

MELISSA PURYEAR



Melissa Puryear is a breast cancer survivor. She opted for a mastectomy to prevent the risk of a future cancer diagnosis.

In December 2016 she had Allergan Natrelle Inspira Gummies placed under the muscle, which had not yet met FDA clearance.

From the very beginning of her mastectomy, to expanders, to implants there was a noticeable discomfort when it came to breathing. Even worse, she was in and out of the hospital from that point on because her breast implants had sensitized her, and those immune sensitivities only became worse.

By the fall of 2020 it was obvious her health was in severe decline, and she moved cross country to be nearer to her mother. By Spring 2021, only two weeks prior to a scheduled enbloc explant, she was dying. She was admitted to a VA Hospital ICU where they stabilized her, after her heart was flatlining. The ER doctor and the ICU doctor were conflicted as to the cause. They were unaware about sensitization, and toxicity overload, or heart arrhythmias and dangers that women experience with breast implants.

Melissa did not need a doctor's opinion to know what her body intuitively was telling her; get those implants out!

She had been living a slow toxic death for 4 years and 4 months, although prior to that she had enjoyed perfect health.

Her close call with death prompted her on a search for truth, transparency, and justice. "Women deserve to lead better quality lives after being diagnosed with breast cancer, and AFC is the Gold Standard for recovery for women who want to take the most curative route to breast or chest health. And for women who might be tempted to get breast implants, they should be made aware of the aggressively, unrealistic, and misleading lifelong expectations that are there by design. Manufacturers have programmed women since youth to adopt a positive opinion of breast implants. It's only a matter of financing and bravado that becomes the tipping point for women who want them. But women deserve facts, not fantasy," says Melissa.

"Every truth is a needle in a haystack. It's important we find them. Improvement and change in health outcomes, and troubling circumstances that plague women are avoidable. If we are to prevent any new victims, by finding what they [manufacturers] try to hide, we have to diligently sift through every study, pamphlet, interview, log, and then some," says Melissa.

Melissa met Robyn over a phone conversation after Robyn shared on Facebook about an upcoming FDA trip about new legislation regarding the Black Box Warning. Melissa became instantly intrigued with the team of women who were showing a united front against breast implant misinformation. She promised Robyn she would help in whatever capacity she could when she regained her health. Melissa kept that promise and joined GPAC as an investigator in 2022, using her journalism and communication experience to bring awareness to these devices that pose an incalculable risk.

