



Elevating metastatic cancer stories

Metastatic cancer, also known as Stage IV cancer, occurs when cancer that started in one organ, such as the breast, ovary or prostate, spreads to other parts of the body, including bone, lungs, liver and brain. It is treatable, but not curable. Though exact statistics are unknown, as an example, an estimated quarter of a million people are living with metastatic breast cancer in the United States.

Metastatic cancer patients are up against a clock – hoping for advances in the treatment of this disease and more time to live well and enjoy their day-to-day lives. For these patients, it's about time. Time to spend with their families, time to cross something off their bucket list, time to simply drive the carpool or cook a meal.

We all need to work together – especially as the COVID-19 pandemic made accessing care even more challenging – to ensure that metastatic cancer patients have access to the best care and treatment available that's also affordable, regardless of their political affiliation, insurance, stage of disease or income status. It's about time that all our elected leaders support policies that help patients access the care that they need.

The *It's About Time* campaign encourages metastatic cancer patients and their families to share their stories in an effort to build broader understanding of this disease, as well as the need for more research dollars toward treatments and a cure. It's about time these voices were heard.

FOR METASTATIC CANCER PATIENTS:



Access is critical – not only to care, but to meaningful, transparent insurance coverage that is free from barriers – including high out-of-pocket costs, or plans that put subjective rankings/value on life-saving or life-extending treatments.



Shared decision-making with their physician that treatment is critical – making decisions supported by evidence with support from the health care system of personalized medical decisions made by a patient and their healthcare team.



More education and information for patients about their disease and their care is needed.

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