



To fight a rare kidney cancer, Fred Dailey (center) participated in a clinical trial directed by Wahid Hanna, MD, (left), and coordinated by Randi Ray, RN, BSN, OCN, (right).

➤ For more on cancer research, read *Frontiers* Winter 2013

Clinical Trials: *Fred Dailey's Journey*

By **Amanda F. Johnson**

The University of Tennessee Medical Center Cancer Institute actively pursues clinical trials to investigate breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, gynecologic, head and neck, blood, lung, skin, pancreatic, prostate, sarcoma and other cancers. Trials are monitored by the Institutional Review Board, a group of medical professionals and community representatives who ensure stringent adherence to federal regulations and protection for trial volunteers.

"I'm thankful for every patient who has seized the opportunity to take part in a clinical trial," says Wahid Hanna, MD, a professor in the Department of Medicine and chief of The University of Tennessee's Hematology/Oncology Division. "Patients help pave the way for the future—a future that might be cancer free."

One patient who seized the opportunity is Fred Dailey. Dailey and his wife, Sallie, live in Winchester, Kentucky, about 170

miles from Knoxville. In August 2011, during a visit to an emergency room near their home for what they thought was an ulcer, they heard difficult news: the scan showed a mass on his kidney. Dailey had cancer.

"We were stunned. We wondered how this could happen," Dailey recalls. "We asked, 'Where do we go from here?'"

His surgeon performed a radical nephrectomy and the official diagnosis was chromophobe renal cell carcinoma, a very rare kidney cancer that is unaffected by radiation therapy or standard chemotherapy.

"My oncologist in Lexington identified the only clinical trial in the U.S. that accepted patients with this cancer," Dailey says. "It was offered at Ohio State University and The University of Tennessee Medical Center."

The Daileys chose Knoxville. Soon, they met Hanna, who was directing

the double-blind trial sanctioned by Southwest Oncology Group in San Antonio, Texas. "Dr. Hanna is warm, dignified, and compassionate," Dailey says, "and Randi Ray, our nurse coordinator, is delightful."

After a couple of months in the trial, Dailey withdrew because of intense side effects. To some people, this could signify a failure and herald a dismal future. Not to Fred Dailey.

"All we can do is live our lives in expectation," he says. "I am so fortunate to have participated in the clinical trial. The professionals at UT Medical Center are the kindest and most caring I've ever experienced, and Dr. Hanna thinks there's a chance my time on the trial drug was long enough."

This could very well be true. Dailey's recent scans showed no signs of cancer. ■