

TESTIMONIALS

“I felt a flood of emotions as I read this, happy because I didn’t feel so alone in my fears, sad because I had lost so many I love, guilty because I am alive and healthy, worried that I might be next tomorrow, and a feeling of déjà vu with many of the experiences shared. I only hope and pray that [this book] can help other women who are as frightened as little girls when they ask, Am I next...?”

Bonnie S. • Texas, USA

“In the decade since the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes were discovered, much has been written about the medical, scientific and legal issues raised by the discovery of these genes. In her book, *Am I Next In Line?*, Monique Achtman writes candidly about the roller coaster experience of finding out that she is at high risk for breast and ovarian cancer. She explores deeply personal issues that many of us can identify with: fear, grief, loss, difficult decisions and painful choices. Monique tells her story with courage and honesty. Her book will raise awareness and stimulate public discussion about these important issues. Thank you, Monique, for sharing your journey with us.”

*Joanne Riediger-Duebel, President
Hereditary Breast & Ovarian Cancer Society of Alberta*

“This book is a riveting personal journey into taking a proactive role in your health care. The story is poignant, uplifting and captures the emotional struggles and medical decisions faced by every woman who is told that she has a high risk for hereditary cancer. An important book with an important moral!”

*Sue Friedman, DVM, Executive Director, FORCE:
Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered • Tampa, FL*

“This is a fascinating book, well written, heartfelt, and courageous. As a person with a family history of breast cancer, I felt it raised issues I hadn’t ever considered. It will be a helpful resource for many people: for those who have survived cancer, for those who have a family history of genetically transmitted diseases, and for those who are agonizing about BRCA gene testing.”

Marilynne Lambert, MA, RSW • Bonnyville, Canada

“This is a truly remarkable and eminently readable account of your journey. I am sure that it will be very helpful to many people. It was a pleasure to meet you and read this journal.”

Renée Martin, PhD, FCCMG, Medical Genetics • Calgary, Canada

“A smart, practical book from someone who’s been there. Monique is generous with her insight into the personal and ethical issues surrounding gene testing and treatment. Part of the new breed of super-informed patients, Monique guides with hope and clear thinking through some of [her] life’s most difficult, yet necessary choices.”

Brian Cohen, B.A., LL.B, B.C.L. • Toronto, Canada

“...It is a wonderful, sincere sharing of a unique life experience. It should be of interest to a wide range of people – not just those who might share your situation, but to any who want to understand what it means to have to live close to cancer.”

Ellis Bartkiewicz • Calgary, Canada

“I’m an hour into it and I just wanted to tell you this is very good!”

Debbie Elicksen • Calgary, Canada

“Congratulations on confronting your fears, investigating your family history and making an informed decision for your own health and peace of mind! I was thrown into this same journey through a diagnosis of breast cancer. My family physician referred me for genetic counseling as there is a very strong pattern of cancer, particularly breast cancer, in my family. I am currently awaiting gene test results so that I can make proactive decisions for my own health and inform my children and extended family for their protection. I admire your candor and openness in writing this book for others to share.”

Leslie Choquette, Breast Cancer Survivor • Calgary, Canada

“Monique Achtman, a loving wife and mother in the prime of her life, was faced with the decisions to have BRCA gene testing and prophylactic surgery to remove, as she puts it, much of what physically made her a woman. With courage and candor, she shares her story in these pages in the hope that others at risk for hereditary breast and ovarian cancer will find peace of mind as they examine their options.”

Warren Harbeck, Ph.D. • Cochrane, Canada

“... Your focus on the consequences of gene testing, the options available to someone carrying a breast cancer gene mutation and the implications of those choices for other family members, was extremely timely, thought provoking and enlightening. The students were remarkably engaged, and your presentation stimulated dynamic and insightful discussion with the students.”

Dr. Alex Wellington • Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada

“Am I Next In Line is an essential resource for anyone with a history of cancer in their family. It should become recommended reading for medical students and health care professionals as a useful and instructive tool in developing communication techniques towards informed decision-making and compassionate objectivity.”

Joyce Robbins and Jacqueline Robbins • Calgary, Canada“

Monique Achtman covers the issues facing the BRCA children, the first generation to deal with certain knowledge of their cancer genes.”

Pamela Weintraub, Mamm – Women, Cancer and Community