2022 AT A GLANCE
AND LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

A Progress and Programming Report
Created December 2022
Stomach Cancer Awareness Network
dba: Hope For Stomach Cancer
aka: StoCAN / StoCan.org

Your stomach cancer support community!
With 2023 in our sights, Hope for Stomach Cancer is deeply grateful for the all efforts and devotion from our stomach cancer community.

With 2023 in our sights, Hope for Stomach Cancer is deeply grateful for the all efforts and devotion from our stomach cancer community. Our supporters, volunteers and sponsors have a generosity of spirit that has enabled us to grow in reach and depth this year. Your contributions of time, personal stories, financial support, and expertise led to 1332 attendees at our educational webinars and 846 in our support groups. It led to the wild success of our 30 STORIES in 30 DAYS educational campaign that reached 1,882,552 people worldwide. Overall, we worked in collaboration to advocate, advance policy, improve treatments, and bring valuable resources to all facing stomach cancer.

We will continue to build on these achievements in 2023 by expanding the number of support groups offered and capitalizing on the momentum from 30 STORIES. We plan on instituting a presence on Capitol Hill to influence prevention and early detection policy, and inclusion of pediatric stomach cancer patients in research and clinical trials. Additionally, we will be focusing on three new projects in 2023: a Biomarker Website, a Patient Advocate Hotline, and the creation of new research in the field.

We are hopeful about the future. Please join us in this gastric cancer advocacy movement so that we can create a healthier future for all who are impacted by this disease. Let’s continue to make inroads together.

with love, Aki
1) Educating people about stomach cancer to improve health outcomes and increase their quality of life.

2) Strengthening the community of patients and their loved ones to alleviate their suffering by providing hope and connection.

3) Empowering and uniting all for advancing research and care protocols, for increasing enrollment in clinical trials, and patient care access for diverse populations.

OUR VISION: TO BRIDGE THE GAPS BETWEEN RESEARCH AND PATIENT CARE BY

1,882,552 VIEWERS REACHED WITH 30 STORIES IN NOVEMBER

7 WEBINARS
1,332 REGISTRATIONS
85 QUESTIONS ASKED

650 ACTIVE FB SUPPORT GROUP MEMBERS

49 PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

SHARED 351 HOPE-IN-A-BAG KITS
18 GROUPS HELD
846 REGISTRATIONS

SUPPORT GROUPS
43 DOCS VOLUNTEER HOURS
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Hope’s Mission + Story ........ 5
Community Collaboration ...... 6
Website Updates ............... 7
Social Media .................. 9
Programs ...................... 29
Bringing Awareness .......... 38
Advocacy ...................... 43
In Remembrance .............. 47
Looking Ahead ................. 49
Thank You ..................... 51

#INSPIResearch
#ADVOCATEforresearch
#CREATEresearch
HOPE HELPS RESEARCH HAPPEN
MISSION.
Hope for Stomach Cancer provides resources to patients, caregivers and loved ones. We promote early detection and prevention to the general public and medical communities. ‘Hope’ creates and facilitates programs which enable all of those who are affected by stomach cancer to take actionable steps to overcome each phase of the disease.

OUR VISION.
Our Vision is to bridge the gap between Research and Patient Care.

OUR COMMITMENT.
• We connect the stomach cancer community
• We help save lives
• We are constantly working to find a cure
• We are HERE for YOU

OUR ACTIONS.
INSPIRE research.
ADVOCATE for research.
CREATE research.

HOPE FOR STOMACH CANCER IS SO MUCH MORE THAN A PATIENT ADVOCACY GROUP.
Almost everyone involved in our organization has been personally impacted by this disease.

We are caregivers, survivors, patients and loved ones who come together to interact, support and care for one another.

We interface with leading members of both the medical and the pharmaceutical communities. By understanding the latest technological advancements, we are able to better serve our community.

HOW HOPE STARTED.
Aki Smith founded Hope for Stomach Cancer after helping her father, Shigeo Tsuruoka, battle the disease.

The devastating shock of Shigeo’s advanced stage diagnosis came in late 2013 but they refused to give up without a fight. They made a deal – Shigeo would fight the disease and Aki would handle everything else. Aki soon found a severe lack of information, guidance and support. Making the decisions on the right team of doctors to treatment options and insurance issues was overwhelming. Today, Shigeo is in remission. Call it luck, a blessing, something else or ALL of the above.

Aki decided to answer the call and made Stomach Cancer Patient Advocacy her life’s work (in addition to being a wife, mother and daughter).

She created Hope for everyone impacted by stomach cancer.
COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

HOPE WORKS TOGETHER IN PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION IN MANY DYNAMIC CAPACITIES WITH OVER 49 NONPROFITS, HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS, GOVERNMENT ENTITIES, AND COMPANIES.

2023 JOHN HOPKINS UPDATES IN GI CANCERS CONFERENCE
TARGETCANCER FOUNDATION
ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY
AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY (ASCO)
BAG-IT
CANCER CARE
CANCER LEGAL COMMONS
CANCER LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER
CHROLANGIORCARCINOMA FOUNDATION
CLINWIKI
CLOZTALK
CURE -
DEADLIEST CANCERS COALITION
DEGREGORIO FAMILY FOUNDATION
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DISABILITY BENEFITS CENTER
ESCAPE TO THRIVE
ESOPHAGEAL AND STOMACH CANCER PROJECT
ESOPHAGEAL CANCER EDUCATION FOUNDATION
GASTRIC CANCER MEDICAL COMMUNITY
GASTRIC CANCER SUMMIT AT STANFORD
GI CANCERS ALLIANCE
GRYT
HEALING WITH HANNA STINSON, HEALTHWELL FOUNDATION
INTERNATIONAL GASTRIC CANCER CONGRESS
IMERMAN ANGELS
KOMOTO HEALTH
MASSIVE BIO
MY GUT FEELING
NANCY’S LIST
NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE
NATIONAL COALITION FOR CANCER SURVIVORSHIP
NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE CANCER NETWORK (NCCN).
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH
NO STOMACH FOR CANCER
PATIENT ADVOCATE FOUNDATION
PCORI
SMART PATIENTS SUPPORT GROUP
STAND UP TO CANCER – SU2C.
STOMACH CANCER SISTERS
STUPID CANCER
STUPID STRONG
THE SAMFUND
TEMPUS
TRIAGE CANCER
WELLNESS FOR WOMEN FIGHTING CANCER

Hope is always looking for ways to connect with and improve the lives of stomach cancer patients. And Mental Health And Wellness For Women achieve both of those goals.

