

# The Southampton Press

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## CANCER JOURNEYS

A Twice-a-month column from  
Fighting Chance

## *Did Dinosaurs Get Cancer?*



Diagnosis

Emotional Impact

Treatment/Side Effects

Survivorship

Patient Stories

### A Museum Illuminates Cancer

Q If cancer was the subject of a museum exhibition -- an audacious idea -- what would it include?

A. 100 objects, artwork from caregivers and stories about scientists who struggled to find a cure.

And, yes, one of the objects would be a dinosaur bone from 70 million years ago with microscopic evidence that it contained malignant tumor.



The Museum Show we are envisioning is happening right now at the London Science Museum.

Poster for the exhibition about cancer now showing in London



There you can see the history of cancer woven into the story of our humanity. Like a universal truth. And the exhibit provokes thoughtful discussion about a topic that for too long has been "off limits" and "taboo."

### Teenager's Art Inspired by a Mother's Cancer

Almost every cancer patient beginning chemo therapy asks this question: Will the treatment make me bald and should I get a wig?



Wig stand crafted by a caregiver.

The Museum Exhibition illuminates this issue with a stand that will hold a wig and was crafted by a teenager. You can imagine her mother's poignant gratitude at a gesture born of true love and empathy.

### Peering Inside a Cancer Cell

Cancer is a disease within some of a humans cells. Most humans have about 10 million cells and they are both dying and dividing into new cells all the time.

When a cell division is unsuccessful it produces "rogue cells" that become cancerous. If you looked at them under a microscope you would see a multitude of criss-crossing pathways.

These pathways become chaotic sending corrupt signals that cause the cell to expand at rapid rates and to infiltrate blood flows until they reach another location in the body where they can colonize. That is known as the "metastatic process."



A work reminiscent of a Dale Chihuly masterpiece, but in fact commissioned by the museum from a London designer

### Hopes & Dreams

When cancer patients discuss these topics it tends to fuel their determination to endure treatment and conquer their disease.

Those are precisely the same sentiments that the counselors at Fighting Chance seek to draw out of the patients who have visited our offices for 20 years.

Fighting Chance has offices in  
Sag Harbor and at the  
Phillips Family Cancer Center  
in Southampton.

To reach Fighting Chance call  
| 631 725 4646 or  
Visit our website at  
[www.fightingchance.org](http://www.fightingchance.org)

**FIGHTING CHANCE: FREE CANCER COUNSELING & RESOURCE CENTER**