Jacki and Bruce’s Story

Jacki Barron and her husband, Bruce, turned to the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University in 2008. Jacki had been told she had metastatic cancer in her liver and there were no options to control the disease.

Deep down, they felt that something had not seemed right with her earlier care. Through a friend of Bruce’s, they heard of Dr. Steve Rosen. Upon reaching out to Dr. Rosen, they learned he was about to fly out for a conference, but could see them if they made it to his office in 15 minutes. Dr. Rosen ended up staying for two hours.

Dr. Rosen determined that the cancer in her liver actually was a unique form of breast cancer, and he put together a tailored approach—using chemotherapy and innovative, biologic agents—to treat her.

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When Jacki was first diagnosed, the Barrons’ daughter had recently become engaged. Dr. Rosen not only guaranteed that Jacki would dance at her daughter’s wedding, but declared that she would do the same at her grandchildren’s, too.

At the wedding, with smiles on the proud parents’ faces, Bruce thanked all those who had supported Jacki throughout her diagnoses and treatments, and specially recognized Dr. Rosen for his care, compassion, and treatment.

Last October, Dr. Rosen mentioned that he was being honored by the Israel Cancer Research Fund. Bruce was so proud, he asked Dr. Rosen how he could help and responded by serving as a dinner co-chair for the event, buying two tables, recruiting other chairs, and even speaking at the event. It was a charitable event unlike any other, “due to the love, admiration, and respect people had for Dr. Rosen—it was a huge love fest!”

Over the years, the Barrons have developed a great relationship with Dr. Rosen and his wife. They say, “When things were very bleak, Dr. Rosen was always there.” According to the Barrons, “The physicians, nurses, and staff at the Lurie Cancer Center are like family.”

“The whole center embodies how Dr. Rosen operates, with care and compassion. It’s an amazing atmosphere of feeling, passion, and inspiration.”