“Living with Cancer “
Live and Learn Lecture Series
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Survivorship starts at diagnosis

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Cancer as a chronic disease

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Living with cancer

- Short and long-term side effects of drugs
- Fatigue and deconditioning
- Weight gain
- Psychosocial stressors
  - Patient, family, caregivers
- Sexual side-effects

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Living with cancer

- Insurance issues
- Employment issues – “Can I work?”
- Disability?

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Living with cancer

- “What happens to me now that my cancer is treated?”

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Since this phase is not predominantly a medical one, doctor and nurses tend to have a diminishing role in providing support and counseling. The result is a void that leaves many cancer patients and their families fending awkwardly for themselves in the "healthy world".

…Treatment plans for patients in this postacute phase rarely address the psychosocial problems of reentering the active world. Systematic referrals by oncologist, primary care physicians, and nurses to support services for patients at this point in their recovery would do a tremendous amount to aid adjustment, relieve suffering, and stimulate the further development of these scarce resources.

Fitzhugh Mullan, physician and cancer survivor

NEJM 1985;313:270-273

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Living with cancer

- Survivorship clinics

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Living with cancer

- Surveillance for recurrence and second cancers
- Management of other medical problems

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In honor of the survivors, both in this room and those who have preceded us

In Memoriam

Donna Fay Schulz

1937 – 1985

She lived (with cancer) to the fullest

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Living with cancer

- Patient navigator

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Questions?

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