

Patient & Physician Partnership, Reflections on a 25 year Odyssey

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Hope and Partnership – Meg’s Story

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Meet Meg

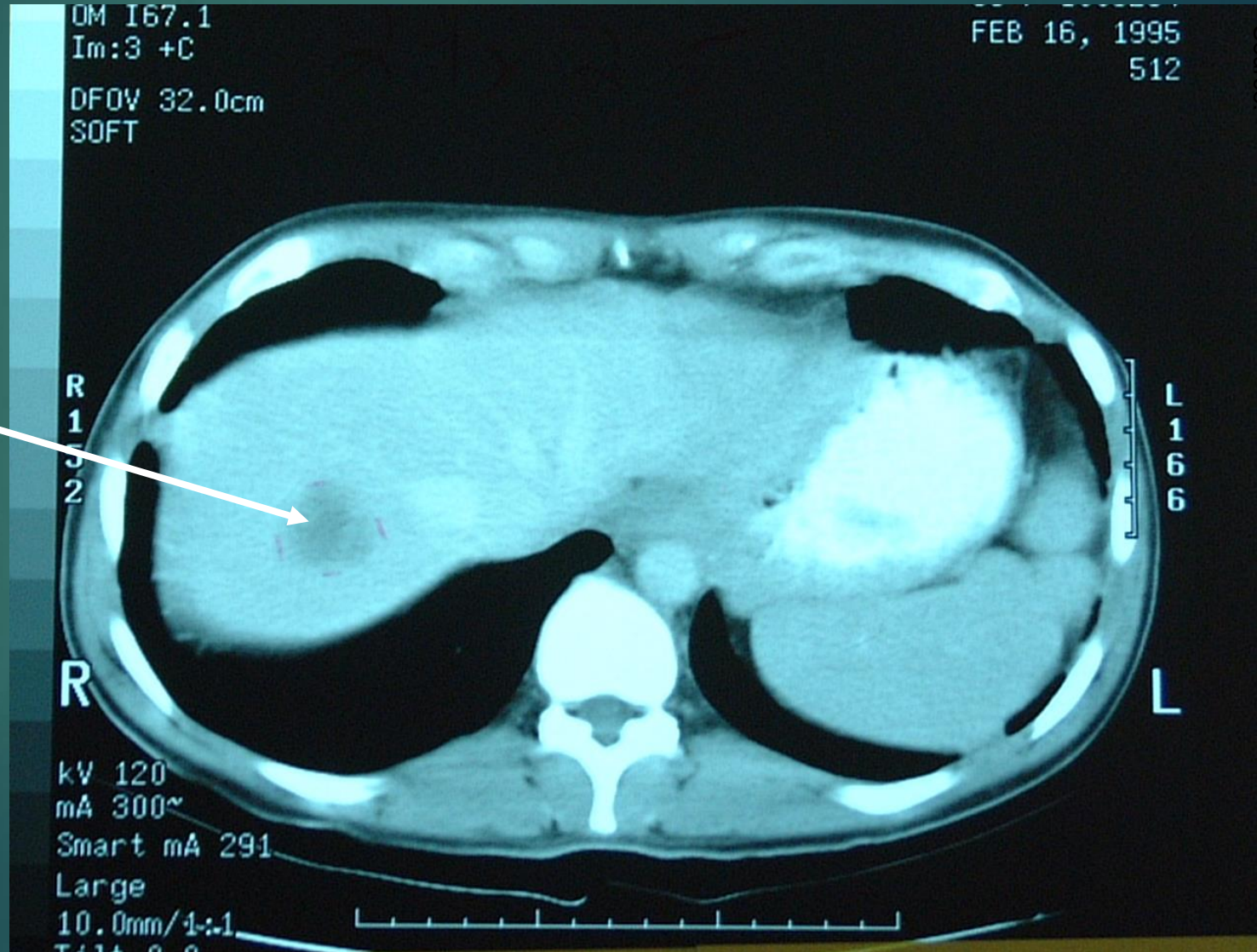
- Age 38
- Surprise diagnosis of ovarian cancer
- Mother of two children then age 3 & 6 mos.
- Associate Dean of the UW Law School



