



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

thesecondopinion

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www.thesecondopinion.org

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From the Board President and Medical Director

Dear Friends,

It is our pleasure to share thesecondopinion's 2015 annual report, as this document provides an opportunity to share highlights of the year's financial, operational and mission delivery performance. We believe every reader will be able to see our dedication to excellence in every aspect of our organization.

2015 was a year of celebration, renewal and growth. We renewed our commitment to the cancer community by revisiting our mission and guiding principles and strategically planning the next three years. As we planned and implemented our core strategic goals we gained the support of many new individual donors and foundation partners. Their generosity and the ongoing support of our dedicated donors provided the financial resources that ensured cancer patients could access an independent, comprehensive second opinion.

We progressed on many fronts in 2015, expanding our outreach to over 1,100 individuals, especially to communities that are medically and financially under-served. We hosted two new successful fundraisers, which increased awareness about our service and individual donations. We implemented new technologies that streamlined our patient medical record review process.

Driven by the success of our 45-year Anniversary Breakfast Benefit, thesecondopinion will host its 2nd Annual Breakfast Benefit on May 25, 2016, with special guest Dr. Lucy Kalanithi, the widow of the late Paul Kalanithi author of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller, *When Breath Becomes Air*. I hope you will join us.

Thank you for supporting thesecondopinion and the cancer patients we serve. We look forward to the coming year and the work we shall do together.



Kathleen Meeker
Board President

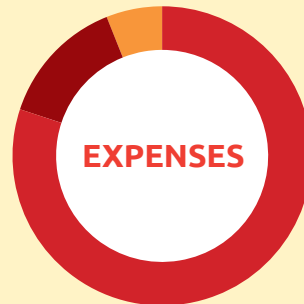


Howard Kleckner, M.D.
Medical Director

2015 FINANCIALS



Foundations	\$ 420,425
In-Kind Donated Services	\$ 118,992
Individual Contributions	\$ 151,114
Corporations	\$ 2,800
Other	\$ 1,038
Total Revenue & Support	\$ 694,369



Program Services	\$ 411,280
Management & General	\$ 71,461
Fundraising	\$ 31,072
Total Expenses	\$ 513,813

revenue includes multi-year pledge

Our Impact

Thesecondopinion provides a unique service not duplicated by any other agency in California. Using a multidisciplinary team of volunteer cancer specialists to provide a free, independent, comprehensive second opinion and communicate directly as a committee with the patient and family is truly a unique and compassionate approach to providing medical care. With this approach we are able to provide patients the information necessary to manage their disease, improve their well-being, and to face potentially difficult choices.

Living with cancer

Meet the Standridge family, Noah and Brinly, and their five incredible children ages 1 through 12. Noah and Brinly came to *thesecondopinion* in 2015 after Noah was diagnosed and treated for stage 3c colon cancer. They came to make sure that they had done everything they could do to fight his disease and for peace of mind.

A second opinion at any stage of cancer is critical.

It was during the in-person review panel discussion at *thesecondopinion*, that our volunteer radiologist noticed a suspicious area on Noah's original chest CT and suggested they go for further testing. Noah's medical team responded and in July of 2015, Noah's PET scan and biopsy of a lung nodule tested positive for metastatic colon cancer. Two thoracic surgeons removed the tumor, and Noah currently has "No evidence of disease."

Noah and Brinly will join us at our 2nd Annual Breakfast Benefit Event on May 25. Noah will share his story and how he is making life meaningful, while living with stage 4 cancer. I hope you will join us for this moving and memorable morning.

"Living with uncertainty, and raising a family, is a huge challenge with a cancer diagnosis. Having a second opinion helped us make timely decisions that have given us a more certain future, and it's a good one."

– Noah



100 Cancer patients received a free, comprehensive second opinion

A second opinion is often critical to a patient, because it provides such important tools as clarity and confidence that can save or improve lives. Patients look to *thesecondopinion* for hope and direction, because they want to be certain not only about their diagnosis and treatment options, but that their personal concerns about quality of life have been aired, understood and addressed.



112 Family members and friends participated in the second opinion panel review

Family members and friends often accompany a cancer patient to their second opinion panel review. They have questions and need to be reassured that their loved one is getting the best treatment for their disease. Having an informed support network during your cancer treatment and care can help to alleviate anxiety.



57 Cancer patients or family members received a telephone assist

A telephone assist serves patients and families who either cannot wait for a formal panel review, because time is of the essence or those whose medical records clearly indicate that appearing before a review panel would not be beneficial because their questions are few and obvious in nature. A Telephone Assist is done by the Medical Director or a cancer specialist, after a review of the medical records determines that a telephone intervention is more appropriate than waiting for an available panel date.

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

the**second**opinion

THANK YOU DONORS *The**second**opinion is grateful for the support of individuals, foundations and corporations whose generous contributions make our program possible.*

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Volunteer Physicians are the Heart of our Program – THANK YOU!

