



# Sean O'Donnell

I am doing the *Ride with Lance* because it is an opportunity to give something back and make a difference. I live a happy, privileged life and am blessed with good health. The ride is an opportunity to share some of my good fortune with people who may not be so lucky. Like many people, cancer has also touched me personally.

In 2003 my brother Dajan was diagnosed with a form of cancer, a Desmoid tumor. Since then he has undergone two major surgeries. His most recent operation took over 19 hours, removed a substantial part of his chest, abdominal wall and part of his thigh. Unfortunately the tumors have come back and he is currently taking medication to stall their growth. During Dajan's toughest times we became aware of the Lance Armstrong Foundation and all the great work it does. Many of us, Dajan's friends and family, support his foundation and wear his yellow wristbands with pride.



If you were to see Dajan now you would never know. He continues to work at his job as a scientist for a major pharmaceutical company while raising his daughter Natasha and sharing the responsibility of a new family with his girlfriend Lys and her 3 children. My brother's determination and courage have enabled him to pursue his athletic endeavors, hobbies and live a happy, active life. On a given day, he will bike 40-50 km, hike Mont Tremblant, and then proceed to give me a proper thrashing in a tennis match.

Throughout Dajan's ordeal we have been consistently impressed with the doctors, nurses and staff at the Montreal General Hospital. They are extremely caring and professional, for which my family and I will always be grateful. But our facilities need more funding; money that will help to ensure the highest quality of patient care, the ability to attract new doctors and continue to do leading edge research in Montreal. The *Ride with Lance*, supporting the Cedar Cancer Institute of the MUHC is a very important step in ensuring that this funding exists and that is why I am participating.

In August I turned 50. My girlfriend Annie who is expecting our 2<sup>nd</sup> child any day now, threw me a beautiful birthday party which several of my friends attended. Instead of gifts I asked my friends to make a donation in my name to the *Ride with Lance* so I could offer Dajan a chance to ride amongst the peloton. Unfortunately he will not be able to make the ride so I will be attempting it in his honor. After all, he bought me my first real road bike and I certainly wouldn't want to let him down now!

*Together, the Best Care for Life*



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