

#### **ULMAN CANCER FUND FOR YOUNG ADULTS**

#### **Brock Yetso**

Executive Director brock@ulmanfund.org



#### What You're In For...

 A young adult story - "Falling Through the Cracks 101"

 The AYA view from the Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults

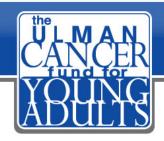
How we're addressing these challenges



## **B.C.** (\*before cancer)

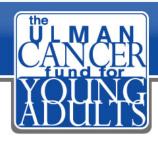


"Life was grand, college student, varsity soccer player until...! turned 19! The horror!"



## How did he get here?

- At age 19, he started having pains in his chest and trouble breathing while training for pre-season soccer
- Several months, several doctors, a trainer, soccer coach, physical therapist and numerous times trying to convince medical professionals something was wrong...
- Chondrosarcoma tumor the size of a golf ball found between ribs and lungs



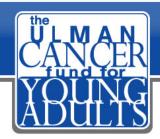
#### "Real life" to "Cancer life"

- Doctors didn't trust him. He didn't trust them.
- He had to deal with things that no one his age knew anything about. College student & Cancer!
- Attended support group where everyone was his grandparents' age.
- All materials, support and resources were geared to those very nice old people.
- He met very few young adults in the months immediately following his diagnosis.



## **AYA Patient Perspective**

- Mistrust (on both sides)
- Steep learning curve with lots of "firsts"
- Isolation; no "home"
- Dropped off a cliff when it's all over
- Lack of relevant resources and information

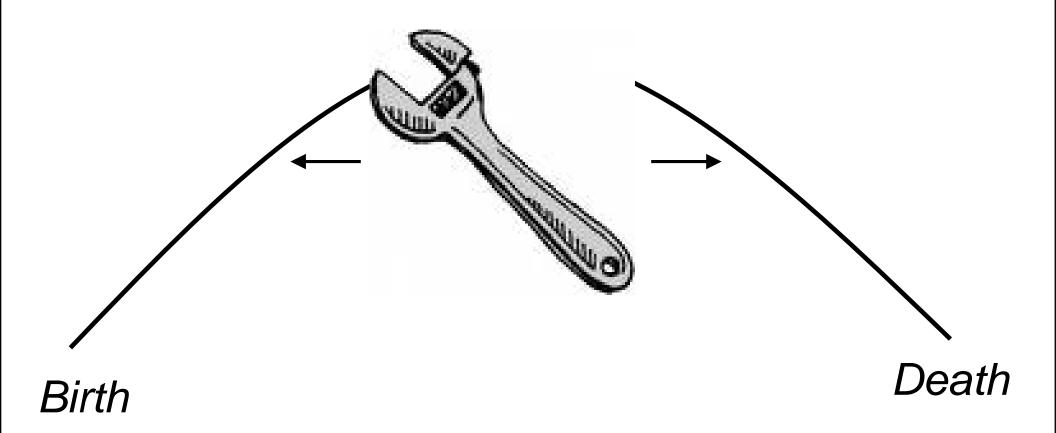


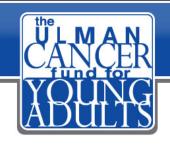
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## Issues - Steep learning curve





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Self/body image

Questioning medical authority

Fertility / Sexuality

Independence / autonomy

Insurance

Disclosure

Restricted choices

Stalled career/degree

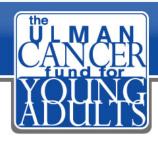
**Firsts** 

Death



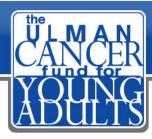
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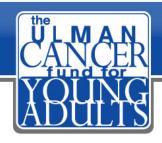
## Dropped off a cliff

- Many don't even begin to process their cancer experience until later. Sometimes much later.
- Cancer history sets them apart from peers.
- Many more years of dealing with repercussions.
- Critical to enlist them as partners while in treatment in order to turn over responsibility of follow-up.



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#### **KIDS**



\*Pediatric Hospital

\*Pediatric oncologists

\*9 out of 10 patients seen
< age 15



NO MAN'S LAND



70,000 cancer patients per year

#### OLD PEOPLE



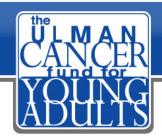
\*Adult Hospital

\*Medical Oncologists

\*9 out of 10 patients seen

> age 40

Info courtesy of Dr. Karen Albritton. Headers courtesy of PC.