Hope and Partnership – Meg’s Story

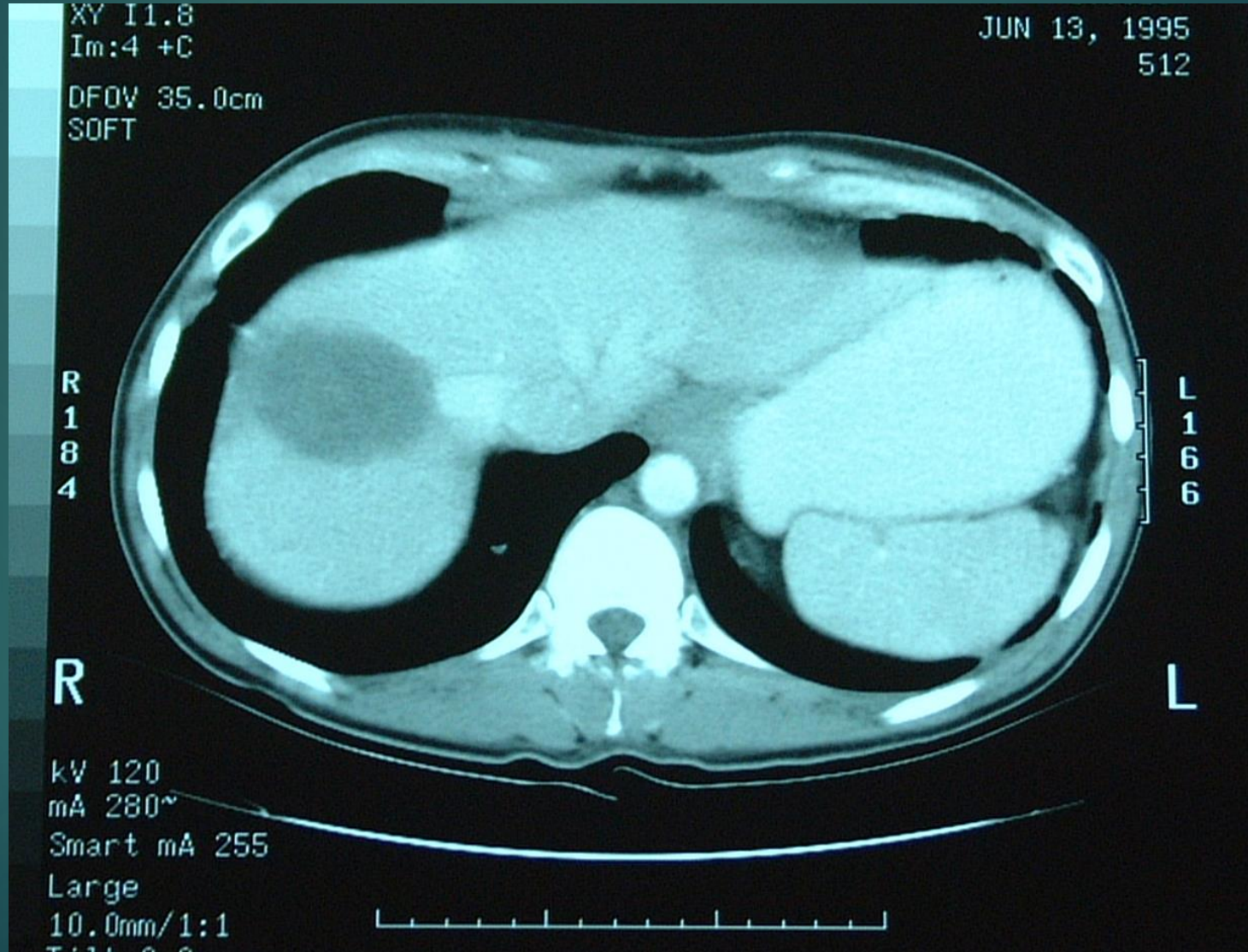
Liver CT scan, February 1995

2.8 cm lesion



