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Cancer Survivors Association (<https://www.kansersavascilari.org/>)

I received my BA in Public Relations and Promotion at Ege University in 2008 and completed a MA in Marketing Communications at Istanbul Bilgi University in 2011. I worked as Marketing Communications Specialist at KüçükÇiftlik Park and Assicurazioni Generali transferred me as Head of Italian Desk & Communication. After I switched the company and worked for Legrand as Corporate Communications Manager.



In 2023 I defended my doctoral thesis with the title; A Dialectic Relationship between Discourses of Cancer of Newspapers and Survivors in Türkiye. I am a lecturer, researcher, editor and blogger of Bezelye Dergi. I am also a proud member of Koç University Ethics Committees such as; Ethics Committee for Clinical Research, Ethics Committee for Biomedical Sciences and Ethics Committee for Social Sciences., a volunteer and a board Member of Cancer Survivors Association. I am responsible for the events and the communication needs of the Association. "I was diagnosed with adenoid cystic carcinoma (ACC) in 2014. I underwent various surgeries in the head and neck area and received radiation therapy in 2015. Shortly after receiving the cancer diagnosis, I volunteered to work for a non-governmental organization. In the following years, due to fibrotic tissue pain resulting from radiation therapy, I also underwent various tissue transplants and reconstructive surgeries. Due to the costs of the cancer treatments, my company, which no longer wanted to cover my private health insurance, terminated my employment. I experienced that there is much to be done in terms of patient rights and human rights. Thus I decided to pursue my doctoral education in the field of health communication in 2017. In 2023 I defended my doctoral thesis on cancer discourse in the media. Now, I am a part-time lecturer at the university where I graduated in Istanbul. Meanwhile, I continue to do my academic research on cancer communication. I aim to explore different approaches related to the cancer I am affected by. As an individual living with such a rare cancer, it is necessary to cope with the psychosocial challenges caused by treatments. Therefore, I believe that we need to support each other in this field. It is very difficult to obtain the data on how many people in the countries are affected by this type of cancer, whether people have access to treatments, and what processes people go through. I hope we can create country maps for salivary gland cancer.

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