

DOSSIER DE PRESSE

Laurette Fugain

Against leukemias, fighting together for life



**FIGHTING AGAINST LEUKEMIAS
(AND BLOOD CANCERS)**

« Say, Mom, do you think that people who pass by on the street know that we need them? »

THE STORY OF LAURETTE

"It all began in July 2001 when I learned that my daughter Laurette was suffering with a form of blood cancer, leukemia. The war was declared. 11 months of fighting, of revolt, of treatments, doubts, hope... until that day of May 2002 when Laurette is carried away by this revolting disease named leukemia.

During her hospitalization, my daughter noticed with amazement **the lack of information on blood donation, platelet donation bone marrow donation.**

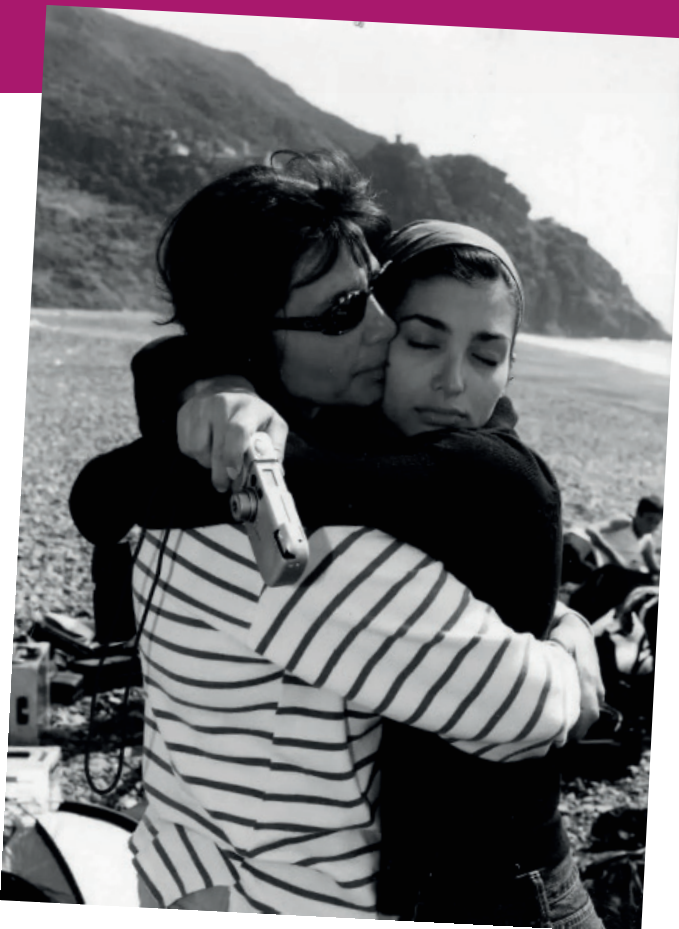
"Mom, do you think that people who pass by in the street know that we need them?"

I remember this sentence and her desire, once she was cured, to bring that message to as many people as possible. With her I realize the urgency hidden behind each patient with blood cancer.

May 2002. Anesthetized by the pain caused by his departure, **I want to make sense to this nonsense.** His words come back to me, **waiting for platelet bags, for a bone marrow donor, for a treatment.** Waiting in the face of urgency. To lead the fight that Laurette had imagined became obvious.

In September 2002, I founded the association Laurette Fugain".

Stéphanie Fugain
Founder
Association Laurette Fugain



Laurette Fugain, the association that fights against leukemia and blood cancers, has been leading this fight on a daily basis since 2002. *It is in homage to Laurette and for all those who are today affected by this disease that we have created this association, to make everyone, and especially young people, aware that giving blood, platelets, plasma, bone marrow can save lives, to make this gesture a natural act of citizenship. Few know that each one of us can help patients suffering from leukemia or cancer to fight their disease, simply by giving a little bit of life. This awareness still happens too often only when we are confronted with the disease.*

Faced with this inconceivable lack of communication, it is first of all the need to lead this fight to inform on life giving, which gathered the founding members around the association Laurette Fugain when created in September 2002.

Given the tremendous support that has developed around the association (public, media, doctors...), the mission has gradually opened up to help medical research as well as actions for patients and their relatives, in order to have a global action on the theme of leukemia and hematological diseases.