Hope and Partnership – Meg's Story

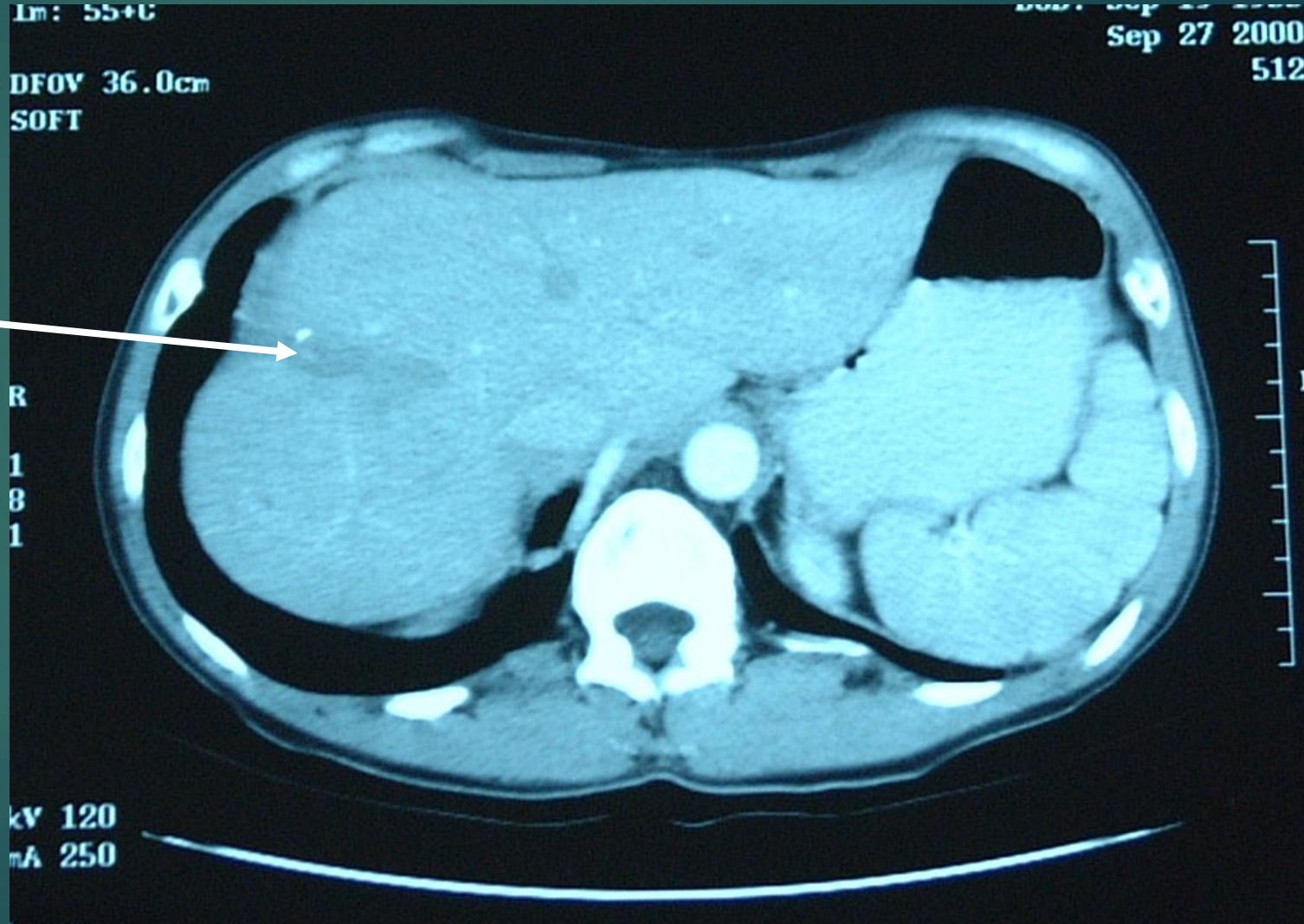
Liver CT after liver cryotherapy, July 1995



