



TELL YOUR STORY: Jan Eisner

My diagnosis was made as an incidental finding during a scan for a kidney stone. They noted lesions on my liver. I had a biopsy that revealed metastatic NET. I went to the Mayo clinic for treatment. At that time (1999) they offered surgery and suggested I follow up with my local doctor. Luckily my local doctor was familiar with NET and was able to refer me to a couple of doctors who specialized in NET treatment. The treatment options since I was first diagnosed have evolved substantially and I am so thankful for so many new treatment options.

I was not familiar with NET cancers until my diagnosis. It was a quick and steep learning curve for me and my husband to get up to speed regarding the disease and treatment options. I was very fortunate to have a local physician who was already familiar with NET cancer so we did not delay in seeking out experts in the field. I am still battling NET cancer. I often say it is similar to playing Wack-a-Mole. We no sooner beat down one tumor and others pop up. After having several surgeries, chemotherapy, PRRT, Cap-Tem, radiation, and proton radiation, I am now on Afinitor.

It is so exciting all the new advances in understanding the disease and the new treatment options coming out. Even though it can be quite discouraging dealing with the disease and all the side effects, I still feel like there is hope we can get a handle on this. Running has helped me feel strong while dealing with this disease. The past several years have been spent receiving multiple treatments to keep cancer at bay. Cancer originally started in my stomach and had spread to the liver, spleen, pancreas and several lymph nodes and the bone. Treatment consisted of surgery, chemotherapy, and PRRT. So, along the way I had what seems like most of my internal organs removed due to a tumor, including my pancreas.

The pancreatic surgery probably had the biggest impact on my running. Following that surgery, I am now a brittle diabetic. Brittle meaning that it is almost impossible to keep my blood sugars in the normal range and I often experience wide swings in my blood sugar levels. Running has helped me make it through all the treatments and recovery time. Running is such an incredible lift emotionally. A feeling of being able to take on anything. I now direct a 5K, Run For The Stripes, each Nov. to raise awareness and funds for NET research.