

March 2023

Healthnetwork Pulse

Dear Friend,

I hope that your year is off to a great start! I also hope that the year ahead brings good health and happiness for you and your loved ones. But if you find yourself facing a health challenge, you've got our number and you know we are here for you.

Thank you for your partnership in making medicine better for all.

Megan Frankel President

More Time - Teresa's Story

"I dodged a bone marrow transplant and I'm surrounded by rock star physicians and medical scientists!"

When a diagnosis I received in 2001, Polycythemia Vera, transitioned into a more serious form of a rare blood cancer and incurable leukemia, Myelofibrosis, I thought I had no good options. I had been treated by a local hematologist with phlebotomies and oral chemo since 2004. When my blood counts were fluctuating in 2021, a bone marrow biopsy revealed the severity of a fibrotic bone marrow and the ongoing presence of a genetic mutation, impacting healthy blood production. I was referred to a bone marrow transplant specialist who reiterated that a bone marrow or stem cell transplant was the only cure. However, the mortality rate for 70 year-old-me approached less than 50 percent.

Click here to read Teresa's story.

A Personalized Prescription

How your DNA affects the way you respond to drugs.



by Richard H. Cartabuke, MD Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, Cleveland Clinic Medical Director, Healthnetwork Foundation

For most of our modern medical history, drugs have been prescribed with a one-size-fits-most approach. But that is starting to change. Pharmacogenetics, a major up-and-coming area in medicine, looks at how your DNA affects the way you respond to drugs. In my geriatrics department at Cleveland Clinic, for example, we are able to use pharmacogenetics to see which medications a patient might be better suited for to help with high blood pressure or heart disease. This helps us prescribe a drug and a dosage that delivers minimal side effects and maximum benefit.

<u>Click here to read the article from Healthnetwork's medical director, Richard H. Cartabuke, MD, Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, Cleveland Clinic</u>

You Surpassed the Goal! 2022 Annual Appeal results

You did it again! Despite the down market in 2022, you gave generously to our annual appeal. With your support, we surpassed our target goal. I'm thrilled about this!

- 1. It tells me you are with us, no matter what the economy is doing.
- 2. It launches us into this year in a strong position to take your calls and connect you with the best care in the moment you need it.
- 3. It enables us to continue the trend we've been on for the last few years of giving increasingly more each year in donations to physicians and hospitals.

A special thanks to George and Cindy Rusu who put forward a matching gift challenge and sparked energy into our appeal.

Healthnetwork Foundation is a nonprofit whose mission is to improve medicine for all by connecting business leaders with leading hospitals to provide the best access to world-class care and increase philanthropic funding for medical research.

+1 866 968-2467 | +1 440 893-0830 (International)

help@healthnetworkfoundation.org
3550 Lander Road, Suite 225 Pepper Pike OH 44124 | Tax ID #04-3804600

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