



Fighting Chance is selected for AACR Scientist-Survivor Program; joins 20 other Patient Advocate groups . . .

Duncan Darrow attends 4 Days of Lectures from Leading Oncologists

Goal: Teach Patient Advocates How to Discuss Cancer in Less Technical Terms.



Scientist-Survivor Program

The AACR's 15,000 Members are the leading laboratory researchers in the field of oncology

Cancer is getting a "new vocabulary" because so many cancer patients have become more "self-educated" about their disease from Internet materials.

Their motivation: with knowledge comes empowerment. Their frustration: most of the Internet material is written by doctors for doctors in very technical terms.

Now there is a movement - with organizations like the AACR, Komen and ACS in the forefront -- to find a less technical way to discuss concepts related to cancer and thus enrich the dialogue between oncologists and their patients.

As part of this trend, the AACR brings together representatives from 20 patient advocate organizations for a few days of lectures as part of its annual meeting. Some of the country's most highly acclaimed cancer specialists --after talking to a group of about 7,500 oncologists -- join the Scientist- Survivor Group and cover the *same* topic, but this time in *simplified* language, and lay-friendly concepts and metaphors.

Our job, as patient advocates, is to take the unique education we have received and go back to our local communities to find ways of advancing this "new vocabulary" movement.

In the case of Fighting Chance one of our new projects, inspired by the attendance at the AACR program, is to develop a set of "PowerPoint" slides that explain basic concepts in cancer care with the aid of graphic illustration.

"CR" --the Cancer Resource Magazine from the AACR -- explains in lay-friendly language key advances in the war against cancer, combined with stories from survivors. To subscribe, call: 866-880-7088.

Second Annual Summer Gala

at the East Hampton home of Rick and Sue Davies



1. Pat Cowles, publisher Sag Harbor Express & wife Betty. 2. Rick & Sue Davies, Gala hosts. 3. Guests Alex Leigh Hunt & Wendy Lyon Moonan. 4. Grillmaster at work. 5. Hostess Sue Davies with friend. 6. Ben Gillikin, Board member of Fighting Chance. 7. Tony Brandt, Board member & wife Lorraine (far right is "Chester" – the hosts' golden retriever & "official greeter" for the Gala). 8. Martin S. Karpch, Jr., MD, specialist in surgical oncology & Board member, & Phillip Schulman, MD head of Medical Advisory Board for Fighting Chance & chief oncologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering satellite facility on Long Island. 9. After-dinner music from host Rick Davies, known for his work as head of the "Super Tramp" band. 10. Carolyn Snyder, Board member, her family business, Round Swamp Farm, provided much of the food for the event. 11. Pace Barnes, pillar of the Sag Harbor community. (photos: C.B. Grubb)

"The Pumpkin Classic"

held again at Friar's Head ...The Spectacular Hamptons Golf Club

The Tourney's Major Benefactor is David Matlin, Club Leader and Major Wall Street Investor

Large donations also come from over thirty golfers and Tuck Hardie, a senior investment banker at Houlihan Lokey



David Matlin
... co-host

Tuck Hardie,
co-host
for the Tourney.



Pumpkin Classic



2007

This is the event's distinctive logo that appeared on golf shirts given to all guests as souvenirs.

Friar's Head



From the Chairman

At Fighting Chance we look back on the summer of '07 as our most successful time ever for fund-raising events. They included an Open House to celebrate our new office, two golf tournaments, a Gala Dinner and yacht race. The donations we received, were well over \$150,000.



Duncan Darrow
Chairman of the Board

Successful Communication with Your Doctor and Healthcare Team:

A Two-Way Street



Karrie Zampini Robinson, LCSW
Director of Clinical Programs, Fighting Chance

As a cancer patient, you need a doctor who offers and interprets medical information, who coordinates your care, and with whom you can speak frankly. Today's medical care is complex and technical. Communicating with a team of specialists including surgeons, oncologists, radiologists and nurses offers you the benefit of their shared views and is important at all stages of cancer treatment and survival

Tips/Suggestions for Effective Communication

- Bring a family member or friend to your doctor appointments. This may help with asserting yourself and later reflecting on the new information conveyed.
- Tape important discussions. Absorb information by listening to the tape at home when there is less stress. Be sure to get your doctor's permission before recording him /her.
- Understand your treatment plan before you leave the office. Ask the doctor to clarify all information. What tests/medicines have been prescribed; how long will you be taking them; what are the risks and benefits of your treatment?
- Speak clearly and openly with your doctor/healthcare team. Describe and relate all symptoms, observations and concerns. Remember doctors cannot read your mind.
- Let your doctor know how much information you need to know or can tolerate. While there is much information to understand about all aspects of your condition, only you know if you feel overwhelmed/overloaded with statistics and information. It is important to let the doctor know if the information is too frightening. If you would like more information on your treatment, let the doctor and healthcare team know. Also, let your healthcare team know if you do not understand a particular medical term.
- Finally, remember that physicians, nurses, and technicians are medical professionals who are committed to serve you. Try to be pleasant, courteous and appreciative. Understand that time is at a premium in today's medical environment. However, if you feel constantly hurried, disrespected and your questions are not being addressed, try bringing this up with your doctor. If all else fails, consider looking for another physician.

Karrie Zampini Robinson, LCSW

Upcoming Events

- Hope, Health and Healing** Group for people treated for cancer. Group Leaders - Karrie Zampini Robinson, CSW and Carol Mason, Patient Volunteer. 3rd Tuesday of every month, room 320, Southampton Hospital Sept. 18, Oct. 16th, Nov. 20th, Dec. 18th.
- Meditation Support Group** Wednesday Evenings 6:00 - 7:30. Group leaders - Linda Ståtam and Karrie Zampini Robinson, CSW. Registration required, please call 725-4646.