

[Breast/Kid'ney] Cancer Patient

Talent and Grace –The Art of Giving



Liz Lucas

by Simon Tchekmedyian, MD



Practicing oncology can be tough. Sometimes, at the end of the day, after caring for many patients and their families, after consulting with colleagues and reading every relevant medical publication that could help make the best decision for a patient, you really feel like a punching bag. But Liz Lucas makes it all worthwhile. I would most definitely be ready to fight another round for her any day.

You would never know that she has been fighting advanced kidney cancer for quite some time, that she endures ongoing treatments, or that she survived breast cancer many years back. None of that has stopped her from pursuing her dreams. She just keeps on contributing her time, her effort, and her resources to help so many! She has succeeded as an accomplished artist, a revered teacher, a community leader, a philanthropist, as well as a caring wife and mother. In fact, her

art, her writings, as well as her many cards and designs adorn cancer centers throughout the country and inspire patients and oncology professionals everywhere.

Even when facing the most difficult and life-threatening challenges relating to her illness, she has managed to deflect attention from herself and into some project entirely dedicated to helping others. I indeed have been left shaking my head at times, both humbled and amazed by her selflessness, her intelligence and talent, and her kindness and compassion.

Heart

Cancer has been a major part of my life for over seven years. During that time, Dr. Tchekmedyian has saved my life more than once. I am a seven-year breast cancer and a two and a half-year kidney cancer survivor. I am currently in a maintenance program for a recurrence of kidney cancer. What makes things most difficult right now is that my dear husband of forty-four years recently passed away from melanoma. Sometimes it seems like

everyone I meet has been touched by cancer or has a family member who has been.

Some might ask, "How do you carry on?" My answer is simple: I have the love and support of my family, my friends, and an unwavering trust in Dr. T, his staff, and all of the people associated with St. Mary Medical Center and Pacific Shores Medical Group. I get up each morning grateful for the privilege to see another day, to view another sunset, and to give thanks for the life I've had so far.

Heroes are usually found on battlefields or selflessly responding to emergencies. But there are also millions of heroes worldwide who daily fight the invasion of cancer that threatens to destroy so many lives. They are the patients, the survivors, the family and friends who support them, and of course, the doctors, nurses, researchers, and the funding agencies who are reaching for the cure. I believe that these are true heroes in our fight against cancer.

by Liz Lucas



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