



## Enhancing survival and quality of life for people living with GIST

### APRIL 2023

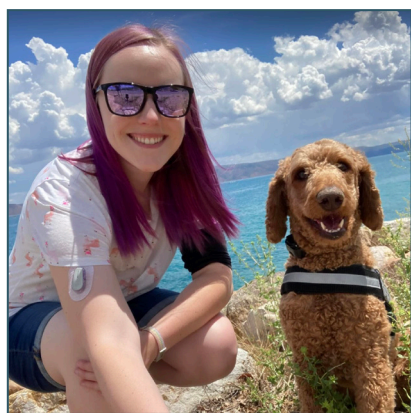
"Thriving Together," our theme for 2023, represents growth, progress, transformation, change, and innovation. We will explore new ways in which we can reach out and help each other and other rare disease communities to not just survive, but thrive. This will include increasing data collaborations with investigators, enhancing our GIST patient registry and tissue bank, and creative awareness & outreach strategies. We will also illustrate that concept throughout the year by sharing the celebrations, triumphs, and milestones that our community is experiencing while living with GIST. [#thrivingtogether](#)

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### More Than Survival

by **MaKayla Evans**, GIST Advocate, GIST Mentor & LRG Social Media Ambassador



MaKayla & Ziva

Thriving, definition: "to prosper or to flourish, to grow or develop well."

Over the last several years, I've been working hard to achieve the "thriving" part of this life. Where living feels worth it, work is enjoyable, friends are present, I'm in love, my health is stable, I'm living out my passions and dreams, and making money while doing it.

Where everything feels great!

I bet you guessed that's not exactly what has been happening.

*Continued on page 6*



## Notes from Our Executive Director

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Throughout this year, our team has been hard at work implementing various updates to improve our organization. I have had the opportunity to travel to different parts of the US to attend meetings that have focused on the strategic direction of the LRG. We have exciting upcoming events such as our global conference, New Horizons GIST, in partnership with the annual conference of SPAGN (Sarcoma Patient Advocacy Global Network). During these conferences, I will be speaking on partnerships with life science companies and moderating sessions on new GIST treatment updates. We will also be attending the ASCO annual conference to hear great presentations and view posters on GIST as well as meet with collaborative partners. We look forward to sharing what we learn from these meetings.

Our support services are something we are proud of and we are always striving to improve our educational materials and online resources. We have planned a range of educational events for this year, such as our monthly webinars and GIST Days of Learning (GDOLs), and we encourage our community to take part in these events virtually and in-person across the country.

Our focus remains on fostering stronger collaborations and networking among patients, healthcare professionals, researchers, and industry to advance GIST research and treatment. In the first quarter of 2023, we already have a dozen data collaboration projects in full swing with academic and industry partners from around the world. Our goal is to continue to bring scientific content into the public domain and contributing more literature and thought leadership in GIST, including the future direction of clinical trials.

We value access and equity to treatments as they are crucial to patient survival. As an example, we met recently with Accessia Health, which is an organization that can assist patients in the United States with co-pays, medical and travel expenses. They are a great resource for patients struggling with the financial burden of living with cancer.

Lastly, we are dedicated to ensuring that no GIST patient feels alone. However, as a small team we cannot achieve our goals without the support of the community. Please consider donating your time and funding support to help us continue our work on behalf of GIST patients everywhere.

– *Sara Rothschild*





## Important Changes to the NCCN Guidelines

by **Denisse Evans**, Senior Director, Data Management & Research

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) clinical guidelines are a set of evidence-based recommendations for the diagnosis, treatment, and management of various types of cancer. The NCCN is a nonprofit organization which brings together experts from various disciplines in oncology to develop guidelines for clinical practice.

The NCCN guidelines are regularly updated to reflect the latest scientific and clinical research, and are widely used by healthcare professionals, insurers, and patients to guide decision-making regarding cancer care. The guidelines cover a range of topics, including cancer screening, diagnosis, staging, treatment, and supportive care. These guidelines are widely regarded as the gold standard for cancer care in the United States and are followed by many healthcare institutions and providers. However, it is important to note that the guidelines are not intended to replace clinical judgment or individualized patient care, and healthcare providers should always consider the specific needs and circumstances of each patient when making treatment decisions.



National Comprehensive  
Cancer Network®

Here is a review of each section which was updated or changed in the NCCN 2023 version.