So, a private group that formed on social media called the Stomach Cancer Sisters, Abigail Mejia and Lexy Elmaksoud Patton, both 28-years old at diagnosis shared this program with us to share with you.

First, the Stomach Cancer Sisters formed out of the common bonds of gastric cancer and being young women in their 20s. Additionally, in their quest to support one another they developed and implemented a virtual program.

It’s focused on three primary pillars of emotional, mental, and physical health for women of all ages battling cancer.

Periwinkle Awareness Ribbon with Stomach Cancer Sisters - Stomach Cancer Support Groups

HEALING WITH HANNAH

The Stomach Cancer Sisters partnered with Hanna Stinson, and Hope For Stomach Cancer to provide a two sets of 10-week virtual program. And you can sample some of the sessions below.

Please note that all sessions have been recorded and you can access them online.

VISIT BIT.LY/SCS_YOGA TO REGISTER TO VIEW ALL VIDEOS ON DEMAND
Dear Friends,

Hope this newsletter finds you well. This month has been much of a rollercoaster. The progress we are seeing is beyond encouraging. Our efforts and our advocacy is being heard. We are getting noticed.

But the lows are absolutely devastating. We are losing too many people to this disease.

Our youngest, Aileen Hernandez, was only 22 years old with a full life ahead of her. We also lost Amber Belko, a beautiful woman who over the course of three years never reached remission. She was on more oncological treatment lines than we ever thought possible. She never lost hope. Amber was even looking to get into a clinical trial while in hospice! The passing of each person is painful and we grieve together. We know they live in our hearts and we have to keep pushing to do better.

This month we also flew down to New Orleans for the Annual AACR conference. We got to meet the SU2C team in person, with the President of SU2C present. Amazing! We also had a booth with quite a bit of traffic. Board member, Irasema presented a poster. It’s always such an honor to be among the medical community, the very people looking to end this disease.

Thank you to our volunteers, medical advisory board members, and board members for all your hard work!

Lastly, our 2-part series “Cannabis and Cancer: What You Need to Know” is coming up this Friday, May 6th @ 10 AM PST | 1p EST Sign-in to attend Part 2 HERE. And if you missed part one, you can watch it Watch PART 1 on-demand HERE.

Friends as always, I thank you in making all our programs successful. Together, we will find a cure.

With love,

—Aki
We share HOPE to all those affected by this disease. We are constantly researching and providing information. We share your stories of struggles, success and loss.

**FACEBOOK**
- 10.73% overall engagement rate
- 1 Million+ people reached!
- 64,000+ clicks to stocan.org

**INSTAGRAM**
- 11,000+ profile views
- 166,000+ people reached
- 1,100+ website taps
- 12,000+ engagements (comments, likes, shares, etc)

**SOCIAL FOLLOWERS**
- 8,742 Facebook
- 1,134 Twitter
- 1,564 Instagram
- 1,210 YouTube

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO FIND A CURE TO THIS DISEASE AND WALK BESIDE YOU IN CONSTANT SUPPORT.**

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.
There's always Hope

2022 SOCIAL MEDIA TOP PERFORMING FACEBOOK POSTS

Hope For Stomach Cancer

This is one of the most difficult posts we've ever had to write - we were tearful with us. On Monday, March 28, 2022, Amber Bella passed away at the age of 17 years old. Amber was diagnosed with stage IV stomach cancer when she was 15 years old. She was one of the many parents we know who did multiple rounds of treatment. She was a warrior, a leader, and an activist. She will miss her dearly. We send our condolences to her family, friends, and loved ones.

in amber's own words and captions to the picture

"Stage 4 needs more. Stomach cancer in general needs more. I personally feel we can find a way to make it less fatal. We can solve the problem for everyone underground and thus give everyone a better chance. Hopefully one day it can be something easily managed or eradicated." #stomachcancer #stomachcancerawareness #stomachcancerawareness #stomachcancerawareness #stomachcancerawareness #stomachcancerawareness

795 comments 167 shares

Hope For Stomach Cancer

On April 4th, 2022, a stomach cancer community lost @katrinacancer, 58 years old, mother, wife, daughter, niece, and friend. She faced stomach cancer for two years with grace and courage. She was an inspiration to us all, and she’ll be deeply missed. We send our condolences and prayers to all who knew her, especially to her 3 kids whom she adored. We full-oblisy to here.

https://stomachcancerawareness.org/2022/04/04/katrina/

Our community is grieving over the loss of Kat. It has been a tough few days as we lost a number of stomach cancer survivors within an amount of time. These heartfelt losses are unbearable, and we will continue Kat’s legacy and raise awareness for the terrible cancer. Be high. Kat

111 comments 39 shares

From Stage 1b to Stage 4: Camilla’s Story

Camilla is a young mom and wife who was originally diagnosed with stage one stomach cancer in 2016. She had a stomach cancer recurrence in 2022 and was later diagnosed with stage 4.

Read her story here: https://stomachcancerawareness.org/2022/04/04/katrina/

354 comments 65 shares

10 comments 9 shares
TOP PERFORMING INSTAGRAM POSTS

2022 SOCIAL MEDIA

160 likes

158 likes

233 views
CAMPAIGN: OVERVIEW

Throughout November 2022, Hope for Stomach Cancer honored gastric cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers with stories that spotlighted a different individual on each day of the month. In total, we published 15 written stories, 11 video vignettes, and 4 visual illustrations, all with the aim of drawing attention to this rare diagnosis and increasing the quality of life for anyone facing this illness. We also added a bonus highlight video and a Friendsgiving post.

