



NEWS & UPDATES

27 May 2008

Rick expresses his heartfelt appreciation to the many, many people who are thinking of him.

An update on Rick's treatment follows:

Rick is continuing to prepare for his autologous bone marrow transplant in early June, 2008. As part of this preparation he has completed four cycles of chemotherapy with newer drugs that were developed at Dana Farber Cancer Institute at Harvard. Rick just underwent a repeat bone marrow biopsy and PET/CT scan that showed a good response of this cancer to the treatment. Just before the Memorial Day weekend, he had a strong dose of chemotherapy that will prepare him to collect his own stem cells for the transplant. He was feeling a little tired but was able to celebrate the first run of the R. J. Corman QJ Steam Engine "Old Smokey" on Saturday, May 24th.

The next step for Rick is to collect stem cells over a four day period through a special catheter that was implanted in his chest. The harvested stem cells will be counted and saved until after the strong dose of chemotherapy that occurs at the beginning of the bone marrow transplant process. The next day the cells will be infused back into his blood stream and Rick will wait in the hospital for two more weeks while the cells grow and start to reproduce healthy blood.

Following the bone marrow transplant, Rick will be susceptible to infections and, therefore, will have to avoid crowds and eat carefully prepared food. He will also have to contend with weakness and nausea. Rick's doctors are hopeful that he will enjoy another long remission after the transplant.

Information Links:

www.dfhcc.harvard.edu/home/
www.LLS.org/myelomaeducation
www.multiplemyeloma.org