### Principles of Biopsy and Risk Stratification for GIST

The standard practice for a GIST diagnosis is based on the microscopic tissue examination. Common biomarkers like CD117, DOG1, CD34 are included in the panel during histologic evaluations. This year SDHB protein is now included as an immunohistochemistry biomarker. Additionally, genetic testing for KIT and PDGFRA mutations, as well as other potential biomarkers (BRAF, NF1, NTRK fusions) are also recommended for the diagnosis of GIST.

### Principles of Mutational Testing

The significance of mutational testing in GIST is greatly emphasized in the guidelines, and it is recommended to conduct such testing if treatment therapy is being considered as part of the patient's treatment plan. This is because the presence or absence of mutations has been found to be linked to the response or lack of response to chemotherapies.

*Three important details to emphasize about this section:*

1. GIST lacking mutations in the KIT or PDGFRA genes should undergo Next Generation Sequencing (an advanced type of mutational testing) to test for SDH deficiency and alternative driver mutations like BRAF, NF1, NTRK etc.

*Continued on page 4*

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2. Patients with SDH germline mutations are at risk of paraganglioma.
3. Ripretinib is now a recommended option for PDGFRA exon 18 patients that are insensitive to imatinib and were previously treated with avapritinib and dasatinib.

### Systematic Therapy Agents and Regimes for GIST

In the case of resectable disease patients: neoadjuvant and adjuvant therapy involves using imatinib (Gleevec) as the primary treatment for GIST. This approach applies specifically to imatinib sensitive mutations and excludes all PDGFRA exon 18 mutations. Adjuvant treatment is recommended to all patients with significant risk of recurrence, intermediate or high risk.

For unresectable, progressive, or metastatic patients: Therapies should be based on the identification of the driver mutation after mutational testing is conducted. Imatinib is recommended for imatinib-sensitive mutations. Avapritinib is recommended for PDGFRA exon 18 mutations that are not sensitive to imatinib, including D842V mutations. Useful in certain occasions, sunitinib, regorafenib, pazopanib, and imatinib/binimetinib are recommended for SDH-deficient GIST. Dabrafenib + trametinib is also recommended for BRAF V600E mutations.

According to current recommendations, Sunitinib, Regorafenib, and Ripretinib are recommended for second-, third-, and fourth-line treatments, respectively. Additional options after progression on approved treatment therapies are cabozatinib, nilotinib, pazopanib, sorafenib, ponatinib, and ripretinib dose escalation to 300mg if previously treated with ripretinib 150mg daily.

### General Principles of Surgery for GIST

#### *Resectable tumors*

It is highly recommended to refrain from performing an incisional biopsy in cases of primary resectable GIST. Due to the fragile nature of GIST tumors, it is crucial to prevent any damage to the tumor capsule, such as rupture, spillage, or laceration.

#### *Unresectable tumors*

The main approach for treating patients with inoperable GIST tumors is through mutational testing-guided molecular therapy. This approach may lead to a favorable treatment response and tumor shrinkage which may lead to the possibility of surgery.

#### *SDH-deficient tumors*

Serum/urine catecholamine testing should be performed prior to surgery to all SDH-deficient patients given that they are at risk of paragangliomas.

### Principles of Interventional Oncology

The GIST guidelines have been updated to include a new category named Interventional Oncology, which deals with catheter-directed and intra-arterial therapies like radioembolization

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and chemoembolization. Such therapies offer a less invasive way to treat liver disorders in certain patients, especially those who cannot undergo surgery. Patients that failed treatment therapies, may qualify for these types of treatments.

One thing that remains the same is the recommendation that all patients should be evaluated and treated by a GIST specialist. The LRG agrees strongly with this recommendation as we continue to encourage all patients to seek attention from a specialist near their area. If you do not have a GIST specialist, please contact us, or visit our GIST specialist's database

<https://liferaftgroup.org/gist-specialist-list-us/>

*We would like to thank and acknowledge Dr. Margaret Von Mehren, the NCCN guidelines chair, and all the panel members for their exceptional work, and dedication in improving the treatment of patients with GIST with the work provided in these guidelines.*

**Note:** If you have not received mutational testing and reside in the US, please contact our Data Management & Research Team to discuss access to free mutational testing:

[patientregistrydepartment@liferaftgroup.org](mailto:patientregistrydepartment@liferaftgroup.org)



