“HOW UNDYING HOPE GIVES LIFE TO POSSIBLE.”
Jameisha “Meisha” Brown
DEFINITION OF HOPE

“The feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out for the best.”

or

“A person or thing in which expectations are centered.”

#

-Dictionary.com
“HOPE is the moonlight filtering through the trees,
HOPE is the silent prayer that we make in distress,
HOPE is the promise that we make to ourselves,
HOPE is the happiness that we visualize,
HOPE is the horizon that we reach, if we try!”

#

-Ms. Balroop Singh, a former educator
“Imagine yourself beyond the horizon of your greatest difficulty. If you do not think you have encountered [seemingly] insurmountable difficulty yet, picture your greatest fear. I feel certain that hope helps us discover our own possible. The hope that we visualize gives us that extra push to keep going each day when we feel buried in hardship. The realization of our hope is as close as our mind is to our heart. This helps us to be hopeful even when we occasionally wrestle with hopelessness.”

@meishabrown1
Discovered with cancer: 8 y.o.

Cancer Type: Lymphoma

Tumor Type: Burkitt’s

Stage: IIIB; Metastatic

The fastest growing human tumor
Art class at MD Anderson Children’s Cancer Hospital # Butterfly by Jameisha, age 9

“Choosing hope gives you the power to see beauty in whatever difficulty you are facing.” @meishabrown1
My first primary oncologist, Dr. Sima Jeha # MD Anderson Cancer Center
“Hope has the capacity to help you realize there is purpose in your present pain.” @meishabrown1
“Hope enables you to transform your adversity to your advantage.” @meishabrown1
“Might it be possible that some difficulty you will face is not intended to break you, but build you?”

@meishabrown1
“Hope helps us interpret the experience of pain not only as something that hurts but heals.”

@meishabrown1
A Clinical Trial Through a Patient’s Eyes

For the unfamiliar, clinical trial research comes with many fears — but they’re only about the unknown. One patient is shattering those misconceptions because knowledge is power.

By Adam Sass

W hen Meisha Brown began her first clinical trial, it was her only option left. She was under immense stress after being diagnosed with leukemia syndrome, her prognosis was grim and it had spread across her body,” says Meisha. She acquired a septic infection and was put into a medically induced coma. Despite the doctors squeezing her hand, but she couldn’t open her eyes.

“I felt helpless,” Meisha says. “I could see and hear my parents but couldn’t talk to them. I couldn’t even move.”

Meisha spent weeks in the hospital bed and thinking that if she could survive this moment, she would commit to learning as much as she could about what was happening to her body.

In the treatment protocol, Meisha and her family decided to return to a clinical trial.

Knowing your adversary

While Meisha’s medical team was geared toward her parents’ understanding, her family talked to her as she could understand what was happening in her mind and how they were trying to fight.

Meisha explained how cancer treatment involves daily demonstrations and drawings of characters on a white board. “I understood when the doctor was talking to me in a different way,” she says.

Facing uncertainty

Even though her trial had a positive outcome, Meisha has had several side effects — ones she’s been happy to work through and overcome.

“A major reason for her coming out of the trial was a result of firsthand communication and interaction,” says David L. Bath. “It can feel more like collaboration, and that gave a long-term fighting force,”

Randy Bergh, vice president of global clinical operations at TransCelerate, a nonprofit organization that brings together pharmaceutical companies, to collaborate with a goal of enhancing clinical research. A priority for TransCelerate is to decrease patient burden and improve clinical research awareness and engagement.

Reassuring patient

Toward consent.

“Toward innovation at Pfizer, a TransCelerate member, notes that helping patients become aware of clinical research as an option is a universal challenge. The organization encourages patients and their families to work with trusted health care providers and participate in opportunities together with patients so each can inform, recognize, and be treated with respect and gratitude.”

“We have information that a patient’s experience in participating in research can be positive and can lead to new therapies,” she says. “We encourage patients to participate in clinical trials in the future.”

To patients, the increased involvement during a trial helps the physician as well as the patient.

“Early involvement helps reduce the burden and burden for future trials,” Meisha’s experience extends to that. Now 21 and in her second year of a Ph.D., she hopes the next generation can learn from her.

“Meisha’s story shows us how much can happen when a person chooses to heal,” says Dr. Babur Kalk, CEO of TransCelerate.

“Daily I CHOOSE HOPE without a backup plan.”

@meishabrown1
Where I grew up.

“Hope you will deliver you from hardship before you realize it is [im]POSSIBLE.” @meishabrown1
In Loving Memory
My Granny
04/23/1927-04/03/2015
WHERE AM I NOW?

• Still Fighting. Winning. Cancer Thriving.
• Starting 3rd Year as a PhD Student.
• Finishing 1-year Health Disparities Research Fellowship.
• Applying for Research Grants in Cervical Cancer Control (fingers crossed).
• Receiving Global Speaking Invitations.
• Dreaming BIG!

“Hope breeds anticipation of our [temporary] defeat becoming victory.” @meishabrown1
HELPING OTHERS PROSPER
ETERNALLY [HOPE]

CHOOSE HOPE.