Hope and Partnership – Meg's Story

Liver CT, 6 years later, September 2000

No Evidence of Disease



Hope and Partnership – Meg’s Story

Meg is alive and well today!

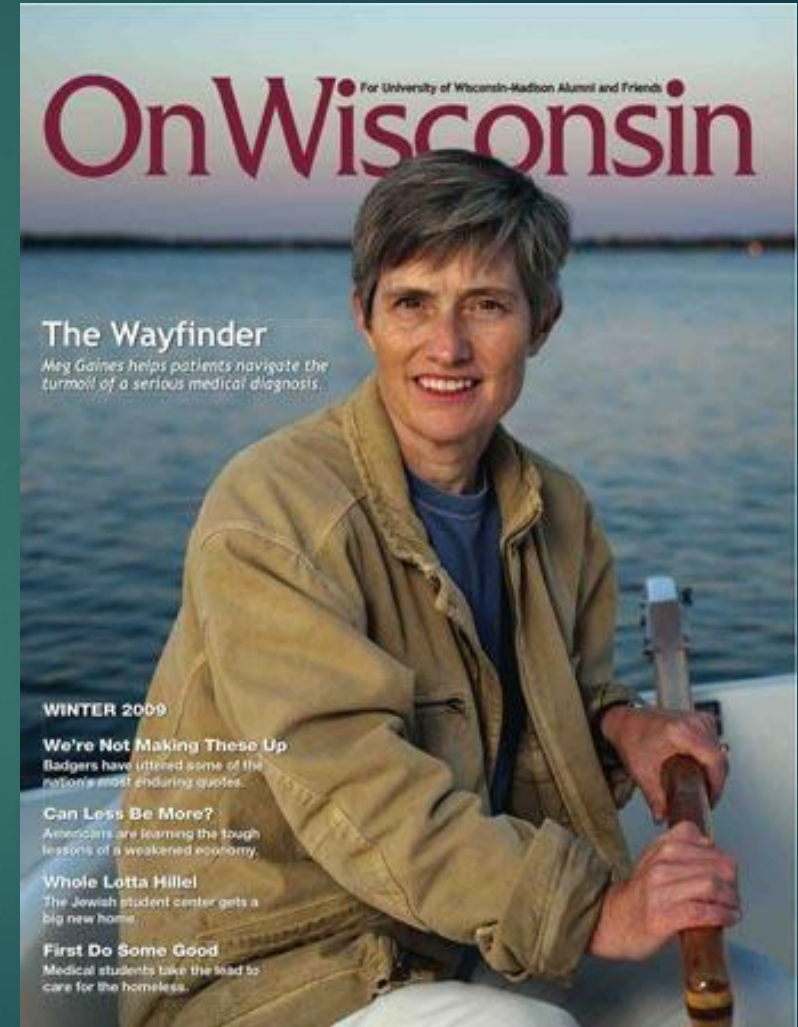


Martha Gaines, JD, LLM
University of Wisconsin, Madison

“She is an individual who, drawing upon a personal commitment to championing the individual rights of those diagnosed and treated for life-threatening illness, and those of their family members, created an innovative resource that is transforming cancer care daily for scores of patients and families.”

– Julia Rowland, PhD
Former Director,
Office of Cancer Survivorship
National Cancer Institute

Meg Gaines is a lawyer by training, a cancer survivor, and one of the founders of the **Center for Patient Partnerships** at the University of Wisconsin. The Center trains students in the fields of law, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and social work to provide advocacy to cancer patients. Interdisciplinary teams help cancer patients understand their diagnoses, get the information necessary to make critical treatment decisions, and support patients’ efforts to get the treatment they need.