## GIST PATIENT REGISTRY UPDATE

**2609**  
PATIENTS

**500**  
PATIENTS HAVE  
DONATED TISSUE  
TO THE TISSUE BANK

**60%**  
OF PATIENTS IN OUR  
REGISTRY HAVE  
REPORTED HAVING  
MUTATIONAL TESTING



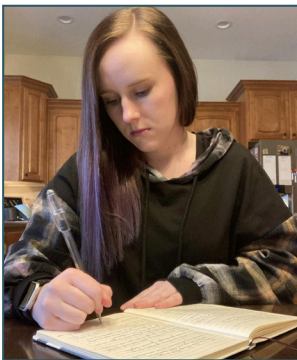
**75%**  
OF THESE PATIENTS  
HAVE SHARED THEIR  
MUTATION REPORT  
WITH THE LRG\*

*\*Data from mutational testing reports help The Life Raft Group understand the entire genomic profile of the patient's GIST which can aid in optimizing treatment options.*

Recently I had a conversation explaining that I crave something new in my life. The monotony of my day to day is making my heart and soul truly ache. I feel like my potential has not been reached. That I'm not doing enough. I began explaining all the ways I feel like I'm not measuring up to others my age or achieving my goal of living a spontaneous life.

I'm still single, I have no college degree, I'm not working a full time job, my health is so unpredictable, and most days I feel lonely. I have felt consumed by the societal pressures put on me. But mostly I feel the pressure I put on myself.

Last year when I was feeling these feelings and more, I set out to really change the way I'm living. I've spent a lot of my life waiting for the right moment to do things. The right time to get out of my comfort zone, the right time to travel, the right time to quit my job and find work that I'm passionate about. In December of 2021, shortly after recovering from a Kidney AutoTransplant due to artery compression syndromes, I created a "This is my year" list of things I wanted to do. Unlike many people who write New Year's resolutions, this list encompassed a variety of attainable things I was genuinely excited about changing and doing. Some of these items included: going on a solo road trip; take more photos with myself in them; see extended family more; save more fun; Invest; serve others more, and *LIVE*...not just survive.



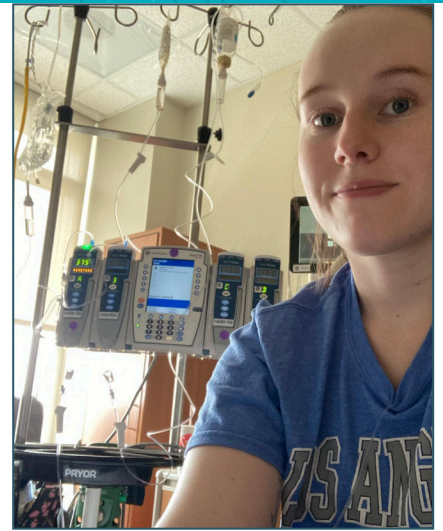
In the summer of 2022, I went on my first solo road trip to Boise, Idaho and had a blast touring the city and going to a concert. I took so many photos of myself and my favorite people and I thought of how fun it will be to look back on these photos instead worrying about how I look in them and refusing to be in the moment.

I contacted my extended family more and have built better relationships with them because of it. I was more spontaneous, met new people and didn't let fear get in the way of taking chances, learned new things, and laughed more than I have in my life.

I created a Roth IRA at the age of 25 in hopes that one day I will get to retire and live a comfortable life.

On the week of my birthday I decided to do 25 acts of kindness for random people, these things included giving Crumbl cookies to my infusion nurses, leaving a treat in the mailbox for our mail lady, sending an "I'm thinking about you text" to a friend, and sending some money via Venmo to someone I love so they could buy a drink or treat on me. By doing these things I was enjoying my life, not just going through the motions.

