

# Rejuvenate!

Sometimes you find everything you've been looking for in the most unexpected and unlikely places – and that's precisely what happened to New Zealander Simone when she discovered Renkang Hospital in China's south west and soon hailed it as "the right place, with the right treatment".

Simone had been diagnosed with breast cancer back in 2013 and after surgery, palliative radiation and various other treatments, little had changed. Indeed, they'd only got worse as her tumour cells continued relentless and metastasised to the bone marrow.

With each treatment, she'd go through the distress of losing her hair and feeling tired and listless, only for the anxiety to heighten when being told by her doctors that they'd pretty much given up on her, the best they could do was manage the pain as she approached the end of her life.

As Simone recalls, death was staring her in the face and her thoughts – fearful thoughts – were very much on how best to spend her remaining days and work on plans to arrange her funeral.

"Then I thought, no, there's got to be another way, a better song to sing," she said.

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## Renkang's the right place with right treatment for Kiwi Simone



Simone, right, chats with a friend during her treatment at Renkang Hospital

"I decided I could either accept the verdict given by my local doctors or search for new hope, new treatment options... and thankfully I chose the latter. I set about looking beyond my rather insular world of Western medicine and that's when I stumbled upon Renkang Hospital and read up about its famed SPDT treatments."

With absolutely nothing to lose, Simone packed her bags some six weeks ago, flew to China and on arriving at Renkang Hospital, instinctively knew she'd found what she was looking for.

Everyone from the reception staff through to the oncologists was warm and welcoming. And after 40 days under the expert, watchful and caring eye of the team of medical professionals attending to and monitoring her personalised SPDT program, she is quick to credit them for "bringing the dying back to life".

"I've now had two courses of treatment and my CT evaluation results show that the mediastinal lymph node in my lungs has shrunk by 85 per cent. My oncologists are now adapting the therapy ahead of the next rounds of the course, I'm feeling positive and have no reservations about undergoing more SPDT

treatment – which is a huge change from the anxiety I experienced ahead of my chemo and radiation."

