

Reversing Cancer Newsletter

Vol 8 Issue 1

We Spent \$2 Million and Tried Everything (Part 2)

A few months ago, I told you Part 1 of the story of how Joseph Riggio and his wife Nancy battled her cancer with alternative treatments for many years (<https://evo2.org/nancys-cancer-we-spent-2m-and-tried-everything/>). We left off in 2009 when their oncologist encouraged Nancy to do “real” chemotherapy and radiotherapy. But Nancy and Joe refused.

So in 2009 the tumor came back and it was aggressive. Here’s Joe’s account...

It was growing at a rate we couldn't have imagined. Not even something the medical profession could conceive. I'm no doctor, but I was astounded by how quickly it went from nothing to the size of a grapefruit, oozing under her arm. She was constantly wrapping her arm in bandages, sometimes even towels, especially when we had to go through airports.

We were traveling because she had found a clinic in Texas run by a physician who was pioneering custom cancer vaccines for children with brain tumors. They were achieving remarkable results. The clinic is still around, but our experience was far from pleasant. It felt like a grim hospital where everyone was seriously ill.

Emotions were kept at an arm's length. It was cold and tough. While they were getting good results, they told us, “We don't usually deal with your kind of cancer. We might be able to help, but we can't guarantee anything for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.” I thought, “Let's get out of here.”

At that point, she couldn't fly, so my son drove her from New Jersey to Texas, and I flew out to meet them. My son then flew back home, and I drove back with her. She was in such bad shape that I thought she might not make it. She was leaning against the car window, unable to walk on her own.

I had to assist her with everything. Her breathing was so shallow; I couldn't even see or hear it. I feared she was gone. So, I pulled over, checked on her, and she would rouse slightly, confirming she was still alive. We kept going, knowing we had to do something. She probably had only weeks, maybe days, given her condition.

She still refused chemotherapy or traditional treatments. ***By now, we had spent approximately a million dollars out of pocket.*** We were fortunate to be financially

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secure enough to afford it. These treatments were not something most people could access without substantial resources.

We bought every imaginable device, electromagnetic mats, magnets, supplements, and nutrients. It felt endless. We were at our wit's end, watching her deteriorate. Our daughter was with a family friend taking care of her.

Then, I stumbled upon a clinic in the Bahamas that was achieving remarkable results with lymphoma. They were in the Bahamas because what they were doing was illegal in the United States.

At this point, we had tried everything, including trips to Tijuana, following every lead. The Bahamas was our last resort. They had an intriguing approach: they analyzed your blood, identified specific cytokines, and then matched you with someone who had recovered from a similar condition, doing blood plasma transfusions.

She gets a positive result immediately; the tumor shrinks significantly. We rent an apartment in the Bahamas and start traveling back and forth every week. While we still live in New Jersey, we spend two or three days a week in the Bahamas, sometimes even a week or two for extra treatments like bee venom... and a custom cancer vaccine that cost \$20,000 for just that one treatment.

All of this incurs significant expenses—rent, flights, treatments, and care costs. By the end of it all, we're another million dollars out of pocket.

Fortunately, she has enjoyed relatively good health for three years.

Then the tumor comes back aggressively, **and one night, she's in excruciating pain, almost screaming in agony.** This isn't like her. Her pain tolerance is off the charts. We rush her to the emergency room, where they quickly perform a CT scan and discover that her iliac has burst into her small intestine, causing sepsis.

The doctor performs an emergency operation and asks her about painkillers. She says she hasn't taken any, and he's astonished because nobody should endure such pain without painkillers. Despite that, she's not on any painkillers.

During the operation, they find her intestines filled with tumors. Despite this grim discovery, I have to leave for Denmark for work and leave her in the Bahamas, with her father taking care of her. When I return three days later, she's up and about, cleaning the house.

I swear I'm married to Superwoman. She just had an emergency operation, but she's on her feet. They repaired the iliac, but she's riddled with tumors, although we don't fully realize it at the time.

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I know things aren't good, and she's likely only got a few weeks left. It's time to call her brother, a physician in New Jersey, and ask him to recommend the best oncologist in the area. So she does, and we fly back to New Jersey. We visited a hospital in southern New Jersey called the Overlook. She meets with an excellent oncologist who immediately puts her on antibiotics due to the sepsis and starts her on chemotherapy.

Once again, the tumor shrinks, and about six months later, she's diagnosed as cancer-free using traditional chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

There's only one contained nodule left between her heart and shoulder that shows up on a PET scan. The rest of her body is cancer-free, with no cancer anywhere else. They offer stem cell therapy, where they collect and culture her stem cells. Then, they administer intense chemotherapy to kill all the stem cells and marrow in her body. Afterward, they re-implant the cultured cells to rebuild her system.

They tell us she'll get five years but might face organ issues like heart and kidney problems due to the aggressive chemotherapy.

