

THE JOURNEY from Despair to Hope: “Living with Head and Neck Cancer”

USC’s IGM Art Gallery, in association with the Head and Neck Cancer Support Program, presents a symbolic photographic journey that starts with a metaphoric face to face encounter with cancer and concludes with hope eternal in a tomorrow with dignity.

Cancer is the most frightening diagnosis possible. Even a strong willed, self-confident, individual begins to despair upon hearing the words “its positive - your tumor is malignant”. The emotion of those fear filled words is the starting point for our exhibit. From there the exhibit examines the range of emotions (disbelief, shock, rage, acceptance, commitment to fight, strength of will, peace, tranquility, hope) that a cancer patient experiences over time.

The exhibit symbolizes the journey as a syllabus of emotion – a photographic transit through each stage - never showing a “doctor, patient, or hospital”. Instead each emotion is visually interpreted by photographs of nature, buildings, animals, and human interaction.

So our Journey started with the devastating news of receiving a cancer diagnosis. The patient does not know what to do or where to go and full of fear for the future. Somehow he must overcome the malaise of indecision. The patient/traveler moves forward he finds that the very act of “doing something” instead of “doing nothing” leads to a “strength”.

Soon this strength gives rise to “hope”. Fear begins to subside. As hope grows and strength improves, a “JOY” for life returns. Our traveler, with the help and love of others, is transfigured. Though still facing many decisions and no “sure thing” the hope of a future with dignity exorcises the demons of fear.

Finally our traveler reaches what he thinks is the end of the journey. But instead the traveler finds an unfinished bridge. But even this does not crush the spirit of our traveler. No journey is ever complete. The traveler has found a sense of harmony and inner peace, with his world, his philosophy, his God, his life, eternity.

We are given just one life. No more. This life is our *single* journey through eternity. Armed with that truth --- our exhibit cries out “*stay the journey*”, fight, struggle, never give in.

Opening Reception

PROGRAM

Saturday, July 11, 2009

- 4:25** Be Seated in Harkness Lecture Hall
- 4:30** Welcome --- Lynn Crandall, Gallery Director
- 4:35** Dr Dale Rice, MD and Dr Kokot, MD
- 4:50** Charlie Lustman – Cancer Survivor and Musician Performs a short set from his Pop-Opera “Made Me Nuclear”
- 5:05** Joe Lapidés – Introduces Gallery show.
- 5:10** Blair Franks – “The Dread” – Statement of the Gallery show’s concept ---
“Living With Cancer”
- 5:15** Film on the artist Victor Dyck
- 5:20** Introduction of Victor Dyck. Statements and Q&A
- 5:40** Mixer in the Gallery
- 6:30** Adjourn

The purpose of this exhibit is to demonstrate public, private, nonprofit, academic, and media leaders applying the American democratic process in projects to develop and sustain local and global resource sharing and citizen diplomacy with a focus on Global Health challenges.

Exhibit Sponsors

The USC Institute for Genetic Medicine
Head and Neck Cancer Support Group at USC

VictorDyck Photography

Program Partners

HNCsupport International

Americans for Informed Democracy
The Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Ethics

International Head and Neck Symposium

L.A./Mumbai Sister Cities Affiliation

artAngels

“Made Me Nuclear”

VictorDyck Photography

Acknowledgements

Saffron Spot in Artesia for Neemo’s Exotic Ice Cream; IGM staff and faculty; IGM Art Gallery Advisers; Kenneth Wyrick and caltek.net for web hosting; Dr. Uttam Sinha, Kavita Munjal and Blair Franks for leadership; Annie Franks, Janet Morgan, Mira Advani Honeycutt and Smita Salgaonkar for planning assistance; Charlie Lustman - performance, George Qiao and Michelle Chang facilities management

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Refreshments provided by USC Dept. of Otolaryngology, flowers and set up by IGM Art Gallery



Guests read the "Gallery book"



Gallery Book enthralles readers



Phyllis Browses Victor's photos observed by Art Consultant, Joan DeBruin, Director, artbridgesgallery.com, representing 20 professional artists including Kent Twitchell, Harriet Zeitlin, Joseph Gatto.



