



## Wieslawa (Kasia) Jablonski

*Nominator: Marta Gladysz*

In 2006, at a regular hygiene appointment, Kasia (Wieslawa) pointed out that my neck looked quite swollen. She didn't tell me in a way that scared me but asked me in a way that made me question if I noticed it. During my appointment, she turned my head side to side, palpitated my glands and suggested I make an appointment with my family doctor just to check things out. I quickly went to the bathroom to see her discovery (the unobvious to me at the time). I called my family doctor, who immediately booked an appointment for an ultrasound and bloodwork. At the follow up appointment, my doctor informed me that I had no thyroid activity at all (hypothyroid) and lumps on my thyroid, causing the swelling in my throat. She was baffled how I was functioning "normally". Next, a visit to the oncologist for a biopsy, not once - but twice - as the first tests came back inconclusive. After many visits to the hospital, Dr. James Edward (Ted) Massey Young determined it was best to remove my thyroid because they could not determine whether the lumps were malignant or benign from the biopsies but said he would try to retain as much of my thyroid as possible, if possible. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case. He removed both thyroid and parathyroid. But the good news is the cysts/tumors on my thyroid were further tested and everything came back benign. Although I am now without a thyroid and on medication for the rest of my life, my thyroid levels are normal and monitored and I may have avoided a cancer scare thanks to my wonderful dental hygienist Kasia, who had the knowledge to notice something not quite right and may have been the one responsible in saving my life from the lack of hormones or prolonged existence of tumors turning cancerous. And for that, she is my Superhero!



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