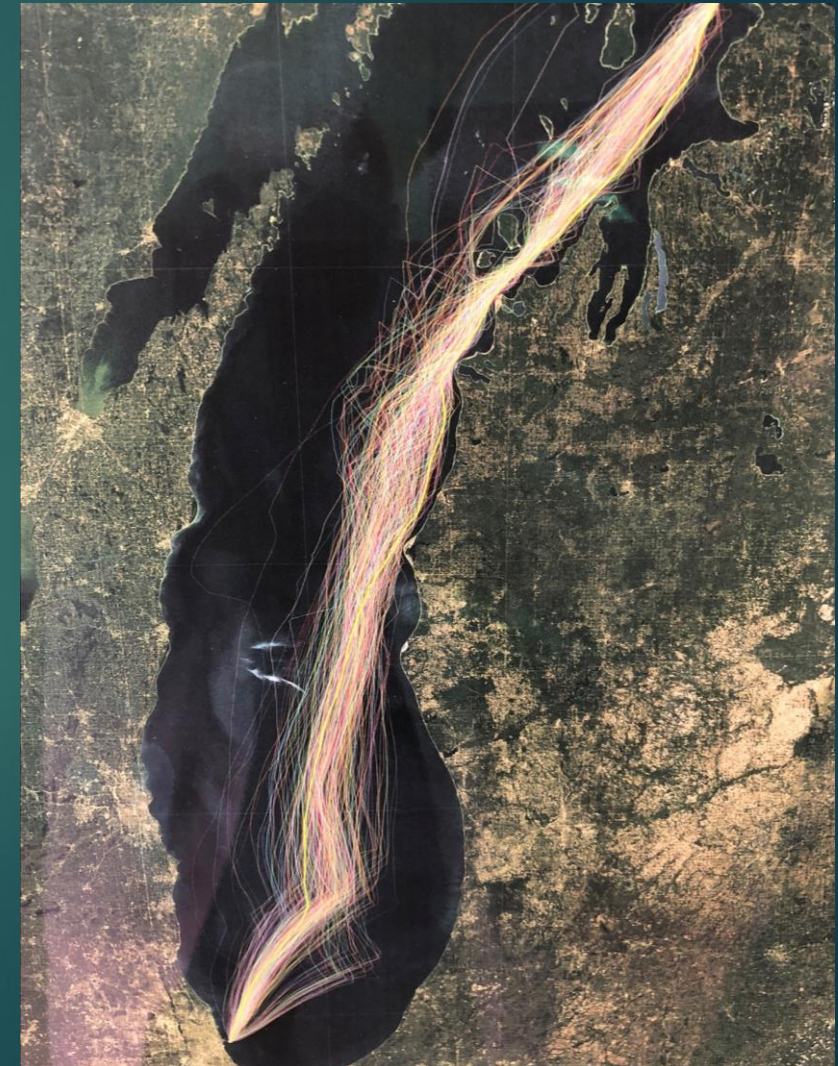
This is a journey guided by the forces of nature.
The patient and the provider have different
but complementary roles.

Patient

Provider



The journey may have a grand beginning but it must also change course with the forces of nature



The Tension

- ▶ Between Hope and Reality
 - ▶ Truth begets Trust
 - ▶ Hope thrives on Trust
- ▶ Between Disease Acuity and Shared Decision Making
 - ▶ When the house is on fire you listen to the fireman.
 - ▶ When you are planning a complicated addition to the house, everyone should consider all the options
 - ▶ Successful patient/provider teams recognize these differences
- ▶ Between Provider types and Patient types
 - ▶ Providers tend to be either directive or supportive, and ideally both as needed.
 - ▶ Patients range from Researchers to Networkers to Traditionalists