

Dear Friends:

I'm writing to you to with news that may come as a shock.

In May of 2008 I was diagnosed with melanoma, a malignant form of skin cancer. I had no symptoms at the time other than a small growth on my scalp that was removed and tested to reveal the cancer. Within six months of the original diagnosis, the cancer cells had metastasized to other parts of my body and thus began a long, difficult battle. By receiving this letter you will know that I have lost that battle.

Melanoma is a relentless form of cancer that currently has no known cure. Even though I had access to some of the best and latest treatments in the world for melanoma at a leading Boston hospital, it was still not enough to stem the tide. Having spent my career studying and manipulating light in the laboratory, I appreciate the irony of my contracting a disease that at its likely inception 30 years ago in Southern California began with the collision of one or more photons with the DNA of a single melanocyte cell on my head, thus triggering the uncontrolled cloning of mutated cells. Call it "Revenge of the Photon".

Though I address this letter to you all as a group for practical reasons, I hope that it does not diminish the sincerity with which I express my gratitude and fondness to each one of you for having touched my life in one way or another. I do regret that I have been largely out of touch with many of you over the last fifteen years or so, having been consumed with my "project" called EigenLight.

Nonetheless, I consider myself to be a very lucky person for having known all of you and for having lived a life in which I was able to pursue my varied passions, including starting a company. If you've ever seen a documentary that appeared on public television some years ago called "Alone in the Wilderness" you may have some idea what motivated me to start a company in the way that I did. Of course, having a willing and loving wife and daughter meant that I was never really alone in the endeavor.

With the greatest of fondness I wish you all well.

Sincerely,

Your acquaintance, colleague, friend, buddy, Craig Poole