

Beyond the Test: Connecting Communities Through Pathology
Episode #2: The Visibility Gap: Part 1

Ranya Gabb (00:02)

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Konstandina Dulu (00:03)

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Ranya Gabb (00:11)

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Ranya Gabb (00:34)

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Ranya Gabb (00:49)

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Joanna Cermak (00:56)

Welcome back to Beyond the Test, Connecting Communities Through Pathology, a podcast from the CAP Foundation. Each episode explores how pathologists are helping bridge health disparities and improve outcomes around the world. In our last episode, we examined the diagnostic gap, how millions of patients still lack access to timely and accurate testing, and why the solutions require not only science, but also advocacy and visibility. In this episode, we'll shift focus to another critical issue.

the visibility gap, why pathologists essential work often goes unseen and unheard and how that affects patient care. To guide us through today's discussion, here's executive director of the CAP Foundation, Maya Ogden.

Maya Ogden (01:40)

Thank you, Joanna. Early detection saves lives. Across the country, new screening guidelines are expanding access. Breast cancer screenings now begins at age 40 and colorectal cancer at 45. But screening disparities remain sharp. For example, women without health insurance are much less likely to get a mammogram. Only about 50 % of uninsured women reported having a screening mammogram in the past two years.

compared to 83 % of women with private insurance. Cervical cancer screening is similarly uneven. According to the CDC, nearly one in four women in the US are not up to date on cervical cancer screening, an alarming gap, especially in underserved communities.

Meanwhile, the pathology workforce, the scientists behind every pap test, biopsy and molecular assay is under increasing strain. As cancer testing becomes more complex and as the population ages, the need for skilled pathologists grows even more urgent.

Against this backdrop, the CAP Foundation is bringing the science and the scientists closer to patients. Through See, Test, and Treat free cancer screenings connect women and men directly with pathologists, sometimes for the first time in their lives.

Maya Ogden (02:59)

In this episode, you'll hear from Diane Duggan, a patient who experienced our See Test and Treat program in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the CAP Foundation Board Director, Sara Herbek, the daughter of Dr. Jean Herbek, who founded See Test and Treat. Let's begin.

Sara Herbek (03:15)

Hi, Maya. Thanks so much for having me today. As you said, I'm Sara Herbek. I'm a legal operations consultant and immigration attorney here in Chicago, so not far away from CAP headquarters. And I've known about the CAP Foundation for, quite frankly, as long as I can remember. I decided to apply to become a board member after my father passed just to help carry on his legacy and become a more active participant in the See Test and Treat program. That started in January of 2022. That was my first board meeting, February, or I guess January, and we had our meeting in February. And it was a great introduction to the CAP Foundation and just being able to learn and understand over the last several years.

being involved with the Foundation, understanding the commitment to see, test, treat that not only the Foundation has, but also the CAP and all of the other programs that really highlight and support pathologists both in the United States and worldwide is pretty fantastic. And just being a very small part of that has been really rewarding and has become, you know, obviously

My father's legacy is something that I think about whenever we have a meeting or whenever making a donation or asking for money. But it's become so much more than that. I really believe in pathologists and really want to support them because they are so fundamental to health care in the United States and worldwide.

Maya Ogden (04:48)

Before we start the conversation, can you tell us a little bit about your own journey?

Sara Herbek (04:52)

Sure thing. So two years ago, I noticed a mole had changed on my arm, or the medically correct name, a lesion. And it had been a mole I'd had my entire life. And one day, it just started changing color. And I fortunately had made the commitment. One of the things I have committed to myself, especially after my father's passing, was going to the doctor.

and making sure that I had regular checkups. And went to the dermatologist, she removed them all, and it was discovered by two pathologists at Northwestern University that I had melanoma in C2. And fortunately, it was caught early enough such that I didn't have to have radiation or chemo, but I did have to two surgeries, a Mose procedure, and then ultimately sewing me back up.

And it was a much longer journey than I expected. But now I know my dermatologist very, very well. And every time I have a mole or a lesion removed, I know a pathologist is looking at it. And it was a very, when I received the diagnosis, it was one of those moments of, I can't believe this. I usually stay out of the sun as we are on video. As you can see, I'm not a sun worshiper.

for many reasons. But it just, it was sad not to have my dad to talk to him about it, to be a part of the diagnosis and to be a part of understanding what it meant for me on a day-to-day basis. And what it means for me on a day-to-day basis is head-to-toe sunscreen whenever I leave my home. And obviously seeing my dermatologist and...

through my dermatologists, pathologists, diagnosing whether or not I have cancer again, since I have had to have several moles removed since then. Fortunately, knock on wood, all is good. And it was just sort of reminder that he wasn't there. But fortunately, I have several friends who are pathologists and they were really able to walk me through the charts and the likes. So I'm very lucky.

that I have access to pathologists. I understand that is I'm lucky. I know who pathologists are. I know what they do. I might not understand how they do it, but I know what they do and how critical they are. they saved my life. And for that, I am eternally grateful every single day. And if you need any tips on sunscreen, let me know. I've got them all.

Maya Ogden (07:13)

Well, I know we at the Foundation are very grateful that your journey was a success and that everything for you has worked out thus far. But we know for many patients that isn't the case, that they're aware of who to see and when to see and what treatments to get. So I think it's best to hear from patients that have experience in this journey. So I'm going to turn it over to you and your interview with Diane.

Sara Herbek (07:40)

Okay. Well, first of all, I am so thrilled to be here with you today, Diane. I know that you participated in a See, Test and Treat in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in Boston. I, one, I'm so happy that you were able to participate in one. And I really want to know about your journey and how we got here today. So please enlighten us.

Diane Duggan (08:04)

Well, Sara, I want to say thank you for allowing me to tell my story and to your family for what you've all put into and creating the C-Test Treat program, which ultimately saved and changed my life. I found C-Test Treat quite by accident. I'd never heard of the program before. Right in 2021, I had gotten really sick with

Sara Herbek (08:25)

Okay.

Diane Duggan (08:31)

a chest infection or something that just wouldn't go away. And I'm a nanny. It is, there was a lot, I'm a nanny. I really didn't have great health insurance, actually had no health insurance. So my healthcare was if I'm sick, I go to, you know, Minute Clinic or urgent care, or if I'm really, really sick, I end up at an ER. So that had been my history for, you know, 30 years. And

Sara Herbek (08:34)

Hmm. That's scary.

you

Diane Duggan (08:57)

in touch with the Cambridge Health Alliance, they had called me up and said, hey, do you want to be part of this See, Test & Treat program? And I was like, sure. I mean, this sounds like a win-win opportunity to me.

Having access to health care that I had never had access to before, just I felt like I won the lottery, quite honestly. It was so great. At the same time, I felt quite nervous. which I think a lot of people feel because you're afraid of, what if there is something wrong? So, you know, I think a lot of people put off, you know, being, you know, being tested or being treated because they were afraid of what they might find. For me, I had absolutely no symptoms. There was nothing wrong with me. So I was happy to take part in this and I walked to the hospital. My first time in a hospital.

Sara Herbek (09:25)

Yeah.

Mm-hmm.

Diane Duggan (09:45)

And there was just this sea of amazing greeters dressed in the most beautiful, bright colors with the biggest smiles on their faces who were just like, hi, welcome, come, let me take care of you. And it just felt like the most magical day. And everybody was just kind and attentive and lovely and just willing to give up their time.

and willing, and there was so many women there who were just underinsured women who never had access to this kind of care before. And there was different languages, there was language barriers, but there was somebody there to help everybody. And it just felt like such a positive day. It changed my life completely. I mean, it's priceless.

Sara Herbek (10:31)

Ugh, that warms my heart. I'm so happy that your nerves go away. I get the hesitancy to be sure. I'm happy that you decided to care for yourself because I think that...

