

My name is (Thomasa) Tommi Craddock. I became severely ill in 2006 changing my life forever. After 16 Doctors, 8 months later, no diagnosis, although obviously ill my issues were dismissed. We went to Arizona Mayo Clinic where Valley Fever was diagnosed, even though my many local doctors had previously denied this. Due to length of being undiagnosed, my lung was left damaged. Treatment helped but still I remained ill with no support from the medical community.

I obtained my records to study them- thyroid nodules were noted from a previous near two year old CT scan, although never mentioned. The radiologist failed to note them in the summary, causing several doctors to miss it. My specialist said nodules were nothing to worry about. Unsatisfied, I fought doctors and insurance for a biopsy. Thyroid cancer was found and had spread. Radiation, and parathyroid removal could have been avoided had cancer been found earlier. The entire thyroid was to be removed, but the message from the oncologist was lost. Weeks later, more ill than before, I had to endure a second brutal surgery due to a broken Las Vegas Health care system; sadly, my health improved only slightly. Our health insurance of \$1300 a month couldn't provide the help needed locally, so back to Mayo Clinic which cost over \$11,000 in total out of pocket, we finally had a partial diagnosis of a Dysautonomia, a dysfunctional autonomic system affecting my entire body. More testing and money was needed to find the cause.

All the local testing brought a letter from the CDC noting I was possibly exposed to HIV and Hepatitis C during an endoscopy at Dr. Dsai's office. Thankfully, I was negative for the disease.

During this time, I was also fighting to help my son who had been ill for a few years. He had a common autoimmune disorder, although aggressive, it was also missed for several years and diagnosed as stress. Due to his illness being left undiagnosed for so long, he had to have radical surgery out of state, due to not having proper care here, which almost cost him his life two years ago.

Years of mostly bed bound, I was finally helped via an internet blog. Mast cell Activation! MCAS is under the umbrella of Mastocytosis, making me susceptible to constant histamine release, flu like symptoms, anaphylactic episodes, etc. producing a low quality of life. Although I had abnormal test results, more doctors missed the diagnosis. One allergist tested further and found the official diagnosis of Mast Cell Activation, but admitted he was not an expert. Not able to fly, we drove to Boston for the specialist. Ehlers Danlos, which can go with Mast Cell Activation, causing pain and cervical instability for me was found as well. Almost seven years of searching, I was able to start treatment. It should not have taken this long especially with the price we were paying for health insurance. For a large metropolis, it's obvious to see that our city is severely lacking in the realm of health care.

I'm an advocate for Mast Cell Activation, Pots, and EDS. Since my diagnosis, I have recognized the disease in several people upon chance meetings or patients reaching

out to me with rare symptoms here in Las Vegas, whom ended up being diagnosed by my doctor in California. But due to overwhelming numbers of patients with Mast Cell Activation, he can no longer take new patients. This is sad for the many undiagnosed and needing care, mostly too weak to fight for themselves and that is why I'm here today to ask you to please recognize the broken medical system we have here in Las Vegas, and to bring back the Nevada Health Academy that was dismissed in 2015.