

18th Annual Colloquium
**Working Together to Break Through the Barriers of Cancer
Research****Meagan Pischke Porcheron**
Cancer Survivorship Speaker**Chasing Sunshine****1:30 PM, Friday March 2nd, 2018**
NCI Shady Grove Campus
Joseph F. Fraumeni Jr., M.D. Conf.
Rm TE406/408/410

My name is Megan Pischke. I'm a mother of two amazing kids, I live in Squamish BC and wake up feeling incredibly blessed every single day. And I felt like that even before I had cancer. In 2012, after a lengthy pro snowboard career and birthing my second child, I was diagnosed with a stage 3b breast cancer. Strangely, it was not a shock as I had been feeling "off" for several years, and now was my time to take care of myself in a way I had never known before. Although incredibly devastated and scared, I had an innate understanding that I was going to do the best I could and in a complicated situation simply be ok with it. This was my time to be the best Megan I had ever experienced, and for me only. From the very beginning of my cancer ordeal- I believed I could get through it, and that for this life, all of this messy, painful, confusing, times of a cancer diagnosis, it was only temporary. I chose treatments for me (and what I hoped was for my children), and with the help of several doctors, a team rather, chose a medicinal path that was for Megan. I created a small piece on cold capping to share in my community, and it ended up being a 30-minute film on my cancer ordeal called Chasing Sunshine. Its been my way to share something deep, and painful, and how I came out on the other side. To this day I see the work, the wonder, the miracles really, that went into managing cancer and its treatments, and I sometimes wonder "Why me? How?", so many women with the same or similar diagnosis struggle more, and even worse. Needless to say, every day is a new beginning for me, and my chance to get through whatever small or big things are holding me back in that moment from living a miraculous life that I deserve.

Today I'm the Marketing + Wellness Manager at Boarding for Breast Cancer (B4BC.org), and I couldn't feel more proud and driven. I am grateful for the opportunities that arise nearly daily to hopefully inspire someone else. I am still snowboarding, surfing, and finding medicine in nature with my kids now 6 and 11 years of age. And I continue to wake up with the sun shining in my grateful heart, and taking it all in, for what it is, while I'm here.

Register at<https://ncifrederick.cancer.gov/events/CcrFellows2018/default.asp>

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