



Sean Kelley

Survivor

My Life Story...

- ▶ Live in Massachusetts (born and raised...)
- ▶ 49 years old
- ▶ Married to Julie (since 1995)
- ▶ Father of three: Neil, Max and Maryn
- ▶ Graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- ▶ Worked in the computer industry since 1995. VP of Operations at a cloud provider for many years (all throughout my diagnosis and transplant and years of GVHD)
- ▶ Always been active: family and kids activities, coaching, fly-fishing, golf...



My Cancer Story...

- ▶ Diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) September 2011
- ▶ Went to ER for faintness and fatigue. Told by ER doc that he thought I had Leukemia(!?)
- ▶ Rushed to U Mass Medical Center (by ambulance).
- ▶ Began chemo treatment the next day (30 days Induction. 5 days Consolidation a month later.)
- ▶ Received allogeneic stem cell transplant in December of 2011 (another month-long stay in the hospital)
- ▶ Started experiencing GVHD symptoms in May 2012: lungs, eyes, and skin



Coping with cGVHD...

- ▶ Lots of doctor appointments! Learn a lot. Stay on top of everything. Manage your own treatment...
- ▶ Tried many(!) different treatments, drugs, trials. Not everything will work for you. But something will.
 - ▶ *(PROSE lenses! Life-changing, for me.)*
- ▶ Talk to people. Anyone, everyone. Doctors, patients, nurses... That's how we learned the most. Don't be afraid to ask.
- ▶ Family!! I focused on my family (tried to stay engaged!). The more I think about others, the less I can dwell on my own problems.
- ▶ Lots of support from loved ones, friends, church (and even strangers!)



Living with cGVHD...

- ▶ Trying to stay active (walking, fishing).
- ▶ Working (to the extent my body allowed). It helped to still feel relevant/involved.
- ▶ Focus on the positive... what you can do, not what you can't. Being thankful for what you do have, not what you don't.
- ▶ Online Support: Facebook, support groups , podcasts, webinars
- ▶ Music. Audiobooks. Dogs!
- ▶ Just remember: It's hard! There are no easy answers. Everyone's different. It's OK to be tired.. to hurt...
- ▶ Keep trying things. Keep fighting!

