



# OUR MESSAGE ...

Hi

For those who may not know me, my name is Bev Guymon and along with the rest of my family I am completely in love with the game of basketball. Over 15 years ago my husband, Jimmie and I started a small basketball team in Southampton for my son Matthew. Through hard work and devotion the club has flourished and now has over 1000 members registered with England Basketball. We have put everything we can into developing the club, which has now become a huge part of the community. Working for England Basketball has been a dream come true for me, I am able to travel all over the south promoting basketball and helping clubs to increase participation. I can truly say I have loved every minute of the last 15 years and have no intention of stopping anytime soon.

In February my life was turned upside down. I was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. It was a huge shock and I was faced with a major 7-hour operation - nicknamed 'Whipples'. The operation took place two weeks after diagnosis and I cannot express in words how totally frightened I was. Would I make it through the operation, if I did, how long do I have left and what is life going to be like after surgery? When I got down to the operating room, my surgeon, Mr Mo Hilal could see how upset I was. He immediately reassured me that this operation was a routine procedure for him and that he would personally get me back to a normal life. I have been told numerous times how he is the best and have now experienced this for myself. He is highly skilled and pushed me to get better and stronger every day. Connected to 24 tubes and wires one day after surgery he had me get up out of bed and start my recovery. Six days later I was released from hospital and could walk a half-mile. He assured me that I could beat this disease and it is thanks to him that I am able to be here feeling so well today. He saved my life.

Being diagnosed with Cancer has been one of the scariest and most challenging times in my life, but I am not alone; around 12,000 people each year are diagnosed with pancreatic and liver cancer. Without the expertise and care of surgeons like Mr Hilal the experience of this dreaded disease would be unbearable and the outcome bleak. Now that I am on the road to recovery I feel I want to give back - Mr Hilal and colleagues have founded a charity named Liver and Pancreatic Cancer Research and Detection, (L.A.P. R&D) which aims to raise awareness about the incidence and prognosis of these cancers. The charity supports research, which investigates the early detection of pancreatic cancer to allow early surgical removal of the disease before the disease spreads. I hope that my friends in the basketball community will support me and give to this cause so close to my heart. There will be many who will follow, having to fight through this same frightening experience - it is not easy and they will need whatever help we can give.

Thank you for your support

Bev Guymon  
Jimmie, Matt and Kirstie



Registered charity number 1051543

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### The history of our charity

Liver and pancreatic cancer affects more than 15,000 patients in the UK each year. In addition there are many lesions which can develop in the liver originating from cancer in other organs such as colonic cancer, breast, stomach and pancreatic cancer. The Southampton Hepatobiliary Pancreatic Team performs more than 200 major procedures over the year for liver and pancreatic malignancies.

Unfortunately liver and pancreatic cancers remain two of the worst cancers in terms of prognosis and survival even when treated surgically when compared to other cancers such as breast and colonic cancers. Despite this, there is still a scarcity of funds dedicated to research and development to improve early detection, surgical treatment and adjuvant chemotherapy to improve results and survival rates.

This charity was founded by Mr Hilal and colleagues with the support of enthusiastic patients who agree on the need for help and support for patients affected by these serious conditions by supporting research and supporting the development of surgical treatments to improve patient care and prognosis.

The charity was launched in December 2012 with a very enthusiastic event

### Our aims

Raise awareness about the incidence and prognosis of liver and pancreatic cancers

Support research which investigates the early detection of pancreatic cancer to allow early surgical removal of the disease before the disease spreads

To support the development of many invasive surgical techniques, which can reduce the surgical trauma and improve patient outcome, reducing complication rates and enabling early discharge and return to normal activity.

To support research in to adjuvant treatment, this allows the extension of disease free periods and improves survival after surgical treatment.

Since the launch of the charity there has been a lot of enthusiasm from patients and their families who have been treated for this disease and a growing interest in help and support.

We would like to give special thanks to all our VIP guests for giving up their time and coming to support our event.

**Kriss Akabusi MBE**  
**Matt Le Tissier**  
**Francis Benali**  
**Jo Tessem**  
**Reuben Agboola**  
**Denis Bundy**