Following my cancer treatment, I took up a sport called Pickleball. I hung tournament medals on the feeding tube stand that I converted into a lamp, symbolizing brighter days ahead.

In 2021, Melvin LeBlanc, HNCA Ambassador, won the championship gold medal at the Texas Senior (Pickleball) Games and will join the 2022 Senior Olympic Games.

Today, HNCA’s goal is to become the “one stop shop” for the public, patients, caregivers, survivors, clinicians, and other concerned individuals seeking support and information about oral, head and neck cancer.

Jamie Powell had to remain in the hospital for a week during the same time COVID was spreading in the US. It was extremely hard to go through this alone, but I knew I had to stay strong. They removed 1/3 of my tongue along with the lymph nodes on my left side.

According to the National Cancer Institute (NCI), head and neck cancer compromises 4% of all cancers in the United States.

Head and neck cancer occurs in the nasal cavity, sinuses, lips, mouth, salivary glands, throat or larynx (voice box).

Based on the most recent statistics available, the annual incidence of head and neck cancer in the United States is more than 68,000 cases.

Head and neck cancer is more than twice as common in men as it is in women and diagnosed more often in people over age 50.

If you feel like there is something going on and don’t quite know, get screened. Find out what it is. Too many people wait until it’s too late. The key is early diagnosis.

- Jim Kelly
NFL Pro Football Hall of Famer and Head and Neck Cancer Survivor
Since 1998, the organization has worked to increase early detection of these cancers by partnering with local health facilities to conduct awareness programs and health screenings.

Today, HNCA’s goal is to become the “one stop shop” for the public, patients, caregivers, survivors, clinicians, and other concerned individuals seeking support and information about oral, head and neck cancer.
HNCA board cancer survivor & officer of the Stage IV HPV-related throat and head and neck cancer.

Jason Mendelsohn

HNCA provides me with the information and support I need. It also provides me with a medium to serve others diagnosed with head and neck cancer.

- Jason Mendelsohn Stage IV HPV-related throat cancer survivor & officer of the HNCA board

Our education initiatives are designed to empower patients, caregivers, and survivors with comprehensive knowledge of head and neck cancer to help them stay informed.

- Patient Education Programs:

HNCA Webinars and Annual Survivorship Symposium: HNCA, in partnership with the American Head and Neck Society (AHNS), offers free online webinars throughout the year, featuring medical experts and survivor panelists, on a host of topics from dental care, managing side effects and the importance of nutrition. Each year, the AHNS/HNCA also hosts a Survivorship Symposium where patients, survivors and caregivers come together to share their experiences, learn from medical experts and one another, and advocate for one another.

- HNCA Ambassador Program: We strive to empower patients and survivors to share their journeys. Our Ambassadors, who are patients, survivors and/or caregivers, are dedicated to educating the community about these cancers. Their inspirational journeys give true meaning to what happens when you are diagnosed with cancer, during and post-treatment.

- Clinical Trials: HNCA provides resources that teach patients about the importance of clinical trials and what is involved in participating in a trial. Patients can use our resources and search our Clinical Trial Finder to guide discussion with your medical team about the best treatment option for you.

- Peer-to-Peer Mentorship Program: Through our partnership with Imerman Angels, we provide the opportunity for peer-to-peer support for the head and neck cancer community. Whether you are a patient, survivor, or caregiver, you can connect with someone to give or receive support.

- HNCA Gas Card Program: Funded in part by our annual Smash Cancer Tennis Tournaments, HNCA offers a limited supply of $50 gas cards to help patients cover the cost of transportation to their medical facility.

- HNCA Online Support Community: This free online community is available to patients, survivors, and their loved ones. The community offers peer-to-peer support so you can connect with others experiencing similar diagnoses, treatments, and outcomes similar to yours.

- Start a Miller-White HNCA Ambassador & throat cancer survivor

As soon as I heard the word ‘cancer,’ I thought of dying. The doctor kept telling me I’d recover, but I couldn’t hear him. Although I knew the road ahead would be challenging, I was so grateful that I listened to my body. 

- Shanta Miller-White

Hank Deneski, a decade-long survivor of stage IV tongue cancer and founder of Western Ohio Oral, Head and Neck Cancer Support, refers to head and neck cancer as an “orphan” cancer.

Very little is known about head and neck cancer, and comparatively, it receives less attention than other cancers. HNCA is working to change this

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- Hank Deneski

We strive to change this.

- Hank Deneski

For more information or to DONATE, go to www.headandneck.org

Silence helped me speak louder than ever. Don’t let head and neck cancer steal your voice. Get screened to stop it!

- Rob Paulsen

Voice actor and throat cancer survivor

HNCA thanks our many corporate partners for their ongoing dedication to HNCA, head and neck cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers.

There are many opportunities available to support HNCA and our vital programs. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact info@headandneck.org.

We continue to grow and expand our offerings. For information on hosting an event in your community to benefit HNCA and our programs, please contact us at info@headandneck.org.

For more information or to DONATE, go to www.headandneck.org

We strive to change this.