In therapy I've been working on building a "whole hearted life." Dr. Brené Brown, a research professor, author, and speaker says *"Living is about engaging in our lives from a place of worthiness. It means cultivating the courage, compassion, and connection to wake up in the morning and think, no matter what gets done and how much is left undone, I am enough. It's going to bed at night thinking, yes, I am imperfect and vulnerable and sometimes afraid, but that doesn't change the truth that I am also brave and worthy of love and belonging."*



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About seven months ago, my friend and I decided to create a Diversity Group to help bring people together with diverse perspectives and life experiences to help us all gain empathy and understanding outside our own. Cultivating an environment that brings awareness to what many consider "taboo topics." Every week we've had the opportunity to listen to someone be vulnerable and brave enough to tell their story. I have gained so much more understanding and empathy for these people and the substance, knowledge and experience they bring to the table. Recently in this group I decided to share Dr. Brown's original TEDTalk on vulnerability. And the response from the group was exciting. Afterwards I stood up and told the group, that I came across this video about eight years ago while I was sitting in treatment for an eating disorder, struggling to find a will to keep fighting. I watch it every year because I get something new out of it in every phase of my life. Her words are helping me create a life worth living. A life where thriving means treating yourself kindly in all things.

Sometimes its easier to think that the grass is greener on the other side, but in truth, the grass is greener where you water it. Where you're willing to put in the work on yourself. Willing to show up and be seen, even as your imperfect self. Willing to feel the emotions that are so hard to feel because shoving them down will only make them overflow stronger. Being willing to say you're sorry when you messed up, or sometimes even harder being brave enough to say "I love you" first.

How incredible is it, that at any age we can take a step out of our comfort zone and explore new possibilities of the things that bring us pure joy. I know how hard it can be to do these things with a body that constantly feels like its failing you. So the challenge feels even greater to us to break beyond our limits. If you're someone who is sitting at home, dealing with debilitating nausea or chronic pain, find things you CAN do. Create art, listen to a podcast, meditate, crochet, connect with people. All that matters is finding things that make your life worth living.

For the longest time, I've been suspended in a state of survival. Make it through the day, the next hour, the next minute. As I've grown and matured from the trials of my past and the triumphs of today, I know what a gift it is to be able to have things to look forward to that are whole hearted, character building, and exciting.

So, in the moments of self defeat where thriving seems like the last thing I'm doing...I understand that thriving for me is going to look different than others. Just as your thriving is going to look different than mine. I encourage you as GIST patients, caregivers, or professionals to be kind with yourself on this journey we call life. Remember what's important. Have gratitude in all things. Don't be the sidekick in your story. Be the main character. Do what makes you happy! Do what fuels your soul. Because in the end isn't that what thriving is all about?

Your can read more about MaKayla's GISTory here:

<https://liferaftgroup.org/2020/11/gist-creativity-makayla-evans-artistic-gister/>



*GIST Advocate & Guest Speaker Dr.mOe Anderson presenting MaKayla with The Nikki Morales Courage Award at Life Fest 2022, for inspiring others through her determination & courage.*

CELEBRATING OUR  
**VOLUNTEERS**  
WE ARE SO THANKFUL!

One  
Mission



160+  
Volunteers



Thriving  
Together



## Volunteers are at the heart of the Life Raft Group.

Our volunteers donate their time and energy expecting nothing in return. We appreciate them for their kindness and generosity, and we are so grateful for their contributions to the LRG. From stuffing envelopes to talking to newly diagnosed patients and their caregivers, our volunteers do so much every day to make a difference in the GIST community. Thank you so much to all of our volunteers. We accomplish all that we do because of YOU!

## Why Volunteer?

For our community one of the most significant benefits of volunteering with The Life Raft Group is the opportunity to connect with others who are going through similar experiences. A rare cancer like gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST) can be

isolating and challenging to navigate, and it can be difficult to find others who truly understand what you're going through. Volunteering helps you to connect with others who share similar struggles and challenges, providing much-needed emotional support and understanding. Here are some other benefits to volunteering:

### 1. You Can Make a Positive Impact

Volunteers have the opportunity to make a positive impact in the lives of others. By sharing experiences, offering support, and advocating for improved treatment and care, volunteers can help others facing similar challenges. This sense of purpose and contribution can be incredibly rewarding and fulfilling, giving patients and caregivers a sense of agency and control in the face of their diagnosis.

### 2. You Can Gain New Skills & Knowledge

Volunteering with a patient advocacy organization can also provide you with the opportunity to gain new skills and knowledge. Volunteers may have unique insights and expertise related to their cancer journey, and by sharing this knowledge and collaborating with other volunteers and healthcare professionals, they can become even more knowledgeable and skilled in areas such as advocacy, healthcare, and patient support.

### 3. You Can Use Your Voice to Advocate

The LRG works to advocate for improved treatment and care for the GIST community. As a volunteer, you can play an active role in advocating for improved treatments, access to clinical trials, and greater support from healthcare systems. By speaking out about your experiences and advocating for change, you can help to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others with GIST.

