

INSPIRING HOPE

Ben Weisbuch- *"Genetic Research Saved My Life:"*

On July 18, 2010, my wife and I returned home from our honeymoon in the Caribbean. Six hours later, I woke up, texted a client, and suffered my first of 135 Sudden Cardiac Arrests. My wife saved my life by calling 911.

After shocking me six times with the external defibrillator, the EMTs rushed me to Grant Hospital. They placed me in a hypothermic coma for 5 days. I spent another 30 days at the Ross Heart Hospital. Doctors explored every diagnosis of what caused my sudden cardiac event, without success. For 30 days, my wife did not know whether she would remain a newlywed or become a widow.



Surgeons at the Ohio State University Medical Center implanted an experimental device into my chest. At that time, the device had not been approved by the FDA (I was 14th in the country and 200th in the world to receive the device - a Subcutaneous ICD manufactured by Cameron Industries). Since that initial surgery, I have endured six defibrillators and four heart surgeries in six different hospitals.

From 2010 until March 2013, my defibrillators fired over 135 times, one night, it fired ninety-one times in six hours. That night in the ICU, I suffered burn marks from the inside out.

Following that horrid experience, my wife and I consulted world experts from Italy, Spain, Thailand, the Netherlands, Los Angeles, New York and Columbus. None was able to diagnose the underlying cause of his condition.

In 2012, Peter Mohler, Director and the Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute at The Ohio State University, mapped my entire genome, the first time OSU ever mapped the entire genome of a heart patient. Dr. Mohler and his team discovered a gene mutation never seen before by science. Since then, I am told that my genetic marker has been used to discover other individuals in Europe at risk for SCD and is helping save lives.

My wife and I have a son who, fortunately, does not have the deadly genetic marker. We plan to use in-vitro fertilization to eradicate the disease from our family, forever. The genetic research has given me and my family hope that we might live a relatively normal life together.

In March of 2013, following an experimental epicardial (on the outside of my heart wall) ablation, I suffered another Ventricular-Fibrillation storm of 19 shocks. I was life-flight end to the Ross hospital. I developed sepsis and multi-organ failure. My blood pressure dropped to 42/10 - clinical shock. During a snow storm, my doctors congregated with my wife in my hospital room. I slept for eight days in an induced coma. They expected me to die. For reasons that are not exactly clear, I lived.

To wrap up my story, in January of 2013, my wife and I founded a charity, The Heart Hope foundation. (www.HeartHopeFoundation.org). The mission of Heart Hope is to eradicate hereditary heart disease using genetic testing and research. Given enough time, it is hoped that the Heart Hope Foundation, working with others, can use genetic markers to eradicate deadly cardiac disease from every family across the globe.

Mended Hearts of Central Ohio

www.MendedHeartsCentralOhio.org

It is great to be alive – and to help others

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On behalf of the Heart Hope Foundation, I spend considerable time speaking to organizations to raise awareness about heart disease. They are driven by the goal to sure make sure that what happened to my wife and me never happens to anyone else, ever again.

Today, I manage my heart disease by taking a medication usually prescribed for people suffering from multiple-sclerosis. I am told that this is the first time a medicine has ever been used to treat a heart patient.

I consider myself very blessed. Heart disease has made me a better person. All of my near-death experiences, combined, have taught me lessons of life, love and the meaning of my life that I probably would never have learned otherwise. My suffering convinced me the best use of the rest of my life is to live to help others. I maintain a positive attitude, sense of humor and live absent of fear of death.

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Mission: Building healthier lives, free of inherited cardiovascular diseases, through genetic testing and research. THANK YOU for your support! GIVE TODAY <https://tcfapp.org/donation> or call Steve Moore, (614) 251-4000.

Ben is a member of Mended Hearts of Central Ohio. If you've had a similar experience, or would just like to talk to Ben about living with heart disease, his contact information is listed above!