

Kidney Cancer Seattle Support Group

Overview: Provide a meeting place for Kidney Cancer patients and caregivers to meet and learn from each other. We meet 6 or 7 times a year on a Saturday afternoon at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance for two hours plus.

Over the last 15 years of my wife's 20-year battle with Kidney Cancer we have provided a forum for patients and caregivers to meet, discuss treatments, side effects, doctors, test results, and find courage from each other to face this disease. Most of our people are stage 4 with a fatal diagnosis, so we delve into clinical trials, Social Security disability, other financial issues, etc. For the last 5 years we have assisted Dr Scott Tykodi with providing an all-day Kidney Cancer seminar in July or August with relevant doctors, clinicians and guest speakers. There were 122 signed up in August 2019.

When we started, my wife was just trying to find some reason to HOPE. We found that at the national meetings of the Kidney Cancer Association and were convinced to bring that message back to a local audience. We have been doing so for 15 years, and the improvements in treatments have been phenomenal, though the side effects are harsh. There is still no cure, but doctors are starting to visualize one. We started by bringing back notes and info from the Kidney Cancer National seminars to our local group. We now add to that additional Kidney Cancer information we glean from multiple sources. The real value of the meeting is when patients share what they have learned and how they are dealing with a fatal disease.

We learned that you don't have to wait for someone else to take charge of a problem. We were helped with getting started by the Kidney Cancer Association and by Dr. John Thompson at SCCA, and we have a free room, but beyond that, it is something we need to do ourselves.

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