Diane Duggan (10:44)

Yes.

Sara Herbek (10:45)

people tend to forget to care for themselves first. And if you don't take care of yourself, you can't take care of others. And so that is, it's thrilling for me to hear that the intent and the goal of every program is to be welcoming and to calm fears and to provide education and information. And you felt that the moment you walked in.

Diane Duggan (11:05)

it was incredible. Incredible. The day you had access to so many things, you could get a mammogram, could get, you know, you could get blood tests, blood work done, could do, there was just everything that you could possibly want was available to you on that day. And everybody just held your hand and walked you through every process. Because for me, it was the first time that I had had a mammogram.

So I was quite nervous about that. You read all these horror stories that it's just so painful and it's just so invasive and so uncomfortable. But my goodness, the people who worked there were just angels who just went out of their way to make you feel important and cared for. And it was just a really, really special, special day. And I can't thank everyone enough.

Sara Herbek (11:28)

Okay.

Diane Duggan (11:55)

who participated, it was incredible. I went through all my testing. I was so happy to find out my cholesterol was perfect, my blood pressure was great. I just left that day skipping out of there feeling like, look at me, I'm so mature, I'm taking care of myself and this is great. I should also point out that when I was there, they actually helped me get health insurance. which I could not believe it. I have not had access to that in 30 years. And that was a process that they walked me through. And that in turn has helped me continue this healthcare journey for myself. After the See, Test & Treat program, I was contacted to say that they had found something in my mammogram and they needed me to come back and

Sara Herbek (12:21)

that's fantastic! Wow.

Diane Duggan (12:48)

Even that call, you know, it wasn't even scary. just felt very, you know, like people were competent or they knew what was going on and don't worry about it and, you know, come on back. And I went back and I was diagnosed with DCIS, which they had found really, really early. It was very, very treatable. Going through that process was incredible.

Just angels, I can't say enough. know, Dr. Moldrum was amazing, Dr. Cox, Dr. Lam. During the program, because I was young, they felt that I should go for genetic testing, which is something that's really difficult to get access to. So the fact that I was able to do that was a direct result of the program.

Sara Herbek (13:24)

Okay.

Mm-hmm.

Diane Duggan (13:33)

they found that I had a check two abnormality, which made me high risk, for certain cancers. So because of that, I was able to. become somebody who didn't just have a yearly mammogram, but I would have an MRI every six months. and then, you know, I'd have a MRI, have a mammogram and in all of those things, you know,

I feel just powerful because I know that early detected cancer is highly treatable, you know? And like, I didn't have any symptoms. I didn't have any lumps or, you know, dimples or discharge. I didn't have any of those things. So it was quite shocking to find this diagnosis. It was quite scary, but it just went so smoothly for me.

Sara Herbek (14:08)

Mm-hmm.

Right.

Diane Duggan (14:21)

you know, appointments were made. was just show up. People were loving and kind. And I had never had that type of health care. I just felt, loved and seen for the first time. And it was incredible. Absolutely an incredible, incredible day. Yeah. I'm so grateful to your, your dad and to your family. You know, this is a,

a really, really important program and not enough people have heard about it. So I really, I'm definitely an advocate now, I have all my Facebook posts, which is, check your breasts, make your mammograms, because it's so important. So yeah.

Sara Herbek (14:58)

Yep.

I would just like to say I'm thrilled to hear that you feel empowered, empowered in your health, empowered in taking care of yourself and really knowing what you need to feel the best Diane. There it is, so that's fantastic. At the beginning, you talked a little bit about how you would

Diane Duggan (15:20)

Thank you.

Sara Herbek (15:24)

care for yourself previously, minute clinics and in worst case scenarios, EER or things along those lines. How would you compare your experience at the minute clinics or your prior experience to that of See Test and TREAT?

