

Introduction to A Temporary Challenge

In July, 2016 I was told that my Gleason Score had entered the area above the cautious waiting zone for my prostate cancer that I had been in for three years and that action would have to be taken before things got out of hand. Read that as increased cancer cell production leading to death. I wasn't overly concerned because I was extremely confident in the skills of my urologist as well as the physician who did the new targeted MRI on me.

I had a calm discussion with my urologist, Dr. Randy Makovsky, at that point. I was presented with my options, which included radical surgery as well as the process I had read so much about and favored. The latter was called CyberKnife but it did not involve surgery. It was done at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, New York by the head of radiation oncology, Dr. Jonathan Haas.

After three preliminary appointments in September and October setting up the main procedure, for five straight days in 2016, from October 31 to November 4, I was exposed to very specifically targeted radiation treatments aimed at eradicating the cancer cells in my prostate. I then underwent a few weeks of "side effects" and returned to school. I alluded to my return in an earlier introduction to the poem about the duplicate Van Gogh "Starry Night" gift that I received upon my return.

Without getting unnecessarily graphic, let me say that, based on succeeding PSA scores, my cancer seems to have been successfully treated by Dr. Haas and his wonderful Winthrop staff. I am pleased. My wife is pleased. My children and grandchildren are pleased. Hopefully, my students are also pleased.

And hopefully it was merely a temporary challenge and no more.
Really --- *no more!*