Our campaign featured a diverse audience of patients and caregivers. We covered a wide spectrum of ages, races, backgrounds, and circumstances in an effort to reach as many people as possible.

This awareness campaign was made possible with generous support from our pharmaceutical partners: Merck, Taiho Oncology, BMS, Daiichi Sankyo, Amgen Oncology, and Lilly. We also received an Independent Grant Support from Astellas.

UNDERSTANDING THE NEED

Every person’s stomach cancer experience is different, but common themes emerged as we spoke with various patients and caregivers. In many cases, the early signs of stomach cancer were attributed to more common gastrointestinal conditions. Further, by the time that people receive their stomach cancer diagnosis, the disease was often far along, and they had limited options for treatment. Finally, we saw firsthand how gastric cancer can affect people of all ages, from teenagers to aged adults.

Immunotherapy, clinical trials, and other advancements in medicine and technology may offer solutions for patients, but these options are not always available for advanced patients.

Given that more than 30,000 people will be diagnosed with stomach cancer in the United States alone this year, it is imperative to spread awareness of the symptoms and available treatments to improve survivability rates.
30 Stories Shared in November

The stories and videos will remain on our website and social media channels to inspire and help others in the future. We intend to re-purpose this content moving forward so that it continues to reach a broader audience.

CAMPAIGN RESULTS

In all, more than 1,882,552 people worldwide were reached with content from the 30 Stories of Hope series in November 2022. Some of the stories reached upwards of 10,000 people on Facebook and well over 1,000 people on Instagram. Each story was promoted by Hope for Stomach Cancer, and in many cases, commenters shared their own stories as well as others from the campaign.

In addition to the social shares, the campaign had an immeasurable impact within the stomach cancer community. Participants made new connections by reading one another’s stories and discovered mentors and friends through social sharing. Some patients who shared their stories received renewed hope as they learned of treatment options from other participants.

STOCAN.ORG HIGHLIGHTS
• 15,000 views

INSTAGRAM CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS
• 2,500+ profile visits
• 690 website taps
• 2,900+ engagements (comments likes, shares, etc)
• 31,000+ people reached

FACEBOOK CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS
• 18,000+ likes
• 215,000+ people reached
• 13,000+ clicks to the website from Facebook

YOUTUBE CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS
• 167,464 views in first 28 days of posting
• 1.6M overall impressions

Thank you for making our 30 Stories in November possible:

INDEPENDENT GRANT SUPPORT FROM ASTELLAS

Visit bit.ly/hope_stories to view and learn from each of the 30 stories.
ASHLYN EDWARDS

Today begins 30 stories in 30 days and we are honored to share Ashlyn’s journey, a 23-year-old survivor who received her life-altering diagnosis at 21. When Ashlyn received her diagnosis, she was at stage 3. She went through FLOT, had a partial gastrectomy, and then underwent a second FLOT treatment. After numerous setbacks, including extreme acid reflux as a result of her therapies, a two-month period of being Nothing by Month (NPO) due to a leak during surgery, and an emergency surgery to remove her feeding tube, she was declared No Evidence of Disease (NED) last year.

PHIL & KIM LAGO

It’s no surprise that stress is a huge part of the journey while navigating cancer diagnosis, treatment, and even recovery. This #NationalStressAwarenessDay we are honored to share Phil Lago’s story. Phil is a survivor of advanced gastric cancer. He and his wife Kim reflect on the importance of maintaining hope and relying on faith while fighting this disease together.

Having a support system is vital when it comes to maintaining stress. As you follow along this month, we hope you will find some comfort in knowing that you are not alone in this fight.

GREG MYERS

There is a common saying that when a person develops cancer, their entire family gets it because of the all-encompassing way that this disease impacts lives. In Greg’s case, as a carrier of the rare CDH1 gene and a stage 2 survivor, this was literally the truth.

Read more about Greg’s family and their journey with stomach cancer as they navigated this life-changing news.
COURTNEY (COURT) NIELSEN

Court Nielsen is a loving father who underwent a treatment and a total gastrectomy during COVID lockdowns following his stomach cancer diagnosis.

“Personally, I want to do whatever I can to maximize time with my family. I love seeing my daughter grow and I’m thankful to be here for her everyday, and I hope to be on this earth long enough to raise her to adulthood.”

His story teaches us about the value of willpower and the power of focusing on the people you love during your treatment journey.

ALICIA + MARK AGUIRRE

Caregivers deserve just as much recognition and support as patients. Alicia Aguirre, is a dedicated caregiver and mother of two who helped her husband Mark Aguirre from the time of his diagnosis in 2018 until his passing in 2020. She recounts their story of receiving his surprising diagnosis, the whirlwind of treatment that followed, and her unique perspective as a spouse of someone battling gastric cancer.

To all the caregivers in this community, we see you.
ALISON & RON MERLE

Alison and Ron Merle have been together for more than 20 years. This NJ based couple has experienced many highs and lows throughout Ron’s gastric cancer journey.

“Along with Ron’s family and my friends, I’ve found a lot of support through social media - I had been off for years, but rejoined because the support groups are incredibly valuable. One thing Ron has always said to me is “don’t borrow tomorrow’s troubles” and I think that is the most valuable piece of information you can give anyone - caregiver or patient!” - Alison

BRITTANY DEFENDERFER

Brittany Derfenderfer received her gastric cancer diagnosis at a young age. She diligently researched her options, got multiple opinions, and advocated for herself throughout her treatment. Thanks to early detection, she didn’t need to do any chemo or any oncological treatment.
Melinda Chiu is a stage 4 stomach cancer warrior. Her journey has been filled with many hurdles and obstacles, but her story remains full of hope and inspiration.