### 4. You Can Also Find Hope and Inspiration

Volunteering with a patient advocacy organization can also be a source of hope and inspiration for the volunteer too. By connecting with others who have overcome significant challenges and by seeing the progress being made in research and advocacy, patients and caregivers can find hope and optimism despite the realities of their diagnosis. This can be a powerful tool for mental and emotional resilience, helping patients and caregivers to stay strong and hopeful in the face of adversity.

Volunteering with The Life Raft Group can be an incredibly rewarding experience! If you are a patient or caregiver looking for a way to make a meaningful contribution, connect with others, and find hope and inspiration, consider volunteering with the LRG today!

### *Interested in Volunteering?*

Contact: Diana Nieves, Chief  
Development & Involvement Officer  
[dnieves@lifteraftgroup.org](mailto:dnieves@lifteraftgroup.org)



# Fueling GIST Research: Our Community in Action

by **Diana Nieves**, Chief Development & Involvement Officer

Our spring fundraising campaign, called "Fueling GIST Research", kicks off in May and we've given you a preview of one of the ways that you can help raise funds. Mid-April we invited three amazing GIST advocates to showcase their successful fundraising events for the LRG during a webinar. Each had a unique idea that channeled their passion for awareness in a fun event for the organizers & the donors. Chelsea Madia, Jason DeLorenzo, and Dave Perry used their talents and energy to bring awareness to GIST and its research. We are so grateful to them for what they were able to accomplish, and so many other GIST advocates who have worked so hard to create fantastic, unique fundraisers.

For example, Chelsea shared about how she 'came out' as a cancer patient and appealed to friends & family to donate and join her at the first **NJ GIST Do It Walk**. Jason and Jill DeLorenzo have hosted a yearly family picnic for years and have incorporated an awareness & fundraising element into that event. Dave Perry & his family dramatically change the face of their record store each year to raise awareness and funds for the LRG in memory of his late daughter-in-law, Lorie. These fundraising dynamos are just a few of the outstanding people who have appealed to their own sphere of influence to help the LRG. Others have held Facebook birthday fundraisers, bake sales, auctions, horse races, ran marathons, held comedy nights, poker events, whiskey tastings, and so much more.

We have a goal of raising \$25K by **GIST Awareness Day**, which is July 13th and we need your help to accomplish this. Together, we can make an impact by Fueling GIST Research.

## DONATE

1. Donate any one-time amount to our campaign for GIST research.
2. Sign up to become a GEM & give a monthly amount all year long.
3. Partner with us & run a fundraising campaign on Instagram & Facebook, donate \$25 dollars and challenge friends and family to do the same. Remember to keep potential donors engaged by raising GIST awareness by sharing why raising these funds is important to you

## CREATE

1. Create a fundraising campaign based on something you enjoy whether it's an ongoing activity or an event. The LRG will work with you to set up a fundraising platform that works for you & provide any graphics or information you may want to share with your potential donors.
2. Share your progress & we'll highlight your fundraiser to illustrate to others what the experience has been like. We'll also help promote your event on our social media & encourage you along the way.

Your fundraiser can be a way to honor a loved one who is living with GIST or to celebrate their survivorship. If you're a patient or caregiver, it can also be a way to rally your community around a cause you believe in and raise awareness about the important work the LRG is doing. The key here is to keep it simple, stay connected to your potential donors, and have a plan - How? You can call on the LRG for help, and you can ask our panel questions too as they've volunteered to answer any that you have. Reach out today as we work toward our goal of raising \$25K by July 13th - **GIST Awareness Day!**

**Contact Diana Nieves:** [dnieves@liferaftgroup.org](mailto:dnieves@liferaftgroup.org)

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**There are countless creative and fun ways to create fundraisers that align with your personal interests while supporting The Life Raft Group & GIST research. Here are a few ideas to get you started:**

