

Patients & Protestors: A Message From the Editor of Cancer Health Summer 2025

Cancer advocates are more crucial than ever. Meet several in our latest issue, including patient advocates in our Cancer Health 25.

June 9, 2025 By [Trent Straube](#)

Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc.) fights to secure funding for Medicaid and raises awareness for cancer patients who rely on the program. Baldwin also vigorously champions cancer research and the National Institutes of Health.

Such advocacy is crucial today, as the Trump administration defunds and dismantles the federal health department and Congress seeks more aggressive cuts in the 2026 budget. As our News roundup on page 4 recounts, Americans are taking to the streets in protest. At ACT UP's Death by 1,000 Musk Cuts march and die-in, one activist carried a cardboard tombstone inscribed with the phrase "Died of Untreated Breast Cancer."

Protesters and legislators may represent the more in-your-face variety of patient advocates, but countless others are assisting people living with cancer: doctors and oncology nurses, fundraisers, social workers, support group leaders and more. In our sixth annual Cancer Health 25, we salute patient advocates. [Go here](#) to get inspired.

Patient advocates abound throughout our pages. The [cover story](#) profiles Daniel Garza, who has survived anal cancer, HIV and addiction thanks in part to his (slightly sick!) sense of humor, which he also employs to educate, raise awareness and advocate for others. Former nurse and hospital volunteer Susan Pack shares her [Melanoma Diary](#). Our [Your Team](#) column interviews the HealthWell Foundation's Fred Larbi about financial help for cancer patients. And for our [Can Heal](#) profile, Barb Skurdahl shares advice on thriving with chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

As always, we round up the latest care and treatment headlines. You'll learn about [nerve-sparing prostate cancer surgery](#), [vaccines](#) to lower the recurrence of pancreatic and kidney cancers and

[chilled gloves](#) that may help prevent peripheral neuropathy. And we seek your input in our [Survey](#). This issue's topic, as you might have guessed, is advocacy. Finally, [Solutions](#) offers self-care tips for cancer advocates.

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