

Press Conference Statement

First, I would like to thank everyone for being here today. Also, I would like to thank Dr. Pomahac, for his great support of me and the wonderful doctor and person, he has been.

To all involved in my care - from that very first night following the attack - and my transplant surgery and in all of my after care, procedures and treatments, I appreciate all you have done.

The Brigham has been a place of real caring and support, I could not ask for any better.

To Round Table Company, Corey, Erin, Katie, Kristin and David for believing that my story should be told, for helping me with my book and supporting me when I needed it the most.

To my family and Sheldon, thank you never seems enough for all you have done. My deepest appreciation to each of you.

I have been on this incredible journey for the last 6 years, and receiving this wonderful gift, ends this chapter in my life. What a great way to move forward to what is in store for me now.

The Donor and her family have given me a tremendous gift making a significant difference in my quality of life at the daily level. They graciously relieved a significant amount of my physical pain and discomfort. I am forever grateful for that

I have learned so much about myself and about life and sharing it is not only a privilege but a necessity.

There is a lot to learn and take from horrific events that happen. I want others to know that they need not give up on healing themselves when tragedy strikes, but instead they can make a choice to find the good and allow that to help them heal.

Walking around with hate or misery in your heart is a choice and we all can find our way to happiness. I especially hope that the survivors of the Boston Marathon bombings will find the strength to move on from the senseless violence they have endured. I know from my own experience that it is possible.

Although I have been through what some may call hell, I found my way to my own happiness. I have faced each challenge - sometimes with my knees knocking - but I kept focused on what I wanted as an outcome.

I now am in a better place - mentally and emotionally – than I could ever have imagined 6 years ago.

I want to share my experiences with others so they may find that strength inside themselves to escape their own pain.

Recovery takes time and patience. Patience is a virtue that needs to be learned. I have learned that we have so much more control over our lives than we know. I am a living example that we have the power and the ability to overcome anything that happens to us.

Now that I am feeling much better, I plan to continue this next chapter doing what I have been waiting for- sharing my story for the benefit of others.

I hope those of you in this room will help me do just that! Thank you.