

## Tracy Mason Story

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Tracy had gone to the local hospital when she noticed she needed a mammogram. She left this hospital with the information that she could have either an infection or an invasive cancer, and to come back in 30 days to see if the potential infection had cleared. Tracy was not satisfied with that answer and she called KU the next day. At KU, many tests were performed. She had several mammograms and ultrasounds, but nothing was picking up this 10cm tumor that was growing rapidly. Tracy was finally diagnosed in 2019 with a rare type of breast cancer: invasive lobular pleomorphic carcinoma her2 positive cancer.

This cancer is one that is mainly found in women older than 65 and it is one that grows rapidly. Her cancer grew in 5 days with no sign of stopping. Tracy found it a relief to finally know what is happening with her body. Her oncologist wanted to start chemo the next week, in preparation they did ECHOs, EEGs, Bone Scans, and PET Scans. She had her port placed and within 7 days, she had an allergic reaction to the port. She had a year's worth of chemo and 33 rounds of radiation. Tracy had mastectomies and countless surgeries such as reconstruction.

Looking back, she would not change anything. She believes that was equipped to handle a hard diagnosis, as she had underlying cardio and neuro muscular problems. She was not afraid to do what she had to do to survive, she was prepared to be stubborn. This diagnosis made her stronger than she already was, she had to be. She met some of the greatest people through cancer. She hopes that people who read this story get hope out of her experiences. She wants everyone to know that if she can do it you can too as well as it is okay to give yourself some grace.