Diane Duggan (15:39)

Well, night and day and no offense to MinuteClinic or Urgent Care, but if you show up and don't have insurance, you don't really have access to everything that should be available to you, right? If you don't have insurance, it's really difficult to get referrals for other things through other doctors. It felt quite frustrating to me.

Sara Herbek (15:50)

Okay.

Diane Duggan (15:59)

I felt very unseen and unheard. And it was just a lot of kind of...

Sara Herbek (16:02)

Mmm.

Diane Duggan (16:05)

disrespectful and it was a lot of money and it was kind of like, okay, you're out the door. And that's why I never did any preventative care before attending this program. I always went to see a doctor when I was really, really sick, And as a nanny, those little kids, I love them, but they are cesspools of germs. So, so.

Sara Herbek (16:27)

Yeah, they are.

Diane Duggan (16:29)

having some little thing. I mean, I have an amazing immune system because of that, but I always waited too long. one case I had walk-in pneumonia and I had a kidney infection, which I was only diagnosed because I thought it was gonna die. And I was brought to the ER. So I realized that's really just not a sustainable way to live. So when I...

Sara Herbek (16:32)

Right.

Right.

Mm.

Diane Duggan (16:55)

went to the See, Test & Treat program, I didn't have any expectations, I really wasn't sure, I wasn't really sure what the level of care was going to be, you know, mean, who, you know, what do you expect? But oh my goodness, there was so many people who just volunteered their time and just made everyone feel so comfortable and wonderful and,

Sara Herbek (17:07)

Mm-hmm.

Diane Duggan (17:20)

It's one of the most, it's one of my most favorite days of my entire life. And people don't really understand that, but the feeling of finally just, having professionals, medical professionals take care of you and be happy to treat you and happy to listen to you. And you knowing that, that, that whatever they find they're going to help you with was just, my gosh, like a breath of fresh air.

Sara Herbek (17:35)

Mm-hmm.

Diane Duggan (17:46)

You know, it just felt like, finally. And I felt like, a real person because it always felt kind of weird. You know, when you go to CVS and you're an in-minute clinic and you don't have insurance and it just feels like so, like you're doing something wrong, like it just feels kind of like, Ooh, I shouldn't be, I shouldn't be here, but this program my goodness. mean,

It was the best care, the best care. And that's why I advocate for this program so much because until you've been through an experience where

It doesn't matter how much money you have. doesn't matter how big your house is. Doesn't matter what car you drive. If you are sick, you can't do anything and nothing else matters. So your health is so, so, important, And I think that ~ people don't realize, how scary that journey can be when you are faced with something.

Sara Herbek (18:22)

Right.

Right.

Diane Duggan (18:41)

But going through it with these people and these doctors and all this help was just, my goodness, it was fantastic for me. I think honestly, my family are sick of me talking about it because I just talk about it all the time. Like, do you remember, can you believe that it's been this many years? And I still get a Christmas card from everyone who took care of me at that hospital during that program. I mean, is that not wonderful?

it's so wonderful. They're kind, beautiful people. And every time I go for a mammogram, it's the same faces and they remember you and they remember your story. And it's just wonderful.

Sara Herbek (19:07)

Yeah.

So empowered, seen, heard, and acknowledged, and welcomed. So it was a safe space for you.

Diane Duggan (19:20)

empowered. Yes. Yes. Yes.

such a safe space. And I could see there was a lot of, there was a lot of different nationalities. There was a lot of different age groups. There was a lot of different, just a lot of different people. But the thing that we all had in common was I think there was a sense of relief.

that you could finally just take care of yourself and know whatever was ahead of you. These people were competent and these people were gonna help you. And that is just, my gosh. mean, that's magical to feel that way.

Sara Herbek (19:59)

Yeah.

You're an advocate. You didn't have to ask for help. They were just there to help. That's it.

Diane Duggan (20:03)

there and they asked

the right questions and they held your hand and they explained everything from the minute you walked in. They just explained everything that was going to happen to you, you know, and it was like, I don't know, it just felt so warm and loving and I mean, I can't believe I'm really talking about this, because it's a medical thing. know, you're being tested for all kinds of things.

Sara Herbek (20:23)

Right, right, fair, fair, I get it.

Diane Duggan (20:28)

but it just was so fun is not the right, it was so fun, but it was just a lovely day, it really, really was. And I did the program, so my program was in October in 2021. That was the See, Test & Treat program that I was lucky to be a part of. And in November, which was, I think it was like early November, so maybe two weeks later,

They called to say that there was something and they needed me to come back in. So I came back in two weeks later and they did a biopsy. And again, everything was explained beforehand. Everyone was just lovely. And then they confirmed that it was very early, stage one DCIS, and that it was very, very treatable. And then a week after that,

Sara Herbek (20:53)

Mm-hmm.

Okay.

Diane Duggan (21:16)

I got to go and have an appointment with my doctor, with Dr. Moldrum, and she kind of explained what was about to happen. And the thing too that's amazing about this program is I did not have to schedule one appointment. Every appointment was just made for me because I was in this incredible program. And I think that, people recognize in the program that you've never been through the healthcare system.

You don't have a primary care doctor. You don't know, like, who should I talk to if this is going on? Like, who do I talk to if I have this, weird bump? Like, is that the same doctor? You don't know because you haven't been, you haven't had the privilege of healthcare. And that's what healthcare is. know, it shouldn't be a privilege. It should be available to everybody on the same level, but unfortunately, that's not the country we live in right now.

Sara Herbek (22:01)

Mm-hmm.

Diane Duggan (22:08)

But I went, they walked me through everything. then let me think, I think it was, so that was October, November was the biopsy. Two weeks later, I had the doctor's visit where they told me what was gonna happen. A week after that, I went for genetic testing. ~ And then two weeks later, my surgery was scheduled. I mean, so it was, was, the program was October.

Sara Herbek (22:26)

Wow.

Wow.

Diane Duggan (22:33)

diagnosed in November, I had the surgery in December, and then I had to have 20 rounds of radiation. Luckily, I didn't have to do chemo. So it started my radiation, which was another wonderful experience. I did that at the Mount Auburn Hospital with Dr. Lam and all of her amazing people over there. So that was five days a week. Luckily for me, I was able to

go to work right after, because I was healthy and it really wasn't too awful for me. And I know that I'm one of the lucky ones. I have several friends who are really struggling right now, which is the other scary thing. There's a lot of young people who are dying because they didn't get preventative care. They didn't go to see their doctor.

Sara Herbek (23:01)

Mm-hmm.

Mm-hmm.

Right.

Diane Duggan (23:24)

And then by the time the symptoms showed up so badly, it was too late. So you have people who, if we just spread the word about, please, please, please go get tested, go get checked, be your own voice, even if you have no symptoms, go make that doctor's appointment because you know, science is incredible. And the, and the things that have changed in the past 15 years is just like remarkable, I mean,

Sara Herbek (23:37)

Mm-hmm.

Diane Duggan (23:48)

I just, I can't say enough about it. Can you tell I love this program?

Sara Herbek (23:52)

Yeah,

Joanna Cermak (23:53)

Let's take a quick break and we'll be right back.

Ranjana Paintal (24:00)

Hi, I'm Ranjana, the program manager for the CAP Foundation's See, Test and Treat program. See, Test and Treat is a CAP Foundation-supported, one-day, pathologist-led screening and health education program that brings the power of diagnostic medicine to medically underserved populations. These programs save lives and empower communities through early detection. Learn more and find out how you can support See, Test and Treat at foundation.cap.org. Together we can close the gap.

Sara Herbek (24:40)

being the daughter of a pathologist and friends with many pathologists, what do you think of pathologists now?

Diane Duggan (24:44)

Yes.

I mean, can I be honest and kind of make myself sound ridiculous or quite silly is that I had no idea what a pathologist did before this program. I had no clue, And now it's like, ~ my gosh, I mean, are they angels on earth? I mean, yes. I mean, they should be the ones who are being, you know, rock stars, you know, they're the Taylor Swift of the medical field, you know? I mean, yeah, they are.