“Above all, I need to keep fighting so that I can be here for my kids and husband. My goal is to be around long enough to enjoy a good ole Rum Punch with my kids when they turn 21! When I look back at my life, I’m grateful for all I’ve experienced. I’ve lived a wonderful life full of unforgettable adventures, experiences and relationships and need to continue doing this for many years to come!” - Melinda

Jerome White received his Stage 4 diagnosis in 2021. Battling this cancer at only 35 years old, he speaks about the importance of positivity, perseverance, and hope, despite a frightening prognosis. Jerome celebrated his 36 birthday earlier this week. Happy Birthday, Jerome!

When Suzanne was diagnosed with stomach cancer that spread to her bones in 2021, she immediately began to prioritize her well-being. She fought hard through her treatment process with chemo & monoclonal antibody, 8 rounds of Folfox, Neulasta, 

See a visual and read the rest of her story on the next page.
Suzanne continued. and Xgeva every 4 weeks. It was rough on her body, but an endoscopy showed the tumor was completely gone.

Suzanne continues to seek support and education online and is making the most of her life by traveling the world and staying hopeful for the future. She's an inspiration to us all!
Today we are sending love to all the brave men and women who have served our country. We are sending special thoughts to Daren’s family as we remember him today. Daren was only 32 years old and newly married when he passed away from stomach cancer. Thank you Daren for your service. Our sincerest condolences to his wife and family.

Stan Espinoza is a stomach cancer survivor from Albuquerque, NM. He used a combination of standard medicine and Cannabis-based products to help alleviate the symptoms from his gastric cancer.

Niccole Branson is a stage three stomach cancer survivor and BRCA mutation carrier, from Phoenix, Arizona. After receiving her diagnosis in her late 30s, she underwent eight rounds of chemotherapy, a partial gastrectomy, and 25 rounds of radiation before doctors pronounced her disease-free. This is her inspiring story.
TINA AND JAMES WILL

Hope for Stomach Cancer recently sat down with Tina and James Will. James received a stage four stomach cancer diagnosis as a father of five children under the age of 10. This is his story of hope, persistence, and recovery.

ANTHONY & ANISSA

We recently spoke with Anissa Bass, the wife and longtime caregiver of Anthony Bass. Anthony passed away on August 10th, 2022, after a long battle with stage four gastric cancer. This inspiring story teaches about hope after loss and enduring despite great obstacles.

SHIGEO TSURUOKA

November is #NationalFamilyCaregiversMonth and we would like to give a special shout out to all the caregivers in this community. It is not an easy journey, but please know we are here for you every step of the way. Insert info from story
Jennifer Dennis is a mother of three going through treatment for her stage four diagnosis. Her story is full of inspiration as she holds onto hope while facing advanced-stage cancer.

“Moving forward, I hope that clinical trials like the one I’m participating in will reveal a cure for stomach cancer. It’s devastating to be told that you have stage four cancer and that there are few options for recovery. I’m still young and have so much life to live - I want there to be cures to help every stomach cancer fighter out there, regardless of age or background.”
- Jennifer

Lisa Bartoszewicz received her stomach cancer diagnosis at age 35. As a young mother, she’s faced a roller coaster of emotions since her journey began in 2020. This is her story of perseverance and strength.

“It’s a constant up and down cycle. What has helped me a lot is unwavering support from family, friends, and the stomach cancer community. At the start of this we were in the thick of the COVID pandemic, so I had to face treatments and appointments alone. But my husband was always in the background cheering me on and supporting me. I’ve learned so much from various groups and foundations that I’ve reached out to, and I’m thankful for the awareness that’s being raised around this diagnosis.”
- Lisa

See a visual of her story on the next page.
Lisa Bartoszewicz's Journey with Stomach Cancer - Told September 21, 2022

Surviving the Roller Coaster

I’m going through a roller coaster ride of emotions and experiences as I navigate the journey of stomach cancer.

1. **Diagnosis**: On my birthday, I noticed a weird symptom: trouble swallowing my burger.
2. **Total Shock**: They thought maybe I had an ulcer so scheduled an endoscopy.
3. **Stage 4 Cancer**: Many stage 4 patients don’t get this opportunity, but I was lucky enough to have a chance to make it better.
4. **First Round of Chemotherapy**: After 9 months of chemotherapy, everything was looking good.
5. **The Last Scan**: The scan showed the cancer had gotten bigger.
6. **Total Fall**: The last scan showed the cancer had gotten bigger.
7. **I am not a Statistic**: Now I’m learning how to eat & what my body can tolerate.
8. **It’s Hard**: It’s hard because lymph nodes metastasized for many reasons.
9. **I Need to Focus**: I need to focus on maintaining weight and getting ready to resume the same things.
10. **Every Day**: Everyday, try to eat and think about us crazy.

We decided to do a different kind of roller coaster ride and see what the future holds.

LISA BARTOSZEWICZ

StoCan.org | 22 | There’s always Hope
Today is International Men’s Day and we would like to spread awareness about the importance of Men’s health. Though we know anyone can get stomach cancer, men seem to be at an increased risk.

Today we share Amit’s story. He learned about his diagnosis after testing positive for the H. pylori bacteria. Originally diagnosed stage 3, his cancer progressed during chemotherapy making him stage 4. Amit never gave up Hope. Please take a moment to read his inspiring story of perseverance and recovery.

At 31, Mahathi was recently married and looking forward to starting a family. Receiving an unexpected stomach cancer diagnosis in the prime of her life upended those plans. Her perspective as a young stomach cancer survivor teaches lessons of patience and perseverance in the face of uncertainty.
KAITLYN MENDOZA

Today we are remembering Kaitlyn Mendoza.

We recently caught up with Liz and Orlando Mendoza, parents of 17-year-old, Kaitlyn, who passed away from pediatric stomach cancer in 2021. They speak openly about this heartbreaking loss as well as their experience through Kaitlyn’s diagnosis, treatment, and passing.