“You won't die from cancer, but there's a five-year prognosis due to the other complications this treatment may cause.”

So I told her, “It's up to you. If you want another five years, absolutely, but the decision is yours.” She chose not to go through with it.

Back in New Jersey, we were working simultaneously with an oncologist and a brilliant, charming madman named Alexander Kanevsky, an MD from Russia. He became fascinated with oriental medicine after meeting a kidney patient who had survived untreatable cancer. This patient had visited an oriental medical doctor and made a remarkable recovery, despite having a tumor wrapping around her spinal cord and entering her brain.

Kanevsky moved to China for two years to study medicine, returned to the United States, and went through medical school again at the University of Maryland. He became a certified psychiatrist and practiced exclusively in oriental medicine and psychotherapy. His office was above his art studio, where he painted in acrylics and displayed his work.

He was brilliantly insane, and when you spoke to him, his explanations and reasoning were clear.

Kanevsky believed that Western medicine often worsened cancer patients' conditions and never performed surgery again after his time in China. He used non-puncture acupuncture, applying pressure with a sharpened piece of slate on acupuncture points. He also used moxibustion, which involved heating herbs on pressure points to stimulate energy flow along meridians. He used

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unconventional herbal therapies, like a pack of herbs we had to boil in Italy, containing twigs, leaves, rocks, pieces of turtle shell, and herbs.

The smell was atrocious, and she had to drink it.

We even had an incident in an Italian hotel room where we were caught boiling these herbs, causing a commotion. Despite all these unconventional treatments, she was doing well for two years.

Now, it's the end of 2011, and from the time she underwent chemotherapy and radiotherapy until this point, we had probably one of the best years of our lives, about 14 months from the time she underwent chemotherapy and radiotherapy until this point.

We traveled back and forth to California, where she helped take care of her older cousin. It was a great year for us, and my business was doing well, allowing me to support everything. Alexander was brilliant and quite a savvy businessman himself, although he wasn't inexpensive.

Then, at the end of that amazing year, she suddenly collapsed. It was only two and a half months from her being healthy to her passing away.

During this time, she was in our home, in a hospital bed, with a hospice nurse present 24/7, which was mostly covered by our insurance, providing her with 24-hour care.

As she neared the end, the hospice nurse was ready to call it because her breathing became ragged, and her feet started to show signs of mottling, a common occurrence when a person is nearing the end.

But before taking any drastic steps, we decided to call Alexander. Although he usually didn't make house calls, he came to our home. He performed acupuncture, bodywork, and moxibustion, which involves burning herbs on various points on the skin.

To our astonishment, she woke up from her stupor, became vibrant, wanted to eat, and the mottling on her feet disappeared, replaced by a healthy pink color. The hospice nurse was amazed and had never seen anything like it.

She even agreed to go study with Alexander because she had never witnessed such a turnaround before.

About a week and a half later, Nancy did pass away. That had been her final rebound.

Some of the experiences we had with Alexander were truly extraordinary. There were moments when Nancy was so weak that I had to carry her into his office, unable to even walk. Yet, after his treatments, she would walk out of his office, make dinner, play with my daughter, and appear healthier than ever.

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Of all the things I witnessed during our 17-year journey, watching these remarkable turnarounds with Alexander was the most astounding.

From being lethargic, depressed, and having no energy to suddenly becoming vibrant and healthy for weeks, even in her final moments, she'd come back for a couple of days.

Perry: Didn't you tell me about a doctor who lost their license because of a treatment you received?

Joe: I usually leave that part out, but I'm happy to share it since you asked. We were in Georgia, where Nancy was undergoing a unique treatment involving enzyme administration and bloodwork to target the tumor from the outside.

We sought this treatment because the doctor had years of experience with it, and we wanted to avoid a repeat of a prior incident where the treatment inadvertently entered an artery, causing concern. The doctor in Georgia agreed to oversee the treatments but only if Nancy was monitored by a local doctor he trusted.

The local doctor's role was limited—they would ensure Nancy was in basic good health, check her blood pressure, and act as a backup in case of emergencies. However, when we returned to New Jersey, Nancy mentioned their involvement with the doctor in Georgia to her current doctor, who had previously worked with the National Cancer Institute and now had a private practice.

Within two days, the doctor received a letter challenging their medical license, which they eventually lost. We can't say for sure that the local doctor was responsible, but it seemed highly coincidental. The inquiry came from the National Cancer Institute offices, so it's likely he played a role as a whistleblower of sorts.

It was a regrettable incident because the doctor was genuinely caring and had never made any recommendations outside standard medical practice. They neither encouraged nor discouraged Nancy's alternative treatments.

They provided top-notch care and ensured Nancy's well-being **but lost their license due to her association with unconventional therapies that didn't align with medical guidelines.**

I've earned a "PhD" in being the spouse of a cancer patient, and trust me, it came with a hefty price tag, maybe even a \$2 million tuition bill!

