

**Diane Deslauriers**



I'd like to share the story of success in my battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Mine is also a story about the importance of knowing your body and your health and advocating for the care you need, even if it means getting a second or third opinion.

I noticed a lump on my neck in early 2016. The lump continued to grow, yet biopsies revealed nothing. Still I kept returning because I felt something was wrong. I began wearing turtlenecks to conceal the growing lump.

In the fall of 2016, I noticed additional concerns. I had a clean bill of health check-up a few months before, with no symptoms at that time. For someone who has always been very active and requiring little sleep, naps began creeping into my schedule. My typical 5 or 6 hours of sleep grew to 8 to 10 hours. I developed an acute stabbing pain on my left side. Neither X-rays nor blood work revealed any clues, and aging was the suspected culprit, as I'd just turned 60.

Knowing that this was more than just getting older, I called Dr. Jonathon Olegario for a second opinion. He listened intently as I told him my symptoms. He ordered tests including PET and CT scans. On April 18th, 2017 Dr. Olegario told me that I had an aggressive form of non-Hodgkin's and needed to begin treatment immediately. The team I chose was Dr. Kathleen Naegele, an oncologist in Mitchell with a consulting physician at Mayo Clinic, Dr. Habermann. The two doctors and their staff worked beautifully together and agreed that R-CHOP was the way to treat this cancer.

Although the treatment was tough, with a very supportive family and good friends, life continued. The DWU football team even dedicated a game day to support those who battle cancer! Just a text or card from someone unexpected brighten the darkest days! Success was achieved on Dec. 1st, my 61st birthday and was celebrated with my husband, Dan, adult kids, Linda and Martin and sister, Linda, in Rochester, MN!

To the medical team, Dr. Jonathon Olegario, Dr. Naegele, Drs. Buhler and Wheeler, Desire, Gina, Joni, and Dr. Habermann, thank you for your compassion, and most of all, your knowledge and experience. What a rewarding career you have. Success, one patient at a time!