



Global Resource for Advancing Cancer Education

Dear GRACE Member,

"This website has been the most helpful and reassuring experience I have had on my cancer journey. I can't imagine trying to navigate this disease without the information and encouragement that I have obtained here every day since I first found the site." - Blue Skies

Whether you yourself are deeply familiar with GRACE, or know of someone who has been helped by it, GRACE is truly unique for cancer patients and their loved ones and is unlike any other resource currently available. GRACE is a nonprofit organization that was developed as a means of improving the overall medical care for cancer patients. We do this by democratizing cutting edge information on optimal cancer management and providing it directly to patients.

While there are many websites and other resources that provide helpful content for patients, the information provided is generally nonspecific, with broad stroke overviews of disease symptoms and treatment by stage (i.e., "Chemotherapy is the main treatment for advanced lung cancer. Your doctor may talk with you about this approach."). And while there are often discussions of specific treatments on patient and caregiver-moderated websites and other resources, the quality of the information is variable: sometimes highly informative, but oftentimes suspect or nonfactual. The potential for misinformation to be perpetuated by people not qualified to discuss medical details is a significant problem.

"One wonderful benefit of the knowledge I've gained from this site is that I feel I understand more clearly what our thoracic oncologist is doing for my husband. The knowledge I gain from this site SUPPORTS her treatment recommendations and gives us even more confidence in her (and we already had a lot of confidence in her, right from the beginning!) Very often, the knowledge I've gained from this site has enabled me to explain things to my husband. If one considers the loving caregiver as the "virtual patient," one can better realize the positive impact this site has on the patient him or herself." - Rita

Since its creation as an online resource for cancer patients in September of 2007, GRACE has grown from one single lung cancer oncology expert to multiple new faculty members who collectively provide input on a wide variety of lung-related **and now other cancer issues**. This fall GRACE was pleased to introduce **our new breast cancer blog**. We soon will also be launching a new GRACE blog on pancreatic cancer. But continuing to serve our current membership and extending to broader cancer communities requires funding.

As members of the GRACE community, as well as a supporter and board member of GRACE, I am honored to serve as the chairperson of this year's annual fundraising campaign. The continuing support from individual donors allows GRACE to continue to help the tens of thousands of cancer patients and caregivers that visit GRACE throughout the year. **We absolutely need your help to accommodate this growth and continue our work together.** Our goal is to raise **\$50,000** to:

- bring in more expert oncologists to cover other different types of cancers
- improve the website and its functionality, making it more user friendly
- increase the number of live events and podcasts

This year, GRACE has become an encompassing community that's ready to tackle and embrace other types of cancers, with broad input and support from patients and caregivers. With your help, we can make the leap to serving a broader community across many cancers, helping many people in the process. **Please** consider supporting us by visiting us online at www.cancergrace.org/donate to donate securely, or return your annual campaign donation or pledge in the enclosed envelope. *Every donation makes a difference, regardless of size.*

Sincerely,

Laya Dogmetchi
GRACE Board Member

The Global Resource for Advancing Cancer Education (GRACE) is a nonprofit organization that has been granted tax-exempt status from the IRS under section 501(c)(3) of the US tax code. **Donations are tax deductible according to current tax law for 501(c)(3) organizations.** Our Tax ID is 56-2676328.

Education is Medicine

4616 25th Avenue NE, #300, Seattle, WA 98105

888-501-1025

www.cancergrace.org