


From the Executive Director Arthur Beckert

 When I joined Sarcoma Alliance as the Executive Director in 2005, I was excited and somewhat apprehensive. At that time, an all-volunteer Board of Directors made up mostly of family and friends of our founder, the late Suzanne Leider, was managing the Alliance. They were determined that the Alliance would grow and prosper.

I was excited because I knew I had the skills and knowledge to accomplish the tasks at hand, but apprehensive because I also knew how important the Alliance was to this wonderful group. As time passed and trust between us developed, the Board and I developed laser-like focus on our mission of providing guidance, education, and support to those affected by sarcoma. That focus continues today.

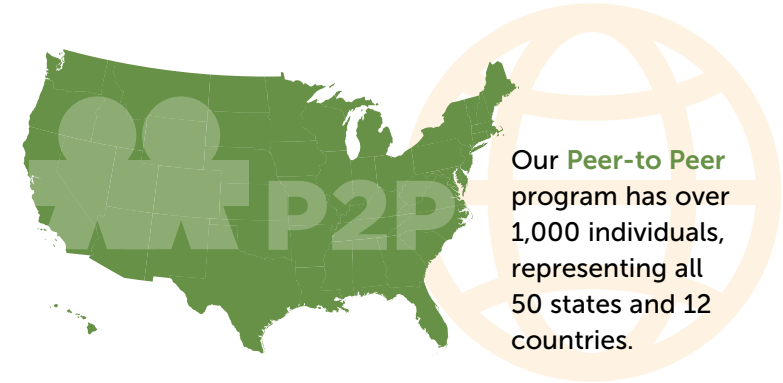
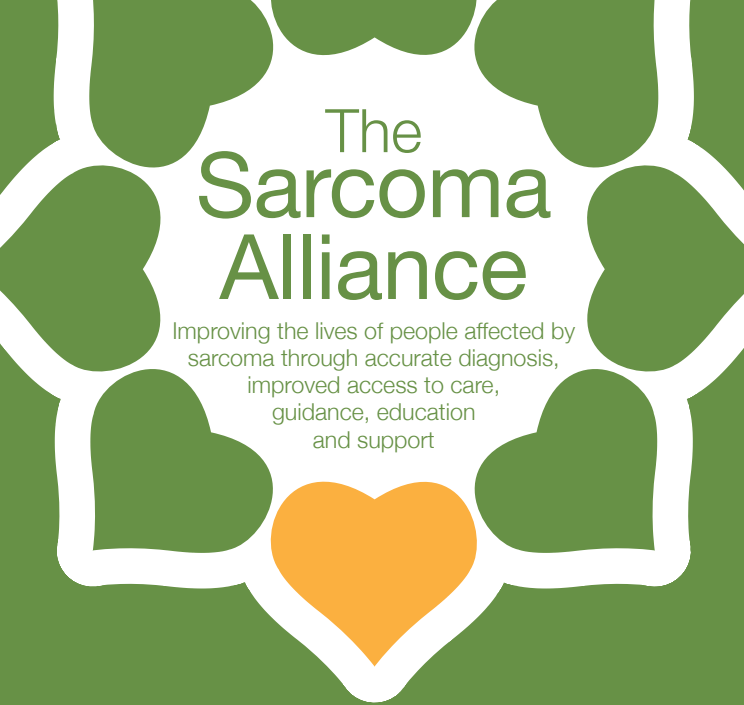
Now, nine years later, I have decided to pass the torch to a new Executive Director, someone who will bring new ideas and energy to continue our important mission. I will be forever grateful to all of the people I have met along the way — our Board of Directors, the committed and compassionate patient advocates, the incredible researchers, physicians, nurses, and caregivers. Over the years, I have attended many conferences and events. The level of compassion and commitment shown by these incredible individuals push the boundaries of sarcoma diagnosis and care. Most of all, however, I

am grateful to all the very brave people who have been diagnosed with sarcoma and their friends and families. Thank you for sharing your stories and your lives with me.

With my retirement comes a new fund — the Arthur Beckert Educational Fund. The purpose of this fund will be to provide ongoing sarcoma education to the community we serve, the general population, health professionals, and the Sarcoma Alliance staff. I am humbled and thankful by this recognition of my efforts. This fund represents another way to assure that the Alliance continues to grow and prosper.

Sarcoma Alliance could not exist without the generous financial support we receive each year. The vast majority of our operating income comes directly from individual donations. We are also supported by a dedicated group of volunteers who help us in so many ways — organizing fundraising events, moderating our online community and in-person support groups, and even helping with our tax filings.


Thank you all for the honor of working with you. ⚙️



Our Peer-to Peer program has over 1,000 individuals, representing all 50 states and 12 countries.



Our Assistance Fund has given over 508 grants totaling nearly \$220,000 to individuals for life-saving second opinions.



Our online Chat Room meets **Wednesday at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 9 p.m. (Eastern).**



Our Facebook Support Group has more more than 1900 members. Our Discussion Board has over 2500 members.
We help everyone affected by any type of sarcoma, always free of charge.



