

“The Cancer Olympics” Wins Pinnacle Book Achievement Award

May 1, 2016 By [Robin McGee](#)

I have finally made it.

I am a survivor at last.

According to various international guidelines, one is not a cancer survivor until five years from the last day of one’s last treatment. For me, that was 3 April 2016.

Passing that milestone matters. I notice in the way I think, the way I breathe, that something has shifted. To commemorate my day, I replaced the Buddhist prayer flags on my back fence. Readers of [The Cancer Olympics](#) will recognize those flags as the evocative, numinous symbols of a longed-for outcome. They were tattered and spent. When I replaced them with fresh colourful flags, I did in the name of my brother-in-law who was recently diagnosed with brain cancer; now, the prayers flow out to him, and to all who continue to live and to fight.

And another very different achievement has come my way. [The Cancer Olympics is the winner of the Pinnacle Book Achievement Award in the Inspiration Category!](#) The award is from the National Association of Book Entrepreneurs. And yes, fitting to the book’s title, it is a gold medal.

This make the fifth literary award for [The Cancer Olympics](#), my true story of a fight for survival, medical justice, and fair government drug policy in my province of Nova Scotia. As the book grows in recognition, I grow too. I have spoken at public events, on radio shows, on podcasts, in lectures, and conferences, and in patient safety forums. Each time is a big challenge and each time is a small victory to share my story of “the perfect storm of medical mismanagement.” [By posting the first chapter online](#), I hope to make the world a little safer from serious medical error.

Because I am still alive to tell it, five years later.

This blog post originally appeared on [The Cancer Olympics](#). It is reprinted with permission.