Please take a moment to read their story and join us in sending them thoughts and prayers.

UROOSA

Uroosa was 27 years old when she received her stage 4 stomach cancer diagnosis after years of complications and a serious misdiagnosis. This is her story of finding strength, hope, and health through a major surgery, challenging chemotherapy, and immunotherapy.

“*I’ve learned during this process that you need to educate yourself and advocate for your needs, and that it’s wise to seek out support early and often. There are many groups out there that are eager to support and help you if you seek them out. I am extremely grateful to be alive despite my late-stage diagnosis and all the challenges I faced along the way.*” - Uroosa
JEWELL SWEAT

At only 17 years old, Jewell Sweat passed away from gastric cancer at the end of 2020, just 10 months after learning she had advanced cancer. Her mother June recounts the challenges she faced as a pediatric patient with a rare diagnosis.

Her story is heartbreaking, but her life will never be forgotten. Please join us in remembering Jewell and sending our thoughts and prayers to her family and all who loved her.

TRAVIS PERRY

Travis Perry is a stage 4 gastric cancer patient and a married father of four. He has relied heavily on his faith and family throughout his treatment journey. After being part of an IP clinical trial that seemed promising, he recently learned that his cancer came back. He is now looking for other options.

CAMILLA ROW

Camilla is a young mom and wife who was originally diagnosed with stage one stomach cancer in 2018. She had a stomach cancer reoccurrence in 2022 and now has a stage four diagnosis. This is her inspiring story of perseverance.
HELEN SHIPSTAD

Helen Shipstad is a stage two gastric cancer survivor from Derbyshire, England, who is now living in Southern California. Diagnosed in 2021 after an H.pylori infection nine years prior, this is her story of hope.

PAM HALL

Pam Hall is a stomach cancer survivor who has maintained hope despite multiple recurrences. She explains how CAR-T Cell Process works and how it helped her. This is her story of determination and positivity.

See a visual of her story on the next page.
Choosing Resilience and Determination Despite Recurrences

PAM HALL

StoCan.org | 27 | There's always Hope
30 STORIES SHARED IN NOVEMBER

THE STORY OF HOPE

IRAESMA CHAVEZ
Irasema Chavez is an inspiring survivor of stomach cancer, a recurrence of stomach cancer and breast cancer. She reflects on her experience facing both of these serious diagnoses before the age of 40 without any genetic known mutations.

JASON DIAZ
Jason Diaz received his gastric cancer diagnosis after years of troubling stomach and digestion problems that doctors initially identified as GERD. This is his story of hope.

ERIC SCHUMAKER
Today we are remembering Eric Schumaker who passed away in September 2020 after a months-long battle with stomach cancer. He was only 47 years old. His family recounts his powerful experience as they navigated his care through COVID19 restrictions.
Every initiative at Hope for Stomach Cancer is centered on improving survivability rates and access to care for stomach cancer patients.

We hold a unique position as a trusted advocate for patients and families and a valuable partner for stakeholders advancing medical research and treatment options. Thus, our support groups are critical for uniting people in the often fragmented and under-resourced stomach cancer community.

**HOPE CURRENTLY PROVIDES TWO MONTHLY VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUPS.**

The goal of each group is to give participants an opportunity to learn about the latest treatments. The group is a safe space to discuss new ideas and provide support, no matter where members are on their treatment journey.

The support group is led by a qualified moderator, but retains a relaxed atmosphere to facilitate discussion and inspire candid dialogue among participants of all backgrounds. All groups meet monthly for one hour via Zoom. The sessions are never recorded to maintain privacy and confidentiality. All groups include gastroenterologist/oncologist, surgeons or other appropriate medical or trained practitioners. The meetings are free, but registration is required.

**STAGE IV SUPPORT GROUP WITH THE ESOPHAGEAL CANCER EDUCATION FOUNDATION (ECEF)**

Hope for Stomach Cancer held 18 support group meetings during 2022. Twelve of these meetings were in conjunction with the Esophageal Cancer Education Foundation (ECEF), another non-profit institution that serves individuals with an esophageal cancer diagnosis. These groups focused on providing support, resources, and guidance for people with either a stage four stomach cancer or esophageal cancer diagnosis, as well as caregivers.

These meetings were moderated...
by Bart Fraittzza, the Founder of Esophageal Cancer Education Foundation and a 21-year esophageal cancer survivor. Each educational and uplifting meeting featured one or more GI oncologists.

This collaboration between HOPE and ECEF provided a much-needed space for people to discuss questions, concerns, treatments, and other points regarding their diagnoses. Esophageal and stomach cancer share many characteristics, and patients had the opportunity to learn from each other as they shared their experiences. Further, the online format provided a relaxed atmosphere where people could discuss their thoughts and feelings with professionals outside of the typical clinical setting. These monthly meetings drew between 30-50 participants (accurate?), and many came prepared with personal questions or stories to share.

SURGEON SUPPORT GROUP

A partial or full gastrectomy is an option for many stomach cancer patients depending on the stage of their diagnosis. Hope for Stomach Cancer’s Surgeon Support Group exists to help patients understand the nuances of these complex surgeries so that they can best prepare for their own procedures and for life post-surgery. This oncologist-moderated group met six times in 2022 and featured one or more guest surgeons at each meeting.

These groups often drew between 30-50 participants. Some people had stomach cancer diagnoses of their own and were preparing for surgeries, while others had already had a partial or full gastrectomy and needed guidance as they adjusted to life post-surgery. Additionally, caregivers attended these meetings to gain insight into how to best support spouses, family members, and friends who have stomach cancer.
FACEBOOK SUPPORT GROUP

HOPE currently admins an ongoing Facebook support group called Stomach Cancer Support Group. The goal of these online communities is to give participants an opportunity to share personal experiences, learn coping strategies, and provide firsthand information about the disease and/or treatments. These are private groups – by the patients for the patients – which also include medical professionals. HOPE monitors all participant access and reviews postings for appropriate content. With these online communities, participants share in a safe, intimate environment, and are able to openly discuss personal details about symptoms, diet, lessons learned, and a variety of topics relevant to their disease. These groups are moderated by patients and their caregivers, including HOPE staff. Stomach Cancer Support Group is a valuable and active forum for hundreds of participants to share their journey, provide lessons learned, offer solutions, and support one another.