Since 1969 we've provided free, comprehensive second opinions to over 5,500 adults in California diagnosed with cancer. The heart of our program relies on the volunteer efforts of over seventy board-certified physicians from multiple cancer-related specialties. Their diverse experiences in cancer diagnosis and treatment allow us to provide a patient-centered and compassionate service not duplicated by any other agency in California.

Volunteer physicians provided 672 hours of patient medical record reviews and in-person consultations in 2015.

Oncology

Raji Ayyar, MD
Norman Cohen, MD
Peter Gordon, MD
Michael Jensen-Akula, MD (Panel Chair)
Stephanie Jeske, MD
Howard Kleckner, MD (Panel Chair)
David Lakes, MD
Susan Lessin, MD
Joseph Mason, MD (Panel Chair)
Alan Newman, MD

Pathology

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Regan Fulton, MD
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Christine Louie, MD
Michael Nystrom, MD
Laura Tabatabai, MD

Nuclear Medicine

Charles Moser, MD

Pharmacy Oncology

Robert Ignoffo, PharmD
Michael Cunningham, PharmD

Radiation Oncology

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Michael Bastasch, MD
Lisa Boohar, MD
Barry Chauser, MD
Amy Gillis, MD
Jane Marmor, MD
Milan Patel, MD
Mark Rounsaville, MD
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Radiology

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Frank Mainzer, MD
Jay Mall, MD
Douglas Sheft, MD
Edward Talberth, MD

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Robin Lee, MS, LCGC

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Ronald Clark, MD
Ann Vercoutere, MD
Carol Tabak, MD

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Karen Goodwin, MD
Nima Grissom, MD
Amira Malik, M.D.
Michael Small, MD

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Ahmed Alkoraishi, MD

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Gastroenterology

Joanne Imperial, MD

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Maxwell Meng, MD
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SAVE THE DATES & SPREAD THE WORD

Please help us continue our reach to more rural and low-income communities by participating in one, or both of our annual fundraising events!

ARE YOU READY FOR A 24-HOUR FUNDRAISING EXPERIENCE?

Tuesday, May 3, thesecondopinion will once again participate in Silicon Valley Gives Day – A 24-hour online fundraising event. In 2015, through the use of social media and marketing, SVGives helped thesecondopinion raise \$10,000 in a single day! This year our goal is to raise \$15,000! **Look for opportunities to donate on Tuesday May 3rd through our website (thesecondopinion.org) on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.**

YOU ARE INVITED:

thesecondopinion's 2nd Annual Breakfast Benefit on May 25

Please join us on Wednesday, May 25, from 8:00-10:00 AM at the Jewish Community Center-San Francisco, for a very moving and memorable morning in conversation with special guest Dr. Lucy Kalanithi and Dr. David Watts. Dr. Kalanithi is the widow of the late Dr. Paul Kalanithi, author of the #1 *New York Times* Bestseller *When Breath Becomes Air*, for which she wrote the epilogue.

"We're all going to face illness and death and bereavement and difficult medical decisions. The response (to the book) I think, is indicating people's hunger to address these challenges in a real way. What are we doing to help each other live and die well? What should we be talking about that we're not talking about?"

– Dr. Lucy Kalanithi

For more information on the event please
go to www.thesecondopinion.org.

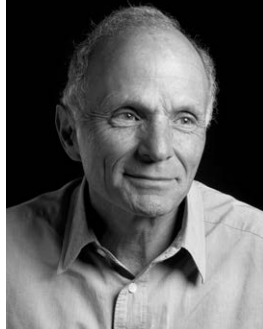
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HELPING CANCER PATIENTS FOR 45 YEARS, AND STILL GOING STRONG



“The real value of thesecondopinion is that it helps patients navigate the difficult cancer road. Sometimes it affirms what they have already decided to do. Sometimes it helps clarify some of their choices. But it always gives peace of mind.”

– Dr. David Lakes, thesecondopinion volunteer physician

Our Mission

To provide free, comprehensive second opinions to adults in California diagnosed with cancer.

Our Guiding Principles

- **Clarity:** The organization is committed to helping adults diagnosed with cancer understand their disease and treatment options.
- **Compassion:** Our personal, compassionate, and professional interaction with patients and their families is foremost in our process.
- **Choice:** We describe the treatment choices, the reasons for our recommendations, and respect the patient's ultimate decision.
- **Confidentiality:** We respect each patient's personal and medical privacy, and treat patients' information in a confidential manner, consistent with HIPAA regulations.
- **Credibility:** We provide independent second opinions that are free of personal, commercial, or academic bias.
- **Availability:** Our services are free of charge, regardless of income.

If you, a family member, or a friend have been diagnosed with cancer and need a second opinion, call or email us at 415.775.9956 or mail@thesecondopinion.org.

the*second*opinion



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