IN A FEW FIGURES

- **350** volunteers
- **6 branches** : Paris, Bordeaux, Lille, Lyon, Toulouse, Guadeloupe, Reunion Island
- **4 strong values** : Ethics, Efficiency, Transparency, Happiness to act

The association Laurette Fugain is committed for :

SUPPORTING FINANCIALLY MEDICAL RESEARCH

Laurette Fugain is a major French funder of medical research for children and adults about blood and bone marrow cancers, and actively supports researchers (awards, grants) :

- **End of 2021, 202 medical research projects** financed for more than 9.5 million €
- **A minimum €500,000 per year** dedicated to pediatric and adult research
- **A renowned Scientific and Medical Board of 20 experts in haematology** (doctors, researchers...)
- **The Laurette Fugain Award** rewards young researchers for the excellence of their research
- **The Young Researchers Grant** allows promising researchers to attend significant international scientific conferences



HELPING PATIENTS AND THEIR RELATIVES

The association Laurette Fugain provides accompaniment, support and comfort to patients, former patients and their families. Many projects are financed within the services to facilitate daily life:

Equipment for patients and families rooms: tablets and computer against isolation, static bike against muscle loss, extra beds for families, gifts, etc. ;

Funding of **workshops** (art and musical therapies, socio-esthetic, etc.) ;

Innovative projects : telepresence robot (No Isolation), virtual reality, physical activity...

The charity support caregivers (accommodation, 2nd free medical opinion on the treatment protocol, legal and social advice programs, discussion groups, forum) and **health care teams** (grants, state-of-the-art trainings, renovation of rooms...).



RECRUITING DONORS

Laurette Fugain raises awareness regarding donation issues (**blood, platelets, plasma, bone marrow, umbilical cord blood**), and helps to boost donations.

Through all its actions, the association seeks to raise awareness so that one day there will be enough donors so that patients will no longer wait. In a concrete way, the association implements the public awareness to the gifts of life by the following actions:

- Annual organization of **major media events**.
- **Interventions within companies**, which represent an excellent opportunity to get the message across to the working population.
- **Specific attention to projects targeting education** regarding donation issues, particularly with young people and future adults in schools.
- Participation in **sporting events** (Paris Marathon...) on the common values of the gifts of Life.
- Actions carried out with **institutions** and public authorities, which have been the object of a follow-up and in-depth work (follow-up of the measures of the successive Cancer Plans and Bone Marrow Transplant Plan, involvement in numerous working groups on the theme of pediatric research, participation in parliamentary think tanks, etc.).
- Annual organization of **the Rendez-vous Laurette Fugain**; a new and free event open to all. A day of discussions and sharing of experiences bringing together patients, former patients, relatives, doctors, pharmacists, caregivers and researchers.



LEUKAEMIA

WHAT IS LEUKAEMIA?

Leukemia is a cancer of the blood and bone marrow that affects about 250,000 people worldwide each year and causes about **5,000 deaths in France, mostly in children and the elderly**. Leukemia is neither hereditary nor contagious. **Each of us can be affected.**

HOW TO TREAT IT?

The treatment is mainly done by chemotherapy, in several courses, each of which can last more than a month in hospital. **The purpose of chemotherapy is to "clean" the bone marrow of all diseased cells.** However, once administered, it kills all cells without distinction (good and bad). **The patient is then left with no immune system.** During this period, the patient is **weakened against infections** and can easily bleed. For this reason, **transfusion support in platelets and red blood cells is necessary.**

It takes several weeks for the patient's bone marrow to make cells again in the first few weeks after chemotherapy. **Until the patient recovers, voluntary blood and platelet donors are needed.**

BLOOD DONATIONS

Throughout your life, you can be useful and help save lives!

BLOOD, PLASMA AND PLATELET DONATIONS

Donation is not painful and there is no risk to the donor.

All you have to do is make an appointment with the French Blood Establishment nearest you (www.dondusang.net).

BONE MARROW DONATION

Bone marrow transplantation may offer the only hope for a cure. Success depends on the match between the donor and the patient. To increase the chances of recovery for the many patients waiting for transplants, the international file must be expanded and rejuvenated regularly.

To register you must be 35 years old or younger and contact the Agence de la Biomédecine or the Etablissement Français du Sang closest to your home (www.dondemoelleosseuse.fr).





HOW TO HELP US?

SUPPORT one of the leading funders of pediatric and adult medical research against blood cancers (the association Laurette Fugain is authorized to receive legacies).

BECOME a blood, platelet, plasma, bone marrow and umbilical cord blood donor to help patients find hope again.

ACT to bring support and comfort to patients and their relatives.

JOIN US as a volunteer or partner.

CONTACT US contact@laurettefugain.org

MORE INFO : www.laurettefugain.org

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