

## WATCHFUL MANAGEMENT

A message from Tony...

Upon my diagnosis, every doctor recommended immediate surgery or radiation. After all, that is what a surgeon is trained to do. However, I felt inclined to ask questions—even though I didn't know exactly what to ask! Surgery, radiation, hormones and implants all had one thing in common: they appear to cure you of your cancer, but in reality, they treated the body and not the disease. Inasmuch as prostate cancer is the leading death in men and the second leading cause of cancer death in men, no one talks about the effects of these treatments, namely incontinence and impotence, which unfortunately affects the majority of men who have elected treatment.

Unfortunately, the cure often has worse side effects than the disease itself. I valued the *quality of my life*, rather than the *quantity of my life*, so none of the above solutions were acceptable to me. My treatment decision was to not proceed with any kind of treatment and I opted for “**watchful management**,” which is now recommended for many patients. I decided that a PSA test every three to six months to confirm the slow growth of the cancer would be a wiser approach for me rather than the aggressive approach of surgery.

Statistics now show that a large percentage of prostate cancer surgery has often been determined to be premature based upon the very small size of the cancerous tumor in the resected specimen.

I encourage anyone facing prostate cancer to get a second opinion...and a third. Don't resign yourself to surgery or make a decision without researching what is right for you. Cancer is not a death sentence, it's a wake-up call. Embrace cancer education and make a decision that is regret-free.

With support and encouragement,



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THE MASRAFF BOYS - RUSSELL, TONY AND GEORGE

### ABOUT THE LOGO

When a man is afflicted with Prostate Cancer, his sons are 33% more susceptible to having prostate cancer. Hence, the Father & Son Logo depicts those that are at risk of the disease.

For more information about Tony's Prostate Cancer Research, please visit [www.tpcr.org](http://www.tpcr.org).



## CHANGE YOUR LEGACY

### Tony's Search For The Cure



## WHO IS TONY?

Born on Texas Independence Day to Armenian Parents, Tony Masraff has created a life, legacy and spark of hope for prostate cancer patients. Diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1999, Tony chose to devote his time and efforts to creating educational awareness and raising funds for research to find a non-invasive cure of prostate cancer. He did that in association with hospitals in the greater Houston area, and since that time, Tony created *Tony's Prostate Cancer Research (TPCR)*, a non-profit organization offering hope to others who are battling this disease.

Tony is the proud father of three children and nine grandchildren to whom he credits much of his passion to pursue a cure for cancer. He graduated with a B.S. in Math and a minor in Aerospace Engineering from Cal Poly University in San Luis Obispo, California. He worked in the technology industry and was named Houston's Entrepreneur of the Year in 1989. He and his son are the owners of Masraff's Restaurant, an upscale Euro-American restaurant, considered one of the best dining experiences in Houston.

## RUN TONY RUN!

To launch the foundation, Tony ran the Houston Marathon with his daughter, Markley. This was quite a feat for a man who couldn't even run 200 yards the year before. To train, Tony joined the USA Fit Program, followed their advice, and to this day, Tony still doesn't enjoy running—but he was on a mission. And at the young age of 67, not only did Tony cross the finish line, but his mission was accomplished when he raised \$120,000 for prostate cancer research.

## KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

Knowledge is power! Ask questions. Isn't it interesting that when a doctor tells you that you have cancer, he then asks if you have any questions? How can you even know what to ask when you don't know anything about it? Instead, use Tony's favorite response: "Doctor, why don't you give me the answers to the questions I don't know to ask?"

## PATIENT ADVOCACY

In 2005, Tony accepted an appointment as a "Patient Advocate" for the Prostate Cancer Research Program representing the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Several of the grants known as SPORE (Special Projects of Research Excellence) awarded by the National Cancer Institute are right here in Houston with MD Anderson and Baylor. Unfortunately the National Institute of Health and NCI have proposed budget cuts to these grants. Based upon his recent experiences as a Patient Advocate, Tony believes that we may never see a cure for prostate cancer without the advocacy and financial support from the private sector. He encourages each individual to get involved and make a difference!

## BREAKTHROUGH RESEARCH BY TPCR

The research supported by TPCR made a major breakthrough in its discovery of **GLIPRI**; a protein that acts as a natural suppressor to cancer development. As a protein it represents a non-toxic treatment for prostate cancer. It has been proven 100% effective in protecting against the growth of cancer in exposed animals, suppressing the continued growth of existing cancer cells and eliminating prostate cancer tumors in a laboratory setting with no side effects. MD Anderson is proceeding through the process with the FDA for safety testing and eventually clinical trials. **The cure we have been seeking could be on the horizon!**



THE MASRAFF FAMILY AND TEAM LEADERS FROM MD ANDERSON



## "JUST THE FACTS"\*

- Prostate cancer accounts for more than 30% of all internal cancers in the United States.
- Only 5% of federal research dollars are allocated to prostate cancer.
- Every 3 minutes another man is diagnosed with prostate cancer.
- There are over 30,000 estimated deaths from prostate cancer annually.
- One out of every six men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in his lifetime.
- There are over 250,000 new cases estimated each year.
- African Americans have 60% higher incident of prostate cancer than Caucasians.

\*SOURCE: American Cancer Society

## SUCCESS GETS RECOGNIZED

Tony and TPCR have received recognitions, in honor of all the faithful volunteers and generous supporters of TPCR, which include;



THE MASRAFF FAMILY - MARKLEY, GEORGE, TONY AND RUSSELL

- The 2010 *Jefferson Award* was created by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis many years ago and considered the Nobel Prize for the common man.
- The official proclamation for "*Tony Masraff Day in Houston*" for TPCR's work in advancing the research towards the cure of Prostate Cancer and for Tony's work as a Patient Advocate in support of cancer patients and their loved ones.
- A proclamation from *Texas Governor Rick Perry*, recognizing Tony's and TPCR's accomplishments.