The main recommendation I'd give (and mind you, I'm no expert) but it's this: **Question everything.** Whether you're dealing with a conventional medical doctor or someone from the alternative world, don't be afraid to ask tough questions.

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Remember, you, the patient, will always be your best advocate **but you need someone by your side who knows your story inside out. Not a medical expert, necessarily, but someone who knows you, your history, your experiences, your mental and physical state.** They can be there to listen to what you might have a hard time hearing when you're deep in the emotional rollercoaster of it all.

Having someone who stands shoulder to shoulder with you, unwavering, who won't let you get bulldozed by the standard medical jargon, is absolutely crucial.

Trust me; you'll encounter it. "I've been doing this for 20 years," they'll say.

But you'll counter with, "Well, I've got this thing called a brain, and I plan on using it!"

Sometimes, you'll have to be assertive, maybe even aggressive, especially when dealing with caregivers pushing treatments that seem fringe or questionable.

There's a ton of information out there, but it's like sifting through a haystack for the needle. You need to be super discerning about what's high-quality and what's not. It takes some digging, some homework, and a keen eye for valid, scientifically-backed information to navigate this sea of options.

Lastly, let me vent a little. I'm livid about what I consider the atrocity of Obamacare. You see, at that moment, the folks in Congress had the opportunity to pass universal healthcare.

Everyone in the United States could have access to it, and no one would have to worry about affording treatment. We were lucky to have options, but countless small business owners out there can't afford insurance and are going uninsured, rolling the dice on their health.

It's just not right.

And on top of that, they need to open up the system to fund research in alternative areas. There's so much promise and potential in these unconventional approaches, but they often hit a wall of resistance.

Some of the treatments we encountered clearly worked and had scientific backing, but they're not even considered by the orthodox medical community. It's frustrating to see valid approaches overlooked.

Here's the thing: after living through all this, one thing became clear to me:

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Cancer is not just a medical condition, it's a business.

Don't get me wrong, there are genuinely caring people in white coats with MDs who want to help. But don't forget that behind all of that, there's a *business* called cancer.

Nancy was just 56 when she passed. Our friends knew her as a dynamic, vibrant woman, sometimes brilliantly happy and cheerful. Our daughter was only 12 when she lost her mom.

But here's the thing we discovered through this shared experience – it brought us closer together and made our relationship even more vibrant and intense. It's strange how dealing with the tough stuff can do that.

People would come up to me and say, “What a tragedy, losing your wife so young.” And I'd respond by saying, “I had 22 incredible years with Nancy.”

The real tragedy would have been never having those years at all. You see, as a widower, it's crucial to focus on the good times, the positive moments, and to realize that the true tragedy would have been missing out on all of that time together.

We all face loss; death is an inevitable part of the human condition. But not everyone gets the chance to love, care for, and create extraordinary memories with someone like I did with Nancy.

And now, I cherish those memories, along with the time I have with her daughter, and my daughter. They're all part of our life, and that's something to hold onto.

So, remember, the real tragedy is not losing someone; it's not having the chance to live a life with them while they're here.

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Who We Are

Reversing Cancer is a foundation helping to identify cancer in its earliest stage, when treatment is vastly more likely to succeed – an approach that hasn't received nearly as much support as it deserves. Perry Marshall discusses in detail how we can revolutionize the cancer profession for surprisingly small investment at <https://reversingcancer.org/repository-webinar-full/>.

What to Do Next

- Contribute to Science Research
Donate at www.evo2.org/cancer
- Our Manifesto is posted online at
<https://reversingcancer.org/donation-fundraising-letter/>
The password is: now
- Our podcast is at <https://evo2.org/the-podcast/> and blog <https://reversingcancer.org/blog/>
- Contact us at support@reversingcancer.org
- WE ARE HIRING! Please introduce us to a fundraising professional who is looking for an opportunity. Contact our CEO Jon Correll at support@reversingcancer.org.

We Need Your Helping Hands

Evolution 2.0 is me, CEO Jon Correll, Mary McEvoy and a few other precious volunteers to contribute hours here and there. **We can really use your hands-on assistance.**

Another thing you can do to help is fund our virus research. I know of no one who is bringing a full-fledged “Evolution 2.0” viewpoint on virus evolution. It’s 501c3 not for profit, so you can go to evo2.org and make a tax-deductible donation.

We could also use some volunteers...

- **Administration and project management**
- Finances
- Scientific papers, research, and projects
- Film (documentary screenwriters, editors)
- **All** forms of marketing ad copywriting, buying Google, YouTube and Facebook traffic, writing blog posts, shooting videos, podcasts, publicity angles, news media
- Project management

Email evolution@evo2.org and let us know what your skills are and how you might like to help.

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