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP AT BIT.LY/HOPE_FBSUPPORTGROUP
Hope for Stomach Cancer hosted four educational one-hour webinars and three multi panelists 2-hour webinars called the Hope Series in 2022. Oncologists, researchers, and pre-eminent gastric cancer specialists led each informative event. A mix of patients, caregivers, and advocates from around the world participated in every webcast.

Hope webinars are instrumental in raising awareness, spreading life-saving information, and uniting our community. An average webinar draws in 75-125 highly engaged and motivated participants. The events are designed to focus on relevant and actionable treatments or research initiatives that can benefit patients at various stages in their stomach cancer journeys. Prior to each webinar, participants can submit questions for the expert presenters to answer following their presentations.

Hope for Stomach Cancer is thankful to the doctors, researchers, presenters, sponsors, and attendees that made each of our 2022 webinars possible. Six of the events were recorded and made accessible online for future viewing. On-Demand registrations continue and some of the webinars have reached an additional 350 participants.

02.08.22 - GI ASCO\ESMO Conference Recap and Highlights
GI oncologists Dr. Steven Maron and Dr. Nataliya summarized the main takeaways from the breakout sessions and research presentations at both GI ASCO and ESMO. They presented the information in layman’s terms to help patients, caregivers, and advocates understand how to apply the latest research to their own circumstances.
04.04.22 - Cannabis and Cancer (Part 1): What You Need to Know As the popularity and accessibility of cannabis increases, patients are naturally curious about potential applications for stomach cancer. Liz Rogan, a cannabis industry expert, advocate, and on-air personality, spoke about the basics of medicinal cannabis. The first part of her presentation highlighted the plant’s unique therapeutic properties along with various medical conditions that respond well to cannabis-based treatments.

05.06.22 - Cannabis and Cancer (Part 2): What You Need to Know The second part of the cannabis webinar series focused specifically on applications for gastroesophageal cancer. In this presentation, Liz Rogan discussed how the compounds in cannabis lend themselves to treating specific cancer symptoms and side effects. She discussed the various types of CBD products available, dosing guidelines, different blends for medicinal use, and considerations when adding CBD products to an existing treatment regimen.

10.10.22 - Stomach Cancer Support Group: A Special Session on Immunotherapy This session was a combo support group which included a 25-minute presentation by Dr. Steve Maron at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center on “The Role of immunotherapy in Esophageogastric Cancer”. After the presentation, patients and caregivers can ask questions in a private zoom style support meeting circumstances.
Clinical trials are essential for discovering new treatments for stomach cancer. However, participation isn’t a given—patients must meet specific eligibility requirements. Further, trial organizers scrutinize each applicant’s medical history, physical condition, and current condition to ensure that the patient is a good fit. Even if a patient is eligible for participation, trials are experimental, so people often have questions and concerns about moving forward.

Simply put, it is a challenge for patients to find adequate information about clinical trials for stomach cancer, and the decision to participate can be intimidating even if you’re deemed eligible.

The “What You Need to Know About Clinical Trials” webinar de-mystified the clinical trial process for patients, caregivers, and advocates. Our knowledgeable panel of expert presenters included:

- Dr. Samuel Klempner (moderator) GI Oncologist at Massachusetts General Hospital, “Understanding Clinical Trials From Phase I to Phase III”
- Dr. Yanghee Woo, Surgical Oncologist at City of Hope, “Trials, Triumphs, Tribulations and the future of the Management of Patients with Peritoneal Metastases from Stomach Cancer”
- Dr. Shruti Gandhy, GI Malignancies Expert at the FDA, “Clinical Trial Design and Endpoints Supporting U.S. Drug Approval”
- Dr. Rutika Mehta, GI Oncologist at Moffitt Cancer Center, “Recent
Progress in Cellular Therapy Trials” (CAR-T)

Each expert provided useful and actionable information about clinical trials so that attendees could make informed decisions. Over 100 people registered to attend, and many came prepared with questions regarding:

• The safety of clinical trials for someone receiving chemotherapy
• Genetic testing for stomach cancer
• Studies and treatments for GIST

• How to tell if a trial is a suitable fit
• Clinical trial options for patients outside of the USA
• How to find available trials at any given time

12.02.22 - How Blood Technology is the Future for Gastroesophageal Cancers

Many stomach cancer patients undergo biomarker testing when evaluating their treatment options. Biomarkers provide valuable insights into the progression and characteristics of a patient’s cancer, and they provide context for determining which treatments may be most effective.

In this webinar, GI oncologist Dr. Dan Catenacci and a panel of industry experts discussed the science behind assays and the benefits of comprehensive biomarker testing such as MRD, ctDNA, RNA, and NGS. They also spoke about the role of liquid biopsies in precision oncology.

Participants raised questions about these topics following the informative presentation:

• Early detection testing and suggestions
• Blood tests to help catch recurrences
• Specifics about Signatera testing
2022 PROGRAMS:
HOPE SERIES WEBINARS

WEBINAR SERIES

LIVE ON ZOOM!
WED. 12.14.22 | 10:30AM PST/1:30PM EST

SPEAKING OUT:
A NAVIGATIONAL TOOL FOR PATIENTS BY PATIENTS FOR THOSE FACING STOMACH CANCER

PART OF THE
HOPE WEBINAR SERIES
POWERED BY

12.14.22 - Speaking Out:
A Navigational Tool for Patients by Patients for Those Facing Stomach Cancer

A patient could study stomach cancer for years and still not know everything that there is to learn. The aim of our last 2022 webinar was to reduce the learning curve for newly-diagnosed individuals so that they understand the fundamentals of treatment and the best practices for navigating the healthcare system.

