

Lauri Kahn – Patient Story:

VIDEO	AUDIO
	Faced with a daunting diagnosis of metastatic breast cancer, Laurie Kahn sought a 2nd opinion at Mayo Clinic. Going in she didn't have a lot of hope.
Felipe Batalini, M.D. Medical Oncology Mayo Clinic	"When I saw Laurie for the first time, her and I were both scared because she really didn't look good."
Laurie Kahn	"They tell you it is not curable, it's controllable."
	But then she met oncologist Dr. Felipe Batalini. Dr. Batalini is involved in research that looks at the individual biomarkers of a patient's cancer to personalize their therapy.
Dr. Batalini	"Because her disease was so aggressive, in the beginning we used some chemotherapy to cool down her disease because we were afraid we would not have another opportunity. We jumped into using targeted therapy and that certainly calmed her disease and, even further, shrunk some of her tumor and certainly gave her more quality of life.?"
	For Laurie, who was 67 and single, that meant embracing opportunities that she thought she'd never have.
Laurie Kahn:	"My now husband and I have been living together for seven years, and I'm thinking to myself, 'Well, I guess I need to plan a funeral now.' I was having lunch with a girlfriend, and she said, 'Well, you guys talked about getting married. Have you ever thought anything more about it?' And I was like, Cupid shot me finally. So, I came home, and I said, 'What do you think if we instead of, you know, doing this, we plan a wedding?'"

Dr. Batalini	" You know, my goal as a breast medical oncologist is really to understand patients' goals and values. And for her, she really wanted to live a little longer so she could actually get."
	Laurie was married in front of loved ones and friends.
Laurie Kahn:	" Mayo has been unbelievable in making this wedding happen. and when I say it takes a village, it took a village between Mayo and my family to get us down the aisle."
	And after a short honeymoon, she's channeled her energy into writing about her journey and providing advice for others who are living with terminal illness.
Laurie Kahn:	"One of the chapters in my blog is about all the positives. There's some pretty off-color, funny things in there. But I think you have to just get comfortable with your diagnosis, your medical team and take one day at a time."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepen