

## **Diane Hura's Submission for Dr. Shirish Gadgeel in CURE Magazine**

On 3/28/2020 I felt dizzy and fell at work, they sent me to the ER for tests. I was sure it was vertigo, what else could it be at the age of 57? The doctor came into the room and said I know why you're dizzy, you have a brain tumor. I had to be hearing things. I was a pretty healthy person and this just couldn't be. Covid had just gotten bad and I had to face this and future treatments/surgeries alone. I had emergency surgery to remove the brain tumor that was wreaking havoc on my life.

The next day I found out it originated in my lung, but they had to have the wrong patient. Processing a brain tumor was one thing but lung cancer was another. I have played the flute and have been singing professionally for over 40 years my lungs get plenty of exercise, and I have never smoked, there had to be a mistake but there wasn't.

I was assigned an oncologist that spoke to my family and I virtually, explaining that I had stage 4 lung cancer. I had lost family members to both lung and brain cancer and I was terrified. My mind immediately turned to distributing my most prized possessions, and making sure my husband was going to be ok. The oncologist they assigned to me was a brilliant man, but very quiet and I had a lot of questions. My BS degree is in biology and my mission was to learn all I could about this monster invading my body. I was my best advocate and was now in for the fight of my life, literally. My doctor started me on chemo and radiation treatments. In the beginning I didn't question the treatment plan because after all he is the doctor and I am the patient.

My tumor was tested for a biomarker, what was causing this to grow, and I tested positive for the ALK gene. I joined some facebook groups with people going through exactly what I was. There, I found others with their boxing gloves on fighting for their lives too and the support was awesome. In these groups a certain oncologist name kept coming up here in Michigan, Dr. Sharish Gadgeel. I made an appointment with him and that's when my life changed completely. He is a ray of sunshine and hope because his knowledge of the ALK gene is abounding.

He makes me feel that living a long life is a possibility. His attitude and personality are second to none. He is involved in research with the doctors worldwide that develop our life saving medications. I have a doctor out on the field coaching me, routing for me, and guiding me. He is going to give me the plays and I will execute them. He is going to lead me to a victory, a victory of hopefully a long life with an illness that gave very little hope not long ago. I want to see not only my grandkids grow up, but enjoy my future ones. I don't want them to meet me as a picture on my piano, and I'm not ready to die at 57 because I have a lot to give. I was dealt this hand of cards for a reason and it's my quest to find my purpose.

They say having a positive outlook as a cancer patient is very important. I feel that I have that and more with Dr. Gadgeel on my side. I'm nominating Dr. Gadgeel for my LUNG CANCER HERO.