Sylvia Dyck, HNC survivor, right, and friends



The exhibit brings guests together for conversation



Gallery Summer Intern, George Qiao, listens as UCLA Medical researcher, Weihong Qiao, talks with USC Pulmonary researcher, Dr. Beiyun Zhou



Intergenerational exchange is part of the IGM Art Gallery mission



USC Medical students, Matt Voorman and Victor Schorn, experiencing "The Journey" and agree to help out on August 22 Global Health Forum



USC Development Officer, Janet Morgan, holds a program while chatting with guests



A proud Victor (photographer) stands ready to answer inquiries



Head and neck Cancer Survivor, Althea, with her daughter and care giver, also a sign language expert



Call to Assembly



Joe Lapidès (cancer survivor) opening remarks



Head and neck Surgeon, Dr. Uttam Sinha, MD, addressing the audience



Dr Kokot, MD update on new "robotic" surgery techniques



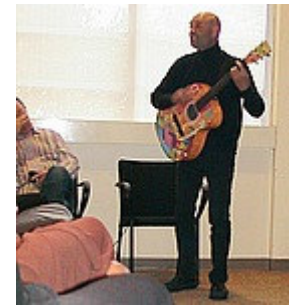
Transoral Robotic Surgery, TORS, is a new, minimally invasive technique that allows treatment of many head and neck tumors without traditional "open approaches" and their associated morbidity



HNC Support International President G. Blair Franks



Bob Gray, CEO of "Made Me Nuclear" & GreatIdeas, attends reception



Head and neck cancer Survivor, Charlie Lustman, entertains us with beautiful and personal songs of dealing with cancer.



Charlie performs numbers for "Made Me Nuclear" - his Cancer Themed pop opera



Doctors enjoying good entertainment



Blair Franks, HNC Support Group President, Blair Franks explains the process that resulted in this exhibit and the events it will frame over the next four months and presents a power point show on Victor's personal and professional life



Victor and guest enjoying the presentation



Plato's "Forms" frame Blair's lecture - is "art" worthwhile?



Art, according to Blair's lecture is reality through the "prism" of the artist's life experiences.



Each viewer observes the artist's experience through a filter of his or her own personal experience. In Blair's case, he was moved to write his interpretations of Victor's work



The Story of the Dread encapsulated by poetry and images



Blair Introduces the Artist - Victor Dyck. It is clear the two have bonded even more deeply as a result of their collaboration on this exhibit



Victor speaks from his heart about his experience observing and reflecting upon life through the camera and the process of preparing an exhibit



These images reflect Victor's own journey - as both professional photographer and as a caregiver to HNC patient



Victor thanks the audience and the support group for sharing his experiences with him



After the program, patrons enjoy the exhibit and reach out to each other. L - R, Lane Mazer, Joan De Bruin, Kavita Munjal



Dr. Barbara Gitlitz enjoys Saffron Spot exotic Indian ice cream from Artesia, CA



Janet Morgan gives thumbs up to the mango ice cream!



Kavita Munjal, Lane Maser, and Dr. Sinha, representing the L.A./Mumbai Sister City Affiliation chaired by Mira Advani Honeycutt



CEO of the Doctors of USC, Minor Anderson, a Peace Corps worker in the 60's talks with guests about the photographs and their international importance



The mission of the USC IGM Art Gallery is to serve as an art-framed forum for open minded discussion for all ages and points of view



Lane Maser, President of the L.A./Mumbai Sister City Affiliation and Dr. Uttam Sinha, Member of the SoCal Chapter, Sister Cities International



Peg and Dr. Fredric Pashkow, friends of IGM Art Gallery Sponsor, Sylvia Dinhofer Helfert



Front: Nafisa Abdullah, M.D., FACOG, Executive, Afghan Medical Association of America/Afghan Women Association of Southern California; Rear: Anna V. Gilmore, Project Specialist, Dept. of Preventive Medicine and Nekpen Aimiuwu Dept. of City Planning Administrative Services Division, at planning session for Aug. 22 Global Health Forum;



Other members of the Global Health Forum Steering Committee