## **AYA Patient Perspective**

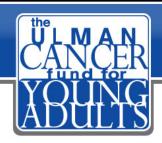
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## **Issues - Lack of Relevant Resources**

#### Twofold problem:

- LACK of relevant resources.
- Lack of RELEVANT resources.



# What's The Secret?!? (or, how the #\$%^ do you talk to these patients and survivors?)

- 1) Not Easy
- 2) To reach your target audience most effectively, go to WHERE THEY ARE and speak to them in a way that will RESONATE WITH THEM.



## And now, we interrupt this presentation for a brief tour of modern young adulthood...



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Advertising Programs - Business Solutions - About Copgle - Ge te Geogle Canada

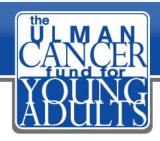
Make Google Your Homepage!











## Scary...



\*photo courtesy of SS+K, Young Adults: Marketing Trends (Nov. 2006)



## Scarier...



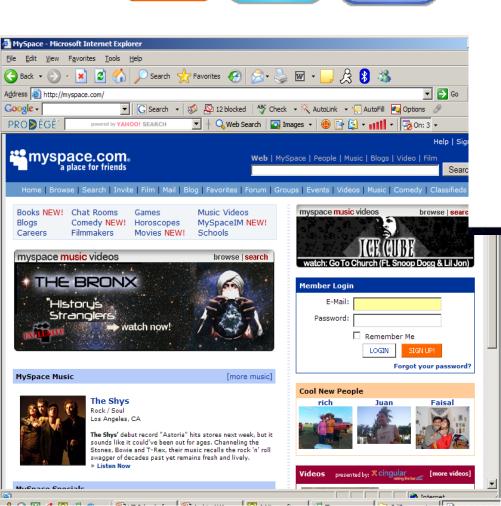
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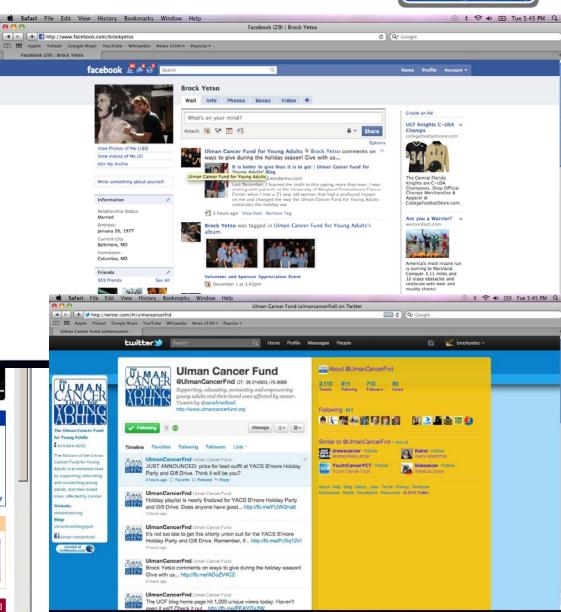


#### **Scariest!**







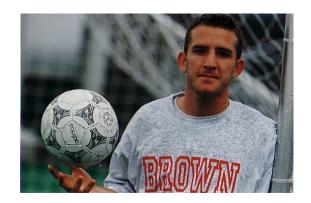


#### THE ULMAN CANCER FUND FOR YOUNG ADUI

- Founded in 1997 by Doug Ulman & his family to fill a void that exists in health care services. Doug was diagnosed with cancer in college at age 19 as a sophomore at Brown University.
- Over a decade of service
- 3-time cancer survivor & received treatment in Maryland
- President & CEO of the Lance Armstrong Foundation and former Chair of NCI Consumer Liaison Group
- Diana Ulman Gov Council on Cancer Control

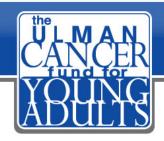
#### **MISSION**

The Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults enhances lives by supporting, educating and connecting young adults, and their loved ones, affected by cancer.



"At a time when I was supposed to be discovering my independence, I was suddenly pulled back to my family and I was incredibly dependent on those around me"

-Doug Ulman



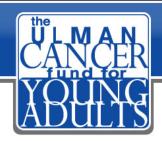
## UNIQUE CANCER BURDEN

#### **Psychosocial**

- Interruption of normal developmental trajectory
- Isolation (peers and other patients)
- Decision making
- Forming of intimate relationships; fertility preservation and family planning

#### **Medical**

- Lack of progress (5 year survival rate), compared to other age groups
- Risk and poor outcomes under-recognized
- Approx 60-70,000 new cases annually (6% of all new cancer diagnoses)
- Leading disease cause of death for women and second for men



## AVERAGE ANNUAL % CHANGE IN YA SURVIVAL RATES

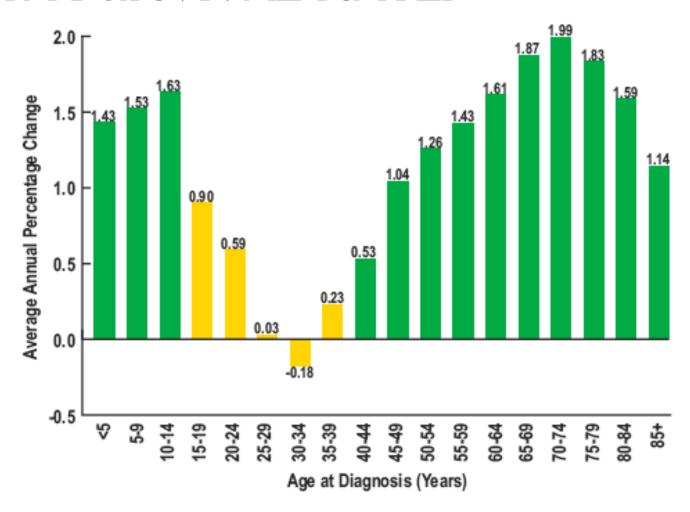
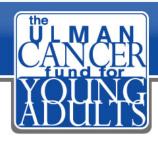


Figure 2. Improvement in 5-Year Relative Survival, Invasive Cancer, SEER 1975-1997 SEER Monograph 2006



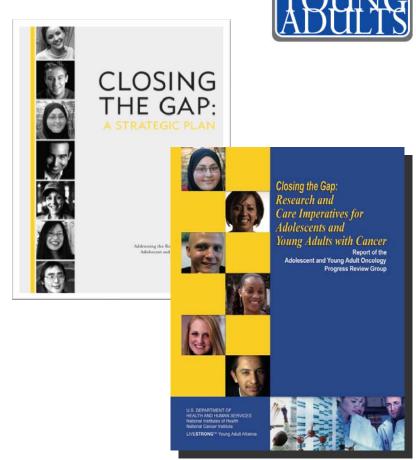
## How we're addressing these challenges

- Go where young adults are
  - Patient Navigation
- Create unique and varied opportunities to communicate with target audience
  - New Media
  - Social Communities
  - Sport
- Collaboration & Innovation
  - LIVESTRONG Young Adult Alliance

## Going where they are....

## UCF Navigation Program Background & Timeline

- UCF is leading young adult cancer support organization in country since 1997
- Providing patient navigation services remotely via tollfree hotline, website and email since 1997
- Need Identified: Adolescent & Young Adult (AYA)
   Patient Navigation & Underserved Populations
  - National Cancer Institute AYAO Progress Review Group Report I 2006
  - LIVESTRONG Young Adult Alliance PRG Implementation Report in 2007
- 2007 \$100K commitment to UCF by Lance Armstrong – develop model program
- 2008 LIVESTRONG/Nova Research Environmental Scan of existing programs in United States
- February 2008 University of Maryland (UMGCC) partnership/program begins
- May 2010 UMGCC Program evaluation (LIVESTRONG) and funding diversification (UMGCC & other partners)





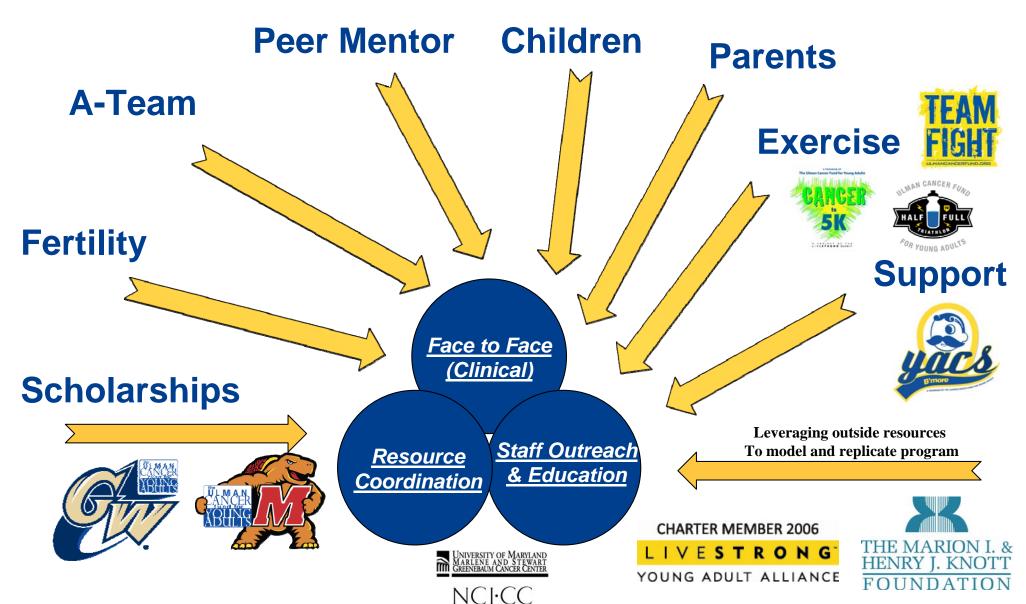
Elizabeth Saylor, MSW

– Director, UCF Patient Navigation Program

## **UCF Patient Navigation**



A closer look...what is UCF Patient Navigation



## **UCF Patient Navigation**

#### the MAN CANCER YOUNG ABUILS

#### **UMGCC Program Achievements**

- 212 patients seen in 2010
- Access to medical records
- Designated webpage on UMGCC website
- Chemotherapy consent and fertility protocol
- Visits to Program/Cancer Center by several high profile individuals
- Univ. of MD designated College Scholarship
- The ONLY Young Adult Patient Navigation Program in country at NCI Designated Cancer Center
- Expanding model to other cancer centers



**Todd Heap** 



Todd Rauch & Vern Yip





Univ. MD College Scholarship

## Unique & Varied Opportunities...

### CANCER YOUNG ABUILIS

#### **New Media**

- Videos
- Blog daily
- Twitter & Facebook

#### **Social Communities**

YACS (Young Adult Cancer Support) Baltimore & DC

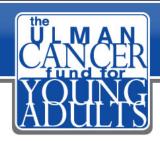
## **Sport**

- Cancer to 5K
- Half Full Triathlon





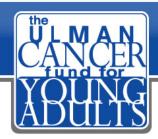
#### **Collaboration & Innovation**



### LIVESTRONG"

#### YOUNG ADULT ALLIANCE

- Inaugural meeting November 2006
- Formed to implement PRG recommendations
- Mission: Improve survival rates, quality of life and quality of care for young adults facing cancer.
  - —Approx. 156 organizations (advocacy, medical institutions, government)
  - —Work organized in 4 main areas
    - Standards
    - Science
    - Awareness
    - Membership



#### **Member Resources**

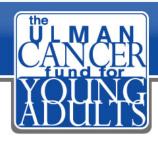
- Ulman Cancer Fund for YAs
- Fertile Hope
- Young Survival Coalition
- Young Cancer Spouses
- Pregnant With Cancer
- Cancer and Careers
- RealTime Cancer
- First Descents
- Rise Above It
- The Colon Club
- Imerman Angels
- FORCE
- Tamika & Friends

#### LIVESTRONG

#### YOUNG ADULT ALLIANCE

- TigerLily Foundation
- Yellow Umbrella
- CanTeen
- Prepare to Live
- Sharsheret
- mAssKickers
- I'm Too Young for This
- MyLifeline
- Testicular Cancer Resource Center
- AND MORE...!

251 individuals representing approx 156 organizations
91 Advocate Organizations
65 Provider/Medical Organizations
2 Government Liaison Organizations



## **Closing Thoughts...**

# HOW you and WHERE you are offering support is just as important as WHAT you are offering for support

THANK YOU!