

A Deeper Dive Into Small Cell Lung Cancer Advances

Show Notes

This episode explores why small cell lung cancer (SCLC) research is finally accelerating after decades of slow progress, how immunotherapy has reshaped long-term outcomes, and why clinical trials should be part of the conversation from the moment of diagnosis, not treated as a last resort. Through a candid conversation between Dr. Jacob Sands and 8-year SCLC survivor Maida Mangiameli, we break down what limited vs. extensive stage really means, why patients shouldn't delay starting treatment, and where genuine hope comes from in a disease that's historically had few breakthroughs.

Guests

Dr. Jacob Sands: Dr. Jacob Sands is a thoracic (lung) medical oncologist and the Associate Chief of the Thoracic Oncology Group at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, where he leads the clinical and clinical research program in small cell lung cancer. His research and clinical work span both non-small cell and small cell lung cancer, with a focus on advancing the growing pipeline of SCLC clinical trials.

Maida Mangiameli: Maida Mangiameli is an 8-year survivor of extensive-stage small cell lung cancer and an outspoken advocate for lung cancer awareness and screening. As a host and voice for the LCFA community, she draws on her own diagnosis and treatment journey, including navigating SCLC before many of today's treatment options existed, to help other patients understand their options and find hope.

Episode Highlights

- **More Progress Than Ever Before:** Dr. Sands explains that the volume of promising SCLC treatments currently in clinical trials now outpaces everything developed in all the decades prior, and why the pace of scientific progress keeps accelerating.
- **Limited vs. Extensive Stage, Explained:** A clear breakdown of how SCLC staging works, including how limited-stage disease can still be treated with a goal of cure through chemotherapy, radiation, and two years of immunotherapy.
- **How Immunotherapy Changed the Trajectory:** Maida and Dr. Sands discuss how immunotherapy, unavailable when Maida was first treated, has since been shown to improve long-term disease control and survival for limited-stage patients.
- **Busting Clinical Trial Myths:** Dr. Sands directly addresses two of the most common fears he hears from patients: that joining a trial means giving up other treatment options, and that patients risk getting "just a placebo." Neither is true, and he explains why.

- Why Speed Matters: Because SCLC grows rapidly, Dr. Sands stresses the importance of not delaying treatment, even when it means hard trade-offs. Maida shares her own story of postponing a long-planned trip on her oncologist's advice, a decision she now credits with saving her life.
- Where Hope Comes From: Dr. Sands shares what keeps him motivated, patients living years beyond a metastatic diagnosis, some of whom say they forget they have lung cancer on their best days. Maida reflects on eight years of survivorship and watching her granddaughter grow up.

Resources

- Learn more about [clinical trials and how to find one](#)
- [LCFA's First 7 Days](#): A Roadmap for the Newly Diagnosed
- [Understanding Small Cell Lung Cancer](#)
- [Small Cell Lung Cancer Treatment Overview](#): staging, standard-of-care, and FDA-approved treatments
- [Living With Lung Cancer: Ask Me Anything Series](#) — survivor-led podcast strips away the clinical jargon to reveal what living with lung cancer really looks like.
- [Find a Clinical Trial](#): Small Cell Lung Cancer to search for —
 - First-line SCLC trials combining a new agent with standard-of-care chemotherapy
 - Immunotherapy maintenance trials
 - Academic-center consultations for newly diagnosed patients

LCFA's mission is the improvement in survivorship of lung cancer patients through the funding of transformative science.

While raising funds to support lung cancer research, LCFA will raise the public's awareness and serve as a resource for patients or anyone seeking answers, hope, and access to updated treatment information, scientific investigation, and clinical trials.

You can also join the conversation with LCFA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).