

# Single Fathers Due to Cancer

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To the fathers who have filled out our survey:

Thank you.

Thank you for your time; your honesty; and your willingness to share your struggles for the benefit of others.

Over 400 of you have answered some of the most personal and deeply painful questions imaginable.

At this time, we are pleased to share with you an update so that you can know how valuable your contributions have been.

This project has informed our clinical practice and how we train health care providers in important ways. We've learned from you about grief and mourning; how you prioritize demands when it is not possible to get it all done; and the many ways that you and your children are resilient under the most challenging circumstances. We recently started our third support group for single fathers and are in discussions with several academic medical centers interested in offering their own groups.

The surveys you completed have led to important findings and several closely related ongoing research studies. For those who would like to read detailed reports of our research, links for all of our published papers on the Single Fathers Project can be found at: <http://www.singlefathersduetocancer.org/establish.do>.

One of the most compelling messages we heard from you had to do with aspects of your wives' end of life experiences. Clearly, there is substantial room for improvement with respect to the care of parents nearing death. As a direct result of your perspectives, we have extended our work to address the supportive care needs of fathers and mothers with advanced cancer. Dr. Park leads directs these studies and several of her publications are included on our website as well.

The next phase of this project is focused on how things go for you over time. We will be introducing a revised survey soon and continue to share with you what we learn.

Once again, this work is only possible because of your insights and generosity. We are so grateful.

Sincerely,

Justin Yopp, Leeza Park, Theresa Edwards, and Donald Rosenstein

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