This webinar was inspired by Tae Lee, who passed away from stomach cancer in September 2022 after a three-year fight against the disease. She remarked that many patients don’t know how to effectively evaluate treatments and advocate for their needs when speaking with health care professionals.

Moderated by Hope for Stomach Cancer’s VP Board Director, Tom Smith, this webinar included candid stories from a number of stomach cancer survivors:

- Rachel, stage 4, currently stable in a clinical trial
- Jason, CDH1 and stage 2, No evidence of disease
- Irasema, stage 2, 2x time local stomach cancer survivor, and now breast cancer survivor with no known genetic mutations
- Camilla, initially stage 1b, now stage 4, advocate for HIPEC treatment
- Suzanne, stage 4 with mets to the bones, stable on first-line treatment

Over 40 attendees benefited from hearing inspiring and educational stories from these resilient patients. With an additional 45 that viewed On-Demand immediately after.
NOW IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH!

Hope for Stomach Cancer has partnered with Bag-It, an Arizona regional nonprofit 501(c)3, to provide Hope-in-a-Bag. This beautiful Tote Bag is filled with physical and digital resources for newly diagnosed patients and caregivers. It includes a Patient Navigation Binder filled with tips and tools to help patients, their families and caregivers to keep track of their appointments, treatment information, lab results and medical history. Publications from the NCI and NCCS cover topics like understanding cancer diagnosis and treatments, questions to ask medical providers, and tips and tools for caregivers. It offers suggestions on how to talk with your friends, family and caregivers about your cancer, nutrition and transitioning to life after treatment.

In addition, Hope-in-a-Bag contains Stomach Cancer specific information:

- NCCN Guidelines for Patients® booklet
- Esophageal & Stomach Cancer Project
- ClinWiki-Clinical Trial Information

IN 2022, WE SENT OUT:

- 318 English bags
- 33 Spanish bags
Approx. 400 pediatric patients are diagnosed with stomach cancer annually in the USA, and most are not part of clinical trials or research.

Hope For Stomach Cancer has presented the problem.

We have validated the statistics and we know it's actually under-reported.

And now we DEMAND a solution.
PEDiatric Awareness At AACR

During our time in New Orleans at the AACR Annual Meeting, June Sweat was interviewed to discuss the Impact of the RACE for Children Act.

June lost her daughter, Jewell, to stomach cancer in 2020 and is a passionate patient advocate, welcoming more research and drug development for pediatric and adolescent cancers.

READ THE FULL INTERVIEW OF JUNE SWEAT AT BIT.LY/THE-RACE-FOR-CHILDREN
2022 CONFERENCES + EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL GASTRIC CANCER CONGRESS (IGCC)

Hosted by MD Anderson
Houston, TX
March 6-9
HOPE had an exhibit booth
Volunteers: Irasema Partida and June Sweat
Aki Smith was a guest speaker and presented "Organization Overview: Hope for Stomach Cancer"

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH (AACR) ANNUAL MEETING

New Orleans, LA
April 8-13
HOPE had an exhibit booth
Volunteers: Irasema Partida, Melissa Gove, Jason Diaz, and June Sweat
Irasema presented an abstract poster “This is Stomach Cancer”

ESCAPE TO THRIVE ADVOCATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Hosted by Bag It
Tuscan, Arizona
May 15-19
Aki Smith & Jason Diaz were guest speakers on: “Creating Disease-Specific Resources Through Collaboration”

ANNUAL AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY (ASCO)

Chicago, Illinois
June 3-7
HOPE had an exhibit booth
Volunteers: Dr. Daniel Catenacci, Irasema Chavez, Alicia Aguirre

2022 ASCO GASTROINTESTINAL CANCERS SYMPOSIUM

San Francisco, CA
Jan 20-22
HOPE had an exhibit booth
Volunteers: Irasema Partida and Brian Matise
3RD ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE PLEURA AND PERITONEUM (ISSPP)

Hosted by City of Hope
Los Angeles, CA
Oct 12–14

HOPE had an exhibit booth
Volunteer Irasema Chavez
Camilla Row was a panelist speaker

GASTRIC CANCER SUMMIT

Hosted by Stanford Medicine | Center for Asian Health Research and Education
Nov 3–4

Our Founder and Executive Director, Aki Smith, presented on “Gastric Cancer Advocacy”

THINK TANK ON ADVANCING GASTROESOPHAGEAL CANCER RESEARCH

Hosted by the Target Cancer Foundation
Nov 17–18

Participants: Irasema Chavez and June Sweat
Connecting with other patients and caregivers who are experiencing the same diagnosis provides a great deal of support and connection. Hope for Stomach Cancer encourages both informal and formal in-person mentorships and shared experiences. Together, we provide information, compassion and hope.
The SU2C Gastric Cancer Interception Research Team: Early Detection and Interception of Diffuse and Intestinal Gastric Cancer

An international, interdisciplinary team of experts in gastric cancer, advanced imaging, & molecular biomarkers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Massachusetts General Hospital</th>
<th>University of Pennsylvania</th>
<th>City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Ctr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEADER</td>
<td>CO-LEADER</td>
<td>Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Chain</td>
<td>Sandra Ryeom</td>
<td>Yanghee Woo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Teamey</td>
<td>Bang Jim Kim</td>
<td>Joseph Chao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Ting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theodore Hong</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMORIAL SLOAN KETTERING CANCER CENTER</th>
<th>SAMSUNG</th>
<th>UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO</th>
<th>NIH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>NCI Rockland, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Yoon</td>
<td>Scott Lowe</td>
<td>Joseph Leibold</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Lowe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Klemperner</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Drew</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marina Magicheva-Gupta</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Chang</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Corcoran</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Weissleder</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Smith</td>
<td>Jason Diaz</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aki Smith</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeeryun Lee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyuk Lee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Catenacci</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Choo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Davis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

StoCan.org | 43 | There’s always Hope
In 2023, Hope for Stomach Cancer looks forward to starting our own coalition. Advocacy on Capitol Hill is essential for advancing stomach cancer research since Congress can make far-reaching decisions about medical funding, research, and awareness that have long-term implications. Therefore, our coalition will focus all governmental initiatives that advance research, early detection efforts, and treatment options for those facing gastric cancer.
HOPE FOR STOMACH CANCER ARE MEMBERS OF THE FOLLOWING COALITIONS ON CAPITOL HILL

FORCE (Facing Hereditary Cancer Empowered)

FORCE aims to improve the lives of people with genetic cancers through education, awareness, and advocacy. Their wide-ranging programs encompass risk management and treatment, policy and legal issues, and research and clinical trials. They work with a number of partners to advance hereditary cancer research worldwide.

