

Georges Needs a Kidney Part 3.1

If you're new to this series, you may want to read the first two installments,

<http://tinyurl.com/kh6bdk> is part one where I explain how I got involved and part 2 was published in the AHNA April News & Views at

<https://tinyurl.com/lgn44zp>

At the end of the second article I had completed taking a battery of blood tests (16 in all) to check for my compatibility and basic health. At the time I wrote it, I hadn't received the results. Now I have. The good news is that I passed all of the 16 except the compatibility test. I am not a direct match for Georges. This will be good news when we find another pair that we can exchange with.

But it turns out that the blood tests are not the whole story. The next step was what is called a 24-hour urine test. If you really want the details you can always google it. Suffice it to say it's a way of being sure both that my kidneys are good enough to give and that I can spare one. This may not be the way they say it, but it's the way I see it.

There are two other requirements that they have, a general physical in the last 12 months and a colonoscopy in the last 10 years. So I've been medically busy over the last 30 days and I'm pleased to report that all my medical papers are now in order and I am still a contender. Which is to say that I'm ready for the final test or rather series of tests. This is where I schedule a day at the hospital that includes meeting with Georges' doctors getting a stress test, a CAT Scan and I'm sure much more that I'll be able to describe more accurately after it's over.

On the one hand this could seem like an awful lot to go through without knowing for sure that in the end I'll be able to donate a kidney that will result in Georges getting one. On the other hand, I am impressed with the effort that goes into making sure that the chances of success are as high as humanly possible. No one wants anything less than an ideal outcome. That requires patience.

The sub-title of this article is 3.1 because part 3 was written for those who do not know Georges, to address the question "why Georges?". Suffice it to say that I believe he will do far more good for the world with a functioning kidney than I could do with two.

The next battery of tests still has to be scheduled, so I'll update again when that's completed.

Bernie Michel

