board-certified medical oncologist specializing in bladder, prostate, kidney, and testicular cancers. She is actively involved in designing and leading clinical trials at the UCI Health Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Mar

is dedicated to advancing treatment options while providing individualized patient care.

Stephanie Ramsay, PT, DPT



Stephanie is a pelvic floor physical therapist who specializes in providing outpatient care and treatment at the Koman Family

Outpatient Pavilion for adults with a variety of pelvic health conditions and dysfunctions. Stephanie has a desire to advocate for her patients and to treat their body as a whole. She finds physical therapy rewarding because she sees her patients achieve their health goals and improve their quality of daily life. Stephanie obtained her doctoral degree in physical therapy from the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences in San Marcos and is currently a lab assistant at the university in applied anatomy.

Amirali Salmasi, MD, MSCR



Dr. Salmasi is a urologic oncologist specializing in bladder, prostate, kidney, and other genitourinary cancers. He performs advanced robotic and minimally invasive cancer surgery while leading translational research and clinical trials. Dr. Salmasi has published more than 50 peer-reviewed articles and is an active member of leading national urologic and oncology organizations.

Arman Walia, MD



Dr. Walia is a fellowship-trained urologic oncologist specializing in bladder, prostate, kidney, and testicular cancers.

As Co-Director of the Cancer Center of Excellence in San Diego, he provides comprehensive surgical cancer care and leads multidisciplinary treatment planning. He also serves as a principal investigator for multiple clinical trials focused on advancing urologic cancer care.

Kayla Wei, OTD, OTR/L



Kayla is an occupational therapist at City of Hope with expertise in oncology rehabilitation. She provides care across

the inpatient and outpatient settings, helping patients maintain function and quality of life throughout cancer

treatment and recovery. Her work includes one of the nation's largest breast cancer rehabilitation programs.

Deane L. Wolcott, MD, DLFAPA, FAPOS, FACLP



Dr. Wolcott is a retired psychiatrist with expertise in psychosocial oncology and supportive cancer care. He led the

development of oncology supportive care services at Cedars-Sinai Health System and across multiple U.S. cancer centers, and consulted on cancer service redesign for the UK's National Health Service. Dr. Wolcott serves on several cancer-focused community and professional advisory boards and has held leadership roles with the American Psychosocial Oncology Society and the Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry. He is the author of more than 70 professional publications.

Tell us what you thought of the program!



Scan this code to complete your evaluation.

Thank you for joining us at our 2026 Fall Bladder Cancer Summit for Patients and Families. We want to know what you thought about the program. Use the camera on your smartphone or tablet to scan the QR code to be redirected to our program evaluation or type this address **research.net/r/FallSummit2026** into your browser.

Walk to End Bladder Cancer

Our annual Walks to End Bladder Cancer connect patients and caregivers and raise funds to help support bladder cancer patients and those who love them.

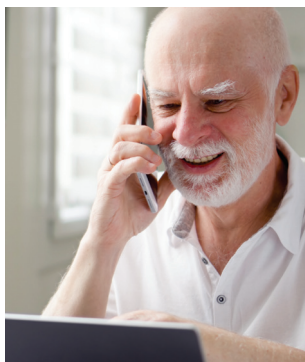
To register, visit bcanwalk.org



With Gratitude

A special thank you to our speakers, BCAN's Council of Patient Advisors, the BCAN San Diego Chapter and corporate sponsors for their invaluable support in making the 2026 Fall Summit possible.

Survivor to Survivor



Our Survivor 2 Survivor (S2S) program supports bladder cancer patients and caregivers at every stage of their journeys by connecting survivors and co-survivors who have gone through similar experiences for a peer-to-peer conversation. This program matches bladder cancer patients and caregivers with trained volunteers who offer a sympathetic ear and share their own experiences as well as insight about

their own bladder cancer diagnosis, treatment and survivorship. Learn more at bcan.org/s2s.

Free Phone Support

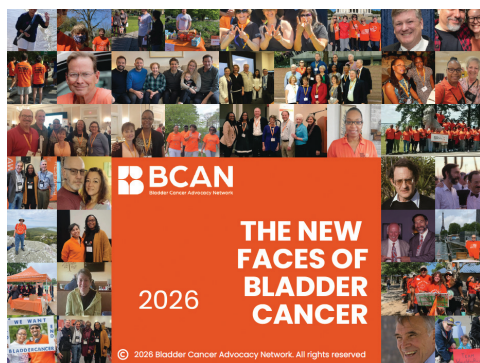


Call BCAN's support line at **833-ASK-4-BCA (833-275-4222)** to connect with professional oncology social workers who understand the unique challenges of bladder cancer. Get support for emotional, practical, and informational needs—whether you're a patient, caregiver, or have lost a loved one. Compassionate help is just a call away.



SPRING 2027 SUMMIT
MORE DETAILS TO COME!

The 2026 New Faces of Bladder Cancer Report



The New Faces of Bladder Cancer Report is a comprehensive analysis of being diagnosed with bladder cancer today, the gaps that remain, the progress we have made and key priorities for the future of bladder cancer care, research, and advocacy.

This report is made possible by patients and caregivers who generously shared their experiences through our survey. Thank you to every individual who took the time to make their voice heard—your stories are driving meaningful change.

Read the New Faces of Bladder Cancer Report. Because every patient voice matters. Download it at BCAN.org/newfaces.

Get Involved!



Join our nationwide network of BCAN volunteers and make a real difference.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Walk to End Bladder Cancer
- Research Advocates Program
- Survivor 2 Survivor Program
- Grassroots Advocates Program
- And many more

Visit the BCAN volunteer table at the Information Fair or speak to a BCAN team member at the Summit to learn more.

Thank you to our sponsors.



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The Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) is a community of patients, caregivers, survivors, advocates, medical and research professionals united in support of people impacted by bladder cancer.

www.bcan.org