

Laryngectomy Support: BCL March 2025 Meeting Follow-Up (Part 1 of 2)

Hello Dear Folks,

As always, it was wonderful to meet with those who joined us online this past Tuesday. We're sending along some of the evening's topics in this email. Please note this is Part 1 of 2. In a separate email (Part 2 of 2) we will forward helpful links to resources which we have shared in the past. These will be of particular interest to folks who are new to our group.

Topic #1

Len Black introduced Melissa Cooke MS.CCC-SLP who is the Patient Resource Navigator at the Head and Neck Cancer Alliance. Melissa shared information on resources available to head and neck cancer survivors through her organization, <https://www.headandneck.org/>

She, herself, can be reached at Melissa@headandneck.org

On March 25th, there will be an online webinar entitled: *Moving Forward: The Power of Exercise in Head and Neck Cancer Recovery* For more information you can go to <https://www.headandneck.org/survivorship-webinars/>

Topic #2

Len Black also introduced us to Anne and Dave Ammenti, from San Mateo, CA. Dave is a 31 year total laryngectomy and total glossectomy survivor. Len recently visited with them at which time they thoroughly enjoyed a ski trip to Lake Tahoe. He shared a photo with us which was truly awe- inspiring: Len and Dave and their group enjoying a beautiful day at the top of a black diamond trail. How awesome...Carpe Diem, for sure!

Topic #3

We missed Carol and Tom Mahan on Tuesday evening. Unfortunately, Carol has been in and out of the hospital several times in the last few months. We so appreciate the strength and positive spirit Carol and Tom bring to our meetings.

Know that we are thinking of you, Carol and Tom! We are sending our prayers and positive thoughts your way.

We're including their contact information if you'd like to send them a message of support.

Tom and Carol Mahan
18 Upland Rd.
Winthrop, MA 02152
cmahan12260@gmail.com

Topic#4

In February, we welcomed **Konrad Zielinski** from **Poland** to our meeting. Konrad is currently a 29 year old PhD student who is studying at Northeastern University in Boston for this spring semester. He had his total laryngectomy when he was 17 years old. Konrad is involved in the study of human interactivity and language, as well as cognitive psychology and neurocognition at the University of Warsaw. He is very interested in

communicating with members, either by email or by meeting members in person to discuss their experiences related to being a total laryngectomy.

Topic #5

We will be welcoming Kailey Vitale, MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, who is the Northeast Territory Manager and Clinical Specialist for InHealth Technologies as a guest speaker at our May meeting. When I mentioned to her that one of our members is very pleased with her recent switch to InHealth for her TEP voice supplies, she responded with the following:

I'm so glad one of your members is happy with her InHealth products! We have a great sampling program that we will make sure to share with the group in May. It makes it so easy for anyone to try out a new product for a week or so and see how it works for them before committing to enrolling and purchasing. If anyone else in the group is eager for samples now, they can complete the simple form on this webpage: <https://inhealth.com/ihl-usa-day-night-samples> Congrats to both you and Andre!! 17 years is AMAZING, and it's a team effort for sure to focus on thriving.

We are grateful for the opportunity to meet your group and are looking forward to May 6th!

Best,

Kailey Vitale, MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-S
Northeast Territory Manager & Clinical Specialist
[InHealth Technologies®](https://inhealth.com)

Closing thoughts from Tuesday evening....

A warm and hearty 'Congratulations!' to those who continue to truly 'fight the good fight' and become more and more at home in their 'new normal'...We're really happy for you...You inspire *all* of us, even us 'seasoned' members!

As always, keep your eye out for our 'Part 2 of 2: March Meeting Follow-Up'. This second installment, so to speak, is information which we have already shared but would like to keep available to new folks as well as anyone who may have missed it the first time around.

Andre and I continue to be humbled and inspired by the strength and resilience of you, the wonderful folks we meet along the way. Your courage and determination are truly inspirational. While it is great to be present to those with whom we can virtually meet, we are also cognizant of those who are not able to attend...and we miss them and wish them well.

We shall look forward to gathering again online in April.

Spring is coming...It really is....Keep an eye out for those daffodils!!

With our very best wishes,

Andre and Ginny Charpentier

"Courage doesn't always roar.

Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says,

'I'll try again tomorrow'."

Mary Anne Radmacher