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DEAR FRIEND OF THE SARCOMA ALLIANCE,

This has been a year of tremendous growth and transformation for the Alliance. From connecting those affected by sarcoma with each other, to our financial support of those seeking second opinions, to the depth and quality of the information we provide, we continue to expand our services and improve upon the resources we offer to the sarcoma community.

These efforts have come to fruition in a variety of ways. The number of members on our Facebook News page has increased by more than 150%. Our Twitter followers have increased by 80%. And the number of visitors to our website has nearly doubled. Dr. Matt van de Rijn has joined our esteemed Medical Advisory Board, which is systematically going through our website and other communications to ensure that we have the most accurate and up-to-date

information available. We have embarked on a program to expand our Assistance Fund programs — the total value in second opinion grants is now 60% greater than it was in 2011.

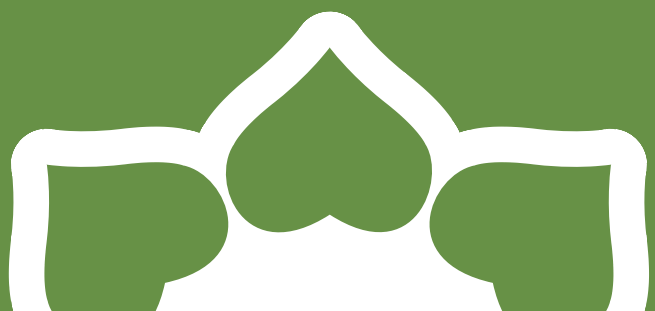
The connections that the Alliance is able to foster through our support and education ripple throughout the community, helping each of us help each other. Take Rhonda Shackelford Ulmer, for example. Earlier this year, Rhonda was the recipient of an Assistance Fund grant for the second opinion she received from Dr. Mark Douglas Duncan of Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. Rhonda later nominated Dr. Duncan for the Alliance's Outstanding Care Award. Now, more patients than ever are aware of the incredible work of Dr. Duncan and our other Outstanding Care Award winners.

As the only national organization whose sole mission is information, guidance and support for people affected by sarcoma, we understand the vital role that we play in the sarcoma community. It is only through your generous support that we are able to play that role. Please help us fulfill our mission by giving generously from your heart. Together, we can continue to help people affected by sarcoma receive the education, support and guidance they desperately need.

On behalf of those we serve, thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes to you and your family for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2014.

James Johnston
President, Board of Directors



Providing Sarcoma Education and Support Is Crucial to Positive Outcomes

Next year, 14,000 Americans will be diagnosed with sarcoma cancers. Sadly, sarcoma will claim the lives of one in three people diagnosed. Below are some of the challenges in diagnosing and treating sarcomas.

The key to providing the best possible outcome RIGHT NOW is educating those affected by it.

COMMENTS FROM OUR FACEBOOK GROUP

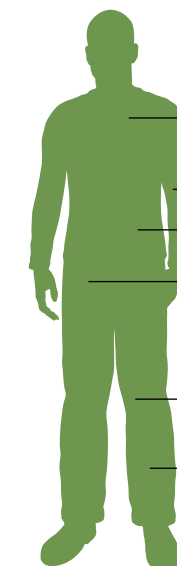
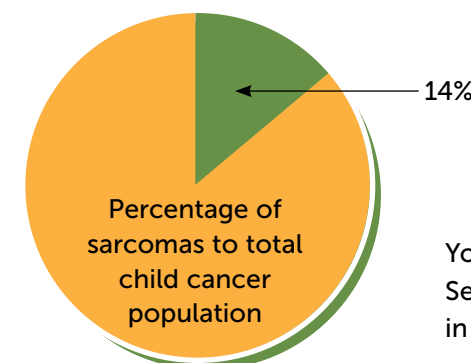
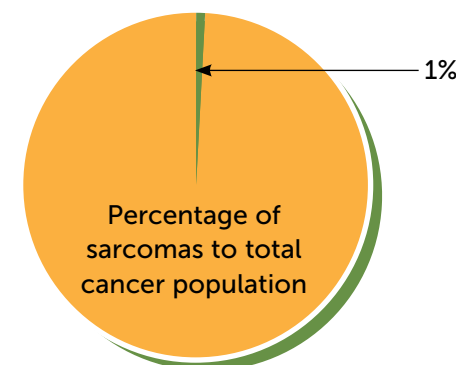
Teri E: I'm lucky. I have strong people supporting me, too. Every post here is helpful and hopeful. Survivors and those managing make me smile and hopeful.

Mike U: I am definitely living with sarcoma. I do everything to propel myself forward with as much positive energy as possible. I've started chemo again, which is definitely a downer, but tomorrow I'll be feeling better than today and that I am grateful for.

Jeanne R: My advice, as always, get a second opinion (or three), at a sarcoma center. I actually got three opinions and am so glad I did. Each one made different and important contributions to my care and treatment.

14,000

Undergrad populations at Stanford, Harvard, Baylor, Duke, Notre Dame and Northwestern universities



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More than 50 subtypes — not limited to specific parts of the body.

You can't get the best treatment without the correct diagnosis. Second opinions change the diagnosis in about 1 in 5 of people with sarcoma.

