

# [Non-Hodg'kin's Lym•phoma] Patient

## The Sport of Cooking



Nothing prepares you for a cancer diagnosis, especially when you're young and healthy. Although I was feeling bad, I thought it was just the flu or stress, as I had just graduated from college with a mechanical engineering degree. However, my friends noticed I was losing weight and I continued having pain; it was clear I needed medical attention.

I am a private person and reluctant to burden others. However, my family is extremely close and my dad has always been my mentor. Together, we were determined to find the best doctors to treat my cancer. I was referred to Dr. Eleonor Quan, an oncologist, who treated me immediately. Her encouragement and honesty gave me the confidence that was required to overcome all adversities that lie ahead. The worst was not being able to BBQ while undergoing treatment. The smell made me sick and I actually fainted! However I am proud to report I am in remission and participating in my favorite sport ...BBQing!

*by Wakeem Wakeem*

### DOCTOR'S COMMENTARY

*by Eleonor Quan, MD*



Wakeem is a young man who touched my heart when I first met him in the fall of 2002. During the initial consultation, I could sense his anxiety and concern as we waited for the results of his biopsy. I felt that he didn't want to "burden" anyone with his problem. After receiving his degree in mechanical engineering, his friends noticed he had lost weight. Wakeem did not notice the weight loss, but was aware that his cough had gotten worse and he

had more difficulty breathing. He often would "cough himself to sleep, like a baby would cry himself to sleep."

Wakeem was confirmed to have non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. We proceeded very rapidly with additional tests and started his treatment the same week. Fortunately, Wakeem responded well to his first treatment, and all his symptoms resolved. During his treatment, Wakeem took classes and kept busy. He also had good family support, especially from his father who showed great love and devotion. Wakeem completed his treatment in April 2003 and has been in remission since then.

Wakeem benefited from the advent of new, targeted therapies, such as the antibody Rituximab; these treatments are redefining the world of cancer therapy. Wakeem is doing well and has been back to one of his favorite hobbies, barbequing! He is also working full-time in a job that he enjoys and is very interested in going to graduate school to pursue a business degree. Wakeem looks at life differently now; this experience makes him better prepared to handle life's adversities and come out on top.



*Wakeem Wakeem*