1. **Host a virtual trivia night:** Love trivia? Host a virtual trivia night and charge a small fee for participation. You can use an online platform like Zoom or Google Meet, and donate the proceeds.
2. **Organize a bake sale:** If you love baking, organize a bake sale and donate the proceeds. You can even get creative and bake GIST-themed treats, such as cupcakes decorated with blue ribbons.
3. **Run a marathon or participate in a race:** Participating in a race, such as a marathon, half-marathon, or 5K, can be a great way to raise funds for The Life Raft Group. Set up a fundraising page and encourage your friends and family to donate to your cause. (Chelsea Madia, as well as other GISTers have done this! See recording below!)
4. **Host a silent auction:** Ask local businesses to donate items, such as gift cards or products, and host a silent auction or host an in-person event if you have access to a large home, yard or event space.
5. **Have a yard sale:** Clean out your closets and host a yard sale. A community or block yard sale could render quite a donation and help with spring/summer cleaning!
6. **Create a virtual art exhibit:** If you're an artist, consider creating a virtual art exhibit and donating a portion of the proceeds.
7. **Organize a charity car wash:** Get together with friends and organize a charity car wash. Charge a fee for each car and donate the proceeds to The Life Raft Group.
8. **Having a bar-b-que or family picnic or similiar gathering?** The DeLorenzos have spread GIST Awareness and raised funds at their annual picnic for years! (See recording below!)
9. **Have a business you're passionate about?** Consider how you can use that business to raise awarenss and funds for the LRG like Vinyl Destination by turning their business into Cupcake Records for a month a year and selling sticker, t-shirts & more. (See recording below!)

*What ideas do you have?* Reach out to us for any help you need coming up with an idea or implementing that idea! We are here to support your efforts. (email: [dnieves@liferaftgroup.org](mailto:dnieves@liferaftgroup.org))

**Watch this fantastic interview with panelists Chelsea Madia, Jason DeLorenzo & Dave Perry - each have held personal fundraisers that have furthered GIST Awareness & raised \$\$ for #GISTresearch.**



<https://youtu.be/k17Hs5gS6yw>

# International News

## Congratulations, Sarah!

GIST Advocate Sarah McGoram received the Order of Australia Medal this April for outstanding community service as evidenced by her work on behalf of cancer patients in Australia.

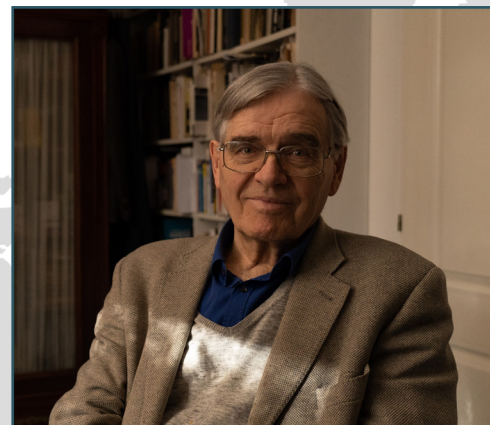


## Notes from Hungary

András Szekfü is a film historian and our country liaison for Hungary. András last shared with us during GIST Awareness Day 2020 - <https://liferaftgroup.org/2020/07/gist-awareness-day-sharing/>

I'm 81 and I'm doing well. Though retired, I am now writing my fourth book. Most importantly, I have been NED since my surgery eleven years ago.

Out of 9.5 million Hungarians, there may be some 100 GIST patients. But this is only a guess, I have not seen any official statistics about this. The **Recovering Together Association** in Budapest has 60-80 members who support and encourage each other and we are ready to welcome more GIST members.



The Life Raft Group is please to announce that Dr. César Serrano of Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology, Barcelona, Spain, has joined our Medical Advisory Board! We welcome your expertise Dr. Serrano & are grateful for your participation!



## Patient Resources

# TRIAGE CANCER

Providing free education on the practical & legal issues that arise after a cancer diagnosis.

[bit.ly/TC-Resources](https://bit.ly/TC-Resources)



Triage Cancer has a wide-range of educational and practical resources available on topics that arise after a cancer diagnosis.

Get more information:  
[bit.ly/TC-Resources](https://bit.ly/TC-Resources)



Join the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) in-person for a community listening session!

We are hosting community conversations with Latino/a/x rare disease patients, families, and caregivers. NORD wants to hear your experience getting diagnosed and living with a rare disease.

- All information shared during the sessions will remain confidential and will not be shared with any third parties.
- Compensation for in-person participation will be provided.
- The listening sessions are family friendly for relatives of individuals that are registered to attend the listening session. There will be games for kids, delicious food, and free NORD swag!
- These listening sessions are private events and open only to Latino/a/x Rare Disease patients and caregivers, registration is required.



