*Press Release*

Date: Feb 17,2022

*AnCan Recognized by GU ASCO22 for its Peer Led Support Groups*

[*AnCan Foundation*](https://ancan.org) is honored to announce its Abstract #58: [*Evaluating The Contribution of Virtual Peer-Led Support to Comprehensive Prostate Cancer (PCa) Care: The AnCan Experience*](https://meetings.asco.org/abstracts-presentations/205467)together with a virtual poster has been selected for the ASCO Genitourinary Cancers Symposium, Feb 17-19, 2022 in San Francisco. DOI: [10.1200/JCO.2022.40.6\_suppl.058](https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.2022.40.6_suppl.058)

AnCan’s founder, Rick Davis, innovated virtual peer-led support groups back in 2010. He recognized the potential of peer advice as the best information a patient could find. AnCan’s 2021 research confirms what Rick knew intuitively.

Neuroscientist Herb Geller PhD, the abstract’s lead author, highlighted the following key research findings,

*“Our research indicates that peer-led groups don’t just improve quality of life around the things we can control like diet, exercise and stress. Eighty percent of our participants feel the groups make them better advocates for themselves, and well over 60% take information gleaned back to their healthcare teams.”*

While this poster is featured in the Advanced Prostate Cancer track on Feb 17, AnCan is proud of its work to establish the stature of the low risk Active Surveillance (AS) protocol and includes its AS findings.

Co-author and nationally recognized AS Advocate, Howard Wolinsky, said:

*“Sixty eight percent of our AS participants told us the Groups made them better advocates and 27% reported lower levels of anxiety - that’s a major difference. Active surveillance is the Rodney Dangerfield of prostate cancer – including our study at GU ASCO recognizes AS patients”*

Rick Davis, founder of AnCan and a prostate cancer survivor, says the research demonstrates the power of patient communities on outcomes:

*“I realized the power of peer-led support groups from my own treatment. Bringing them to a virtual platform 10 years before anyone had ever heard of COVID-19 and Zoom meetings, made peer support available to those compromised by geographical, physical and social issues. Recognition by GU ASCO is a big step in legitimizing AnCan’s work for all peer-led support.”*

*AnCan Foundation* is a 501c3 established to improve patient advocacy, navigation and support. With more than 70 volunteers, it supports 11 conditions with over 20 meetings per month and a full webinar schedule. *AnCan* looks forward to establishing new groups for pancreatic cancer, lupus and chronic pain in this Quarter.

For more information visit [https//ancan.org](file:///G%3A%5CMy%20Drive%5CAnCan%5Chttps%5Cancan.org) or email press@ancan.org

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