

CHONDROSARCOMA AWARENESS DAY

February 6, 2024

Show Your Support

More Chondrosarcoma Research and
Clinical Trials



Daniel Brian Hurley, M.D.

A Compassionate Man / Otolaryngologist who fought for Dignity and Justice for Chondrosarcoma Patients



Traci, Dan and Sam hiking
last March.

Daniel Brian Hurley passed away on August 3, 2023, at age 50 surrounded by his loved ones. His wife Traci and their three kids Rachel, Sam, and Sarah were the light of his life. His family, including his parents, in-laws, and siblings were very dear to him. In addition to being a family man, Dan was a compassionate and highly competent physician, trusted advisor, and respected leader to physician peers and patients. He was a selfless person, always wanting to help and make things better for others.

Dan was born in Jamestown, ND on March 1, 1973. He grew up in Mankato, MN, and at the age of 16 began college at St. Louis University. At the age of 19, he started medical school, where he and Traci (his wife) met. They got married in 1998, and after Dan completed his training in Otolaryngology, they moved to Scottsdale, AZ in 2001. In Scottsdale, Dan established a successful Otolaryngology practice where he not only treated patients but also helped to build and develop the largest ENT group in Arizona. Dan was diagnosed with Dedifferentiated Chondrosarcoma of his pelvic bone in December of 2021 after experiencing some hip pain. He was an avid hiker and Peloton rider and initially attributed his pain to advancing age and strenuous activity.

On February 23, 2022, he underwent a left hemipelvectomy with placement of a 3-D printed titanium prosthetic hemipelvis and hip replacement. The surgery was successful in obtaining good surgical margins; however, the pathology showed 5-10% dedifferentiated cells. Because of this poor prognostic indication, Dan underwent chemotherapy with Cisplatin and Doxorubicin. In December of 2022, scans showed a local recurrence of the Chondrosarcoma in the pelvic area along with metastases to his left lung. He then enrolled in the INBRX 109 clinical trial for about 12 weeks until his scans showed significantly increased growth of one of his lung nodules. After that, he underwent chemotherapy with Ifosfamide and concurrent radiotherapy to his lung. Unfortunately, the cancer continued to spread. He then received grid radiation to the pelvic area concurrently with Trabectedin and OPDIVO. He declined rapidly during this therapy and the cancer continued to progress, ultimately resulting in his death on August 3, 2023.

Dan joined the Chondrosarcoma Foundation Advisory Board in January 2023. Dan's mission was to help patients fight insurance denials of crucial medical care which ultimately results in delays of treatment. He recognized the magnitude of this issue through personally experiencing frequent denials and delays in his care. Based on his experience, Dan wrote an article on navigating through the insurance authorization process and the subsequent denials for the Foundation's website. Insurance Authorizations and Getting Your Care Approved (csfshayna.org).

Dan's desire to bring "transparency and accountability to physicians on the insurance side that resulted in denials and delays of the care that was recommended by the patient's chosen physician" began to gain traction, and he was featured on the Flatlining podcast and in some news articles, one of which was shared with all the members of the American Medical Association.

Ron Howrigan, President of Fulcrum Strategies who met Dan when he reached out to Ron after seeing he was quoted in an article about insurance denials, wrote, I was surprised when Dr. Hurley took my call from a hospital bed. He quickly informed me that he was in the middle of receiving a treatment for a very difficult cancer diagnosis. Dr. Hurley told me the story about both his diagnosis and treatment regimen. The story included difficulties he had experienced in getting the care he needs approved and authorized by his insurance company. Dr. Hurley told me how lucky he was that, as a physician, he was able to quickly navigate the healthcare system and find a specialist who would easily be considered one of the preeminent experts in the rare cancer he was dealing with. The oncologist treating Dr. Hurley started him on a treatment path to deal with his disease and tumor right away. Along that journey, Dr. Hurley and his physician ran into a roadblock that is all too frequent in our system today. Dr. Hurley's insurance company denied a PET scan ordered by his oncologist. The requested PET scan was denied by a Medical Director because that physician deemed it to be not "medically necessary".

After hearing all of this, I quickly asked Dr. Hurley what I could do to help. That was when Dr. Hurley really made an impression on me. He informed me that he wanted to tell his story so others wouldn't have the same experience. He told me he wanted to dedicate his life to exposing this problem in the hopes of changing the insane system of insurance company denials. I remember thinking how incredible this was. Here I was talking to a doctor while he was getting chemotherapy for his cancer, and instead of being angry or wanting vengeance, was concerned only about future patients.

Dan was a fighter, not only throughout his Chondrosarcoma battle (which he handled with humor and grace) but also against the inequities that he encountered as a patient. Although he knew he would likely not survive this tumor, he wanted to make a difference for those fighting alongside him and for those who came after him. He never once felt sorry for himself or said, "Why me?". In fact, he said the opposite: "Why not me? I am better equipped to handle this than most people." His last months were spent leaving a legacy that has already impacted so many people and will continue to do so for years to come.

Honoring Dan Hurley's Legacy:

In honor of Dan Hurley, M.D., and his wish to end insurance denials for cancer patients, the Chondrosarcoma Foundation along with Dan's family, friends and patients are establishing the: Daniel B. Hurley, M.D. Endowment Fund. This fund will be used to provide legal aid to any Chondrosarcoma patient that has received an insurance claim denial for the diagnosis and /or treatment of Chondrosarcoma.



Pictured with Dan (L to R) are
his wife Traci, and
children Sam, Rachel, and
Sarah

Join Us to Build a Strong Coalition

Sign Our Petition www.csfshayna.org/support-cs-research/

Post pictures wearing a Yellow Ribbon or Yellow Wrist Band

#CSWECARE #Chondrosarcoma #Chondrosarcomafoundation