### Listening Session Dates and Locations

#### HOUSTON, TX May 17, 2023

Location: The United Way Office  
at 50 Waugh Dr.  
4pm-5:30pm, OR 6pm-7:30pm  
Join us for dinner from 5:30pm-6:30pm.  
Free parking

#### WASHINGTON, DC May 5, 2023

Location: Renaissance Downtown Hotel,  
999 9th Street NW  
3:30pm-5pm  
Afterwards, join us for dinner at our Living  
Rare Living Stronger Patient and Family Forum  
Welcome Reception from 5pm-7pm. NORD  
will cover the cost of parking at the venue.

#### LANHAM, MD May 7, 2023

Location: Children's National Prince  
George's County, 2900 North  
Campus Way  
1:00pm-3:00pm  
Lunch will be served!  
Free parking

#### NEW YORK CITY, NY April 22, 2023

Location: West Side YMCA,  
5 West 63rd Street  
10:00am-11:30am (breakfast will  
be served) OR 12:30pm-2:00pm  
(lunch will be served)

Can't attend in-person? We're hosting virtual listening sessions on Zoom!

Houston: 6/13/23  
7:00pm-8:15pm CT

New York: 5/1/23  
7:30pm-8:30pm ET

D.C. Metro Area: 5/22/23  
7:00pm-8:00pm ET

National: 6/1/23  
7:00pm-8:00pm CT

Participation in the national session is open to all United States Latino/a/x rare disease patients and families.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



LAER@rarediseases.org



Whats app: 617-872-0854

Solo somos RAROS.  
Juntos somos FUERTES.

NORD is holding a series of listening sessions for the latino(x) patient population and has in-person and virtual opportunities available.

Register & get more  
information here:

[LatinosYEnfermedadesRaras.org](https://LatinosYEnfermedadesRaras.org)

# Accessia Health

assists eligible patients with one or more of the following: medication and provider copays, coinsurance, health insurance premiums, medical expenses, and travel.

Get more information:

<https://accessiahealth.org/>

# Calendar 2023


register  
today



2023

**GIST DAY OF LEARNING  
CALIFORNIA**

HOSTED BY:



 **Stanford  
MEDICINE**  
School of Medicine

**SATURDAY, MAY 20**

2023

**GIST DAY OF LEARNING  
COLORADO**

HOSTED BY:

 Powered by  
 **Cancer Center**  
NCI-DESIGNATED COMPREHENSIVE  
CANCER CENTER

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28**

**Virtual GISTers Support Group  
Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays**

**Virtual Caregiver Support Group  
Meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays**

Please contact Diana Nieves at  
[dnieves@lifteraftgroup.org](mailto:dnieves@lifteraftgroup.org) to join.

**Managing Your Mental Health  
After A Cancer Diagnosis**  
May 2nd, 2023 • 12pm ET

 **Sarah Paul, LCSW, OSW-C**  
CancerCare



**May 2nd - 12PM ET**

**Clinical Trials 101**  
May 19th, 2023 • 12pm ET

 **Ciara Kelly**  
Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center



**May 19th - 12PM ET**

 **GISTCHAT**  
**A private email community  
for GISTers**  
<https://forum.gistchat.org/>

 **YouTube**  
Subscribe to our  
Channel today!  
[@LifteraftgroupOrg](#)

**[bit.ly/LGREvents2023](https://bit.ly/LGREvents2023)**

# Thank you to our G.E.M. members!

GIVE EVERY MONTH



Opal Level

John Driscoll  
Linda Gosser  
Susan Migneault  
Elizabeth Skree  
Charlie Grana-Benn  
Claire Monaghan



Ruby Level

Heather Anderson  
Rene Carrillo  
Evelyn De Mello  
Michelle DeValera-Gibson  
Sharon Genovese  
Janet Hines  
Linda Jackson  
Jean Jolin  
Derek Kaufman  
Jennifer & Owen Moore  
Rick Paczewski  
Christa Pereira  
Rob Taylor  
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Our prayers go out to  
the family of GEM donor  
John Van Hise who  
passed away in March.



thank  
you

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### A. It's convenient for you.

Your donation of \$10 a month or more  
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155 US Highway 46, Suite 202, Wayne, NJ 07470

phone 973.837.9092 fax 973.221.9738 email liferaft@liferaftgroup.org website liferaftgroup.org



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