Deadliest Cancers Coalition

This coalition includes multiple non-profit organizations that are raising awareness and funds for the most persistent and fatal cancers. Deadly cancers are defined as those that have a five-year relative survival rate of below 50 percent. These cancers - including stomach cancer - were identified as part of the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act of 2012.

The Haystack Project

The Haystack Project focuses on treatment options for people with rare and ultra-rare diagnoses. Founded in 2016, the organization recognizes and actively addresses barriers that impede medical treatment, such as income level or geographic accessibility. They work with policymakers to improve access for those with rare diagnoses who need life-saving treatments.

One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC)

For more than 20 years, OVAC has lobbied tirelessly at the federal level for more funding toward cancer research. It’s one of the largest coalitions in Washington DC and aims to represent cancer patients, their families, and healthcare providers nationwide. Their efforts benefit cancer patients from all walks of life.
Meeting with Congresswoman Judy Chu

Screening can be **Cost Effective** in the right populations.

Cost Effectiveness of Gastric Cancer Screening According to Race and Ethnicity

Saunoy et al. Gastroenterology. 2018
THIS CANDLE BURNS IN HONOR OF ALL SURVIVORS, FIGHTERS, AND THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES TO STOMACH CANCER.

REMEMBERING THOSE WE LOST IN 2022

Forever in our hearts today and always.
LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

2022 has been a remarkable year. We were able to provide more patients with new education, support, and resource options as they navigated their diagnosis, treatment and survivorship. We fostered a heightened awareness about stomach cancer that translated to more empowered patients, caregivers, and supporters; more involvement by healthcare professionals; and more support from sponsors and other donors.

We will continue to grow and build upon our current programs while pursuing our goals for 2023, which includes:

- Creating a presence on Capitol Hill to move our initiatives forward and an Advocacy Lobby Day event for all stakeholders. By building an Early Detection and Prevention Gastric Cancer Coalition, we will connect and advance stakeholders in this therapeutic area of focus. Additionally, the coalition will work on policy and legislation to include pediatric stomach cancer patients in research and clinical trials.

- Identifying topics for research papers for our health partners to pursue to advance knowledge and therapeutics. In other words, Hope will create research to find solutions to the most pressing problems facing gastric cancer patients.

- Building out a Biomarker Website to educate how biomarker research is improving patient care and outcomes. Biomarkers help map the path forward for patients through better informed clinical decisions, through improved efficacy and safety of existing medicines, and through the development of new medicines.

- Launching a Patient Advocate Hotline that will provide free, confidential navigational assistance for financial and practical issues that create barriers to treatment and recovery.

- Growing our support groups by adding a third monthly support group with a focus on grief. These virtual forums are valuable not only for the families who have been impacted by stomach cancer, but also for the physician facilitators.

- Adding a second Facebook group called Let’s Talk to provide practical and intimate connections among patients and families. Let’s Talk will complement the existing Stomach Cancer Support group, which focuses on disease facts and navigation of the complex field.

- Leveraging the 2022 year-end momentum from 30 STORIES IN 30 DAYS by broadcasting a weekly story every Tuesday throughout 2023, culminating with 30 STORIES IN 30 DAYS in November 2023. We expect to reach over 7.6 million people.
COMING IN 2023: NUTRITION GUIDELINES AND RECIPES

Hope for Stomach Cancer is dedicated to the importance of Nutrition in our Patient Advocacy. Supplying your body with the proper nutrients throughout gastric treatment is vital.

Dietary needs change during different stages of treatment and the way the body absorbs nutrients. Information about nutrition during gastric cancer treatment is constantly evolving and Hope is committed to the research and sharing information on nutrition.

STOMACH CANCER NUTRITIONAL GUIDELINES BOOKLET

In partnership with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the goal of this project is to develop an evidence-based educational booklet regarding nutrition for persons with stomach cancer from diagnosis to survivorship. The educational booklet will cover topics from weight management, managing side effects using nutrition, surgery recovery and so much more.

One of the Hope Webinars on Nutrition found on our website is Dietary Interventions for Gastric and Esophageal Cancer: Practical Tools for Patients hosted by Nancee Jaffee, MS, RD. UCLA Vatche & Tamar Monoukian Division of Digestive Diseases.

You can also view The Role of Nutrition In Managing Symptoms, Recovering, and Recovering From Stomach Cancer by Natalie Manitius, MPH, RDN.

NOTE. In 2023, the FREE booklets will be available online and hard copy. The booklets will also be translated to Spanish.
I am deeply thankful to everyone who supported Hope for Stomach Cancer in 2022. Every and any way you supported our mission brings us one step closer to mitigating the suffering caused by this disease.

A big shout out to our generous donors, both ongoing and new, who enabled the expansion of our reach to educate and serve more patients, families, medical professionals, and friends affected by Stomach Cancer. Greater awareness yields more options, more resources, and more support – all critical elements to achieve the best possible outcomes.

I hope you found these pages inspirational. Your time, energy, and generosity made it all happen and inspires me every day.

I look forward to seeing what we achieve together in 2023!

with love, Aki