Raising Awareness. Funding Research. 
Supporting Patients. Achieving the DREAM!

www.DebbiesDream.org

Debbie Zelman  
President & Founder  
Debbie’s Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer  

- Diagnosed with stage IV stomach cancer in April 2008  
- 40 years old, mother of 3 young children, married to a physician, and a practicing attorney with my own firm  
- No risk factors for stomach cancer and symptoms were very vague  
- Chance of being alive in five years was 4%  
- Harsh chemo regimen and targeted treatments  
- 5 recurrences over 7 years  
- Still a patient including radiation
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- April 2009 – founded Debbie’s Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer (DDF)  
- Member of Deadliest Cancers Coalition, PEAC, SPEAC, OVAC  
- Patient Advocate:  
  - NCI EsophagoGastric Task Force  
  - NCI Patient Advocacy Steering Committee  
  - NCCN Gastric and Esophageal Guidelines Committee  
  - CDMRP DoD PRCRP Programmatic Review Panel  
  - ASCO Gastric Cancer HER2 Testing Guidelines Project  
  - American Cancer Society Research Program Stakeholder  
- Appeared on Dr. Oz in a program about stomach cancer

**STOMACH CANCER: THE FACTS**

- Stomach cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer death worldwide – second in men and fourth in women.  
- Each year nearly 930,000 people worldwide are diagnosed with stomach cancer, and approximately 700,000 die.  
- More than 24,500 Americans will be diagnosed with stomach cancer each year, and more than 11,000 will die each year.  
- Approximately 3,400 Canadians will be diagnosed with stomach cancer this year and 2,000 will die.  
- Stomach cancer is on the rise in young people ages 25-39.  
- Per cancer death, stomach cancer receives the least amount of US federal research funds of any cancer.  
- There were few resources and support services for stomach cancer patients.  
- Most people know very little about this deadly disease.
Debbie’s Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer

Our Mission

DDF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about stomach cancer; advancing funding for research; and providing education and support internationally to patients, families, and caregivers. DDF seeks as its ultimate goal to make the cure for stomach cancer a reality.

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Milestones

- Support - Patient Resource Education Program (PREP) helping hundreds of patients, families and caregivers throughout the world matching inquirers with other stomach cancer survivors and caregivers using specific disease criteria
- Education - Annual Stomach Cancer Education Symposium and Monthly Educational Webinars
- Events – Year-round across the United States and Canada
- Presence - 28 Chapters in the United States, Canada, and Germany
- Research Funding - $350,00 Young Fellowship Research Grants in partnership with AACR
- Advocacy - Three (3) Stomach Cancer Capitol Hill Advocacy Days and first Capitol Hill Briefing - $50 million DoD research funding for PRCRP
- Resources - Website containing in-depth stomach cancer information, lecture library, clinical trial information and matching service, stomach cancer support community, blog topics, and resources

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