

Addi's Cure Supports Lung Cancer Research at Duke

Berry “Bo” H. Johnson, Jr., is full of life. Being diagnosed with stage four lung cancer in June 2006 has not hindered his spirit or his drive.

“I am 34. I ride my bike 10 miles a day. I was never a smoker. I never had any symptoms except for a dry cough,” says Johnson. “When I was told I had lung cancer, it was a catastrophe – complete shock multiplied by 1,000.”

Johnson was diagnosed with cancer by an oncologist near his home in Lake Norman, NC. After the diagnosis, he and his wife, Christi, began searching for the best place to receive treatment. “I looked at all of the doctors in the country,” explains Johnson. “I knew my best decision was to go to Duke to be cared for by Dr. Jeff Crawford.” Crawford is a thoracic oncologist and chief of medical oncology at Duke.

Today, Johnson is participating in an innovative clinical trial at Duke which is testing a new targeted therapy for lung cancer. His care team is comprised of Crawford, physician assistant Susan Blackwell, and research nurses Carolyn Andrews and Traci Foster.

“The study that Bo is participating in is the first step in developing personalized health care for patients with lung cancer,” says Crawford, principal investigator on the study and vice chair of the respiratory committee of the The Cancer and Leukemia Group B (CALGB). CALGB is a national clinical research group sponsored by

the National Cancer Institute which brings together clinical oncologists and laboratory investigators to develop better treatments for cancer. Duke is a leading member of CALGB and is home to the group’s national statistical and data management center.

“Whether it is in the laboratory or in the clinic, we take a true team approach at Duke because we firmly believe that it takes a team to provide the most outstanding care to our patients,” says Crawford. “A number of our faculty including Anil Potti, MD, and David Harpole, MD, are involved in developing new studies in lung cancer and are utilizing genomics to develop tailored treatment for individual patients - truly personalized health care.”

In September 2006, with support from family and friends, Johnson created Addi’s Cure, a non-profit foundation named after his daughter (www.addiscure.org). The mission of the foundation is to fund cancer research. In just three short months, the foundation has raised more than \$75,000 which will fund lung cancer research at Duke.

“I am in awe of Bo’s enthusiasm and attitude and am so grateful for the funds he has raised



Christi and Bo Johnson with daughter Addi

to support lung cancer research,” says Crawford. “This kind of support will go a long way in our efforts to make advances in the care for lung cancer patients.”

“I have a 15-month-old daughter,” says Johnson. “She doesn’t deserve not to have a daddy. I believe that you can tell a lot about a person’s character by how they handle things. I was told I had four to six months to live, and that was not good enough as far as I was concerned. I’m going to do everything I can to live to walk my daughter down the aisle.”*