Sara Herbek (24:49)

Yeah.

Yep.

Yep.

Yeah they are.

Diane Duggan (25:11)

Yeah, they're saving lives every day and I don't think they get enough thanks, which, but isn't that everyone in the medical field? No one gets enough thanks, because the patient is like dealing with all of these crazy emotions and you're, you don't even think about saying, Hey, thank you so much. Thank you. So I do want to say that to all the pathologists and the doctors and everyone involved. Thank you because you saved my life.

Sara Herbek (25:18)

Yeah. Yeah.

Mm-hmm.

Diane Duggan (25:37)

You know, you really did. I probably would not have had a mammogram until I had turned 50. And that would have been, five years later. So who knew when, or how much the cancer would have progressed. And

also I had a colonoscopy because I was in this program and introduced to healthcare where they found a polyp and it was removed. I've also had a skin cancer, a basal cell on my face taken care of.

Sara Herbek (25:43)

Yeah.

Right.

Mm-hmm.

Mm-hmm.

Diane Duggan (26:04)

I've had, a weird gland thingy removed. This is all because of that program. So it didn't just, save me from breast cancer. It saved me from, a possible, you know, colon cancer or a skin cancer. it is just that the ripple down effect of this program is just remarkable.

and it's made me reach out to all my family and friends and make sure that they too are on top of their healthcare. And, I've also been lucky enough. I've had several friends who have, called me up and said, Hey, you know, I have a mammogram and they found a lump and I'm so worried and and I'm able to talk to them about, I know it's scary, but you have professionals who deal with this every day and they know exactly what they're doing. And you have a yearly mammogram.

Sara Herbek (26:49)

Mm-hmm.

Diane Duggan (26:51)

So even if this lump is not what you want it to be, it's early and it's treatable and you're gonna be okay. And I think that's what everyone needs to know. It's please, please, please take care of yourself. Don't worry about things. it's worse just sitting at home worrying about it. Just go, go, go, go. And I mean, that's my story.

Sara Herbek (27:09)

Right.

I think one of the things I love, thank you first and foremost. Thank you for sharing. Thank you for your transparency. Thank you for laying it all out there for people to be informed and to understand why See, Test & Treat is the gateway, right? So this was your gateway to a connection to care and a connection to feeling supported and

Diane Duggan (27:27)

Mm-hmm.

Yes.

Sara Herbek (27:43)

in knowing that while you can be your own advocate, you know, we're all adults here, but you had the advocacy piece there to help with the comfort level upon your first kind of entering into the hospital for the first time, as you said. And that I think is just, I'm thrilled to hear that one, you've committed to taking care of yourself, that's yay, number one.

Diane Duggan (27:58)

Right, yes.

Yay! Yup.

Sara Herbek (28:10)

And number two, you're getting the care that you need and that you deserve.

Diane Duggan (28:14)

Thank you. I'll also say this one last thing too. It's made me feel very empowered in the rest of my life because I feel like if I was able to go through this, deal with this, come out the other end, being better than ever, there's nothing that I can't face. it's remarkable.

Sara Herbek (28:22)

Yep.

Diane Duggan (28:34)

Can I ask you a question? What do you think that your dad would think about the See, Test & Treat program today?

Sara Herbek (28:35)

Sure thing.

I think that he would be thrilled to know that it's ongoing. He kicked off the program over 20 years ago at Standing Rock Reservation outside of Rosebud, South Dakota with a small group of pathologists and CAP staff and just started something so, so small where they had identified women who were not being seen.

being treated and not being tested or I reverse that, seen, tested and treated. And they did the research and I like to think of it, my dad was always such an advocate for pathologists. He fundamentally loved his job, wanted to work for the rest of his life, which ultimately happened, and was also surrounded by women.

Diane Duggan (29:34)

Hehehehehe

Sara Herbek (29:34)

And so

myself, my mom, my sister, and my niece, he believed in caring for people who needed care and having people gain access. And the fact that it started small and has been able to grow and we're in different states and allowing for women to feel comfortable.

when seeing a doctor, you know, I have known to advocate for myself. I, that's just something, one, I'm an attorney, so there you go, but also growing up and knowing that I had to do this, having a program where then you can walk in, maybe feeling nervous, maybe feeling a little bit scared and unsure as to what the day is going to hold and be embraced and welcomed.

Diane Duggan (30:06)

Hehehehe

Yes.

Sara Herbek (30:24)

where you can just take a deep breath and know that as a result of this, at least I'm gonna know. At the very least, I'm going to know. But then it's getting health insurance, it's connection to care, it's getting treatment, it's generally feeling more empowered, and then sharing your story, not only with us, but with your family and your friends to help other women benefit from this program.

Diane Duggan (30:27)

Yes.

Sara Herbek (30:49)

It would be check all the winning boxes. What I think my dad had hoped for so many years ago that it's it's happening. It continues to happen. Patients women like you are seen, tested and treated and done so in a way that we should expect. ~ You know, again, empowered, heard, seen, advocated for all the things that you would hope. Medical care brings.

Diane Duggan (31:06)

Yes.

Yes.

Sara Herbek (31:15)

it's brought to you And I'm just, I'm honored to have you share your story with me, holding the tears back and just delighted that your life has been impacted so positively by See, Test and Treat.

Diane Duggan (31:21)

No.

Sara Herbek (31:31)

and you're a voice and an advocate for it. I honestly, cannot thank you enough for your support of See, Test and Treat, not only your participation, but your support, because that matters. Having individuals like you who have been there, done that, and can attest to your experience and to your care and just in such a exuberant.

personality and lovely story

Diane Duggan (32:01)

you will not regret a second of your time that you give up to be involved in this program in any aspect of it as a patient, as a volunteer, as just a remarkable program. And I wish more people knew about it. And that's why I'm never going to stop talking about it.

Thank you guys for having me today and letting me share my story. And I hope that other people will be inspired and they're going to want to have this amazing health journey for themselves.

Sara Herbek (32:30)

Thank you, Diane. Thank you so much. I'm just, yeah. Thank you so much. Thank you for your time and again, for telling your story. It's fantastic.

Diane Duggan (32:33)

Thank you.

My pleasure.

Maya Ogden (32:40)

Today's conversation highlights a powerful truth. Closing the visibility gap requires pathologists and patients to stand together. When patients meet the professionals behind the microscope, they gain clarity, confidence, and empowerment. And when pathologists step into the spotlight, their essential role in care becomes undeniable. I want to thank Sara and Diane for being a part of this conversation. Joanna, you want to close us out?

Joanna Cermak (33:08)

Since 2011, more than 110 See, Test and Treat programs have connected over 9,200 patients across the US with free breast and cervical cancer screenings. In the last three years alone, over 90 % of patients served were uninsured or underinsured, yet every single person received the care and follow-up they needed, no matter their ability to pay. The impact speaks for itself.

18 % of breast and 7 % of cervical cancer screenings detected abnormalities. And every one of those patients was connected to a diagnostic follow-up. Beyond the tests, the change runs deeper. 89 % of patients now understand why screening matters and how often to get checked. Over 90 % feel more comfortable going to the doctor and nearly 98 % feel confident that they stay on track with annual screenings.

This is what happens when access meets compassion. This is See, Test and Treat.

The CAP Foundation's See, Test and Treat program is just one way we're helping close the visibility gap by bringing pathologists face to face with the people whose lives depend on timely, accurate diagnosis. You can find more information about See, Test and Treat, how to donate, and this episode's guests in the show notes. To learn more, visit foundation.cap.org.

Be sure to follow and subscribe so you don't miss future episodes. Until next time my friends, I'm Joanna and thank you for listening.