



ThyCa Journeys

A free publication of ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc. <www.thyca.org>
Support, education, and communication for thyroid cancer survivors and families.

Reprinted in 2005 from the Fall 2002 Issue

ThyCa First Person: My Thyroid Cancer

by Burton R.

There I was during 1986 at a hospital for a sciatic attack. My Soul Mate, Ruthie, insisted that they perform an extensive examination, since I had refused to see a doctor for many years. Yes of course, Soul Mates are always right, for they found my thyroid cancer tumor hiding under my very stylish beard deeply imbedded in the trachea.

Well, during these past 16 years I have had two extensive surgeries, in hospitals in two other states, and radiation at a hospital in a third state. Three tries with radioactive iodine have not worked for me.

So here I am, my fourth bout, in a clinical trial.

Has it been tough? Yes, especially for Ruth, Gregg, Lesley, Larry and Dylan. It is always harder for the family standing by. I know the feeling when Ruth had a mitral valve replacement. But when I think back over these years so many good times with family and friends, thank God, how lucky I am. At age 73 I am looking forward to the success of this clinical trial.

I can only say never, ever give up; there is always something positive on the horizon.

Rally for Research

- **Our goal:** A future free of thyroid cancer.
- **ThyCa's Research Grants** are open to all institutions and all scientists. Grants are awarded on the basis of scientific merit, regardless of institution.
- **Grant recipients** are selected through expert peer review by an independent panel of the American Thyroid Association, the professional association of thyroid clinicians and researchers.
- **Our research fundraising campaign** unites survivors, family, friends, neighbors, and loved ones in an international effort to raise funds to combat thyroid cancer. Donations throughout the year, plus special fundraising events—walks, marathon runs, golf tournaments, bake sales, silent auctions, card and board games, and other special events—all contribute to our research funds.
- **It's never too late to make a difference!** Choose any day and make it special by declaring it a Thyroid Cancer "Rally for Research" day. ThyCa will provide you with flyers, letters, and donation envelopes. Or you may ask people to donate online through our web site. Let ThyCa know about your program so we can announce it on our web site and invite all our site's visitors to sponsor you! For more information, contact us at thyca@thyca.org, toll-free 1-877-588-7904, or fax to 1-630-604-6078.

Copyright (c) 2002, 2005 ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc. <www.thyca.org>.
We encourage you to share this newsletter with your family and friends.