Embracing Your Experience
Finding & Accessing Clinical Trials

Julie Clauer, Stage 4 patient
A clinical trial changed the trajectory of my disease & life

Will I make it to your 1st birthday?

I feel like cr@*P!

Remember tooth fairy duty tonight!

At Diagnosis
March 2018

Pre-Trial
July 2020

Now
April 2024
Treatment trials are not a last resort…

But could be a missed opportunity

1st line trial

2nd line trial

3rd line+ trial

Minimal Residual Disease trial
The worst time to start looking for a trial is when you NEED one

POV: My 3 remaining brain cells are pretending to know what you're talking about
It is never too early to look for trials!

Benefits of proactive searching

• More possibilities
• Help with overall treatment strategy & decision making
• Get comfortable with ‘trial land’ before its showtime
• It’s complicated to find a match
• It takes time to enroll
What is so complicated?

- There are over 5,000 current crc trials
- Your tumor & biology are unique.…and changing
- Your preferences & constraints
- Inherent ‘unknowns’
- Lingo
There are lots of tools and resources to help search!

- Search tools
- Navigation services
- Research center trial websites
- Patient communities
- Care teams
- Trial teams
- Your network of cancer muggles who want to help
- Your well honed life skills!
A couple of suggestions on where to start…
1. ‘How to’ resources

- **Clinical Trial Basics** web learning center
  (learn.colontown.org/learningcenter/trials-basics)

- **Searching Safari** how to look for trials guided workshop & e-learning course
  (colontown.org/searching-safari)

- **COLONTOWN** peer-to-peer community’s clinical trial neighborhoods
  (colontown.org/join)
A couple of suggestions on where to start…

2. Curated, focused listings

**Stage 4 MSS CRC**

**Cancer Center Specific**

Example: [mdanderson.org/patients-family/diagnosis-treatment/clinical-trials.html](http://mdanderson.org/patients-family/diagnosis-treatment/clinical-trials.html)

[fightcolorectalcancer.org/clinical-trial-finder](http://fightcolorectalcancer.org/clinical-trial-finder)
In Summary....

- Trials can provide additional treatment options
- There are treatment trials from diagnosis to late stages of disease for healthy enough patients
- Search early and often
- It can seem overwhelming but there are many resources to help
Always happy to chat…

Julie Clauer
julie@colontown.org