# The Dish with Eric Dishman: My Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5__T0pLaCA>

## Title Slide

The Dish with Eric Dishman

Logo of the All of Us Research Program

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Logo of the All of Us Research Program

## Scene Change

Camera view of Dr. Eric Dishman speaking in front of a flip chart that reads, “Kidney cancer survivor, patient advocate, social scientist, entrepreneur/innovator.”

## Dr. Dishman:

Hi, I’m Eric Dishman. I’m the director of the All of Us Research Program here at the National Institutes of Health. And I just want to talk a little bit about my own background of what drove me to run the All of Us Research Program. And it’s really this.

I was diagnosed with a rare form of kidney cancer, not what you expect when you’re 19. My doctors said, “You have nine months to live,” and clearly they were wrong. But after more than 50 rounds of chemotherapy, radiation, and immunotherapy, just a chance encounter with this guy who said, “Why don’t we sequence your genome?” I didn’t even know quite what that meant.

They analyzed it and came back and said, “More than 90 percent of everything we’ve ever put you on, Eric, was destined never to have worked. But the good news is we think we ought to put you on a pancreatic cancer drug. Your pancreas is fine, but we think it will help your kidney.”

Three months go by, I did the chemo and they came back and said, “You’re cancer free, you’re eligible for a kidney transplant.”

That was just not that long ago, four or five years ago. And I woke up on the table, my wife would tell you, and said, “I got to figure out how to make this precision health care, this precision medicine, that was customized just for me based on what they learned about me from understanding my genetics. How do we do the science that helps this work for all people across all conditions, not just cancer. So that care can be customized for you, not one-size-fits-all care that we have today.”

That’s the essence of what the All of Us Research Program is about. I’m passionate to make it happen. I’m going to bring my talents as an entrepreneur in Silicon Valley, as a patient advocate, but most importantly, as a patient myself, so that we do this the right way with input from all of you and make a big impact on the world, just like the big impact on me that precision medicine really had.

## Closing slide

*The All of Us Research Program logo appears, along with the shortened version of the program’s website URL, joinallofus.org*

[*https://www.joinallofus.org/*](https://www.joinallofus.org/)