

Imagine not being able to eat, swallow, speak or show simple facial expressions the way you do now.

Over 54,000 American women, men and children face that frightening reality each year when they are diagnosed with head and neck cancer. THANC was founded in 2003 to:

- Support research and education in the **early detection** of these cancers.
- Advance **new therapies**.
- Improve patient **quality of life** by alleviating suffering & functional impairment.

KEY CANCER FACTS

- Thyroid cancer affects women more than men. In 2022, 32,000 women and over 12,000 men will receive this diagnosis.
- Thyroid cancer doesn't go into remission and can recur up to 30 years later.
- Head & neck cancer claims the lives of 11,000 people each year and includes cancers of the mouth, throat, tongue and jaw.

EXAMPLES OF OUR MISSION IN MOTION

RESEARCH

THANC participates in research to develop new treatment protocols and better standards of care. Our notable work includes:

- Investigating patients' psychological adjustment to the initial treatment (active surveillance or immediate surgery) of low-risk papillary thyroid cancer.
- Intraoperative 3D scanning of head and neck cancer surgical specimens to improve communication between pathologists and surgeons.
- Determining the **diagnostic molecular markers** of aggressive and metastatic thyroid cancer.
- Defining standards after surgery and chemotherapy for head and neck cancer: oral function, performance status & patient quality of life.

EDUCATION

THANC's education efforts have helped providers in 23 countries who deal with thyroid, head and neck cancers share information and learn about the latest guidelines and best practices.

- **Gerald Gutierrez Memorial Fund:** Established in memory of the Tony-winning Broadway actor, the Fund educates physicians from Spanish-speaking countries in cutting-edge surgical techniques and multidisciplinary management of thyroid, head and neck cancers.
- **Fellowships:** For over 30 years, some of the most accomplished head and neck surgeons from around the world have trained with THANC's medical advisor, Dr. Mark Urken.
- **Thyroid Int'l Recommendations Online (TIRO):** TIRO helps medical professionals optimize the care they provide to patients by guiding them through the existing evidence-based guidelines and standards of care (tiro.expert).

PATIENT SUPPORT

THANC helps patients get the information they need to manage expectations and make care decisions while at the same time letting them know they are not alone.

- **THANC Guide (thancguide.org):** 1100+ pages of web content in age appropriate sections help over 58,000 cancer patients, caregivers and their families in 180 countries each month.
- **Faces of Courage:** Survivors bravely share their stories with the newly-diagnosed.
- **30 Stories in 30 Days™:** This outreach campaign provides cancer survivors and caregivers with advice from their peers to encourage them, reduce social isolation and inspire hope.

FACES OF COURAGE



LEADERSHIP



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