



Mike Bellville
Research Participant

The Jackie Robinson quote - “A life is not important except for the impact it has on other lives,” holds special meaning for Mike Bellville. Mike has exemplified this throughout his own life by making a difference through volunteer work.

However, when diagnosed with younger onset Alzheimer’s disease at age 52, a diagnosis changed to Dementia with Lewy bodies two years later, Mike took his community involvement to a new level. He was determined to play a role in helping to find a cure through research.

Thus began Mike’s journey into research participation. Not one to give up easily, Mike spent nearly five years searching for a research study in which he was eligible to join. Then, finally in January 2020, he enrolled in the Ascend-LB study with Dr. Stephen Gomperts at Mass General Hospital.

A few months into the study the Coronavirus pandemic arrived, but Mike says Dr. Gomperts and his incredibly caring and compassionate team did not miss a beat. They switched to virtual visits for the remainder of the drug trial and held the final session in person.

Mike believes this experience opened the door to other potential ways to have clinical trials by removing the obstacles of distance and travel. He urges those who face challenges with participating in a study to not give up and to reach out to speak with a member of the research team.

Mike hopes to inspire others to get involved with research studies. He recently spoke to a group of research participant volunteers and urged them to spread the word to family, friends and acquaintances. “Research is bigger than all of us. It’s going to take all of us doing our part in whatever way we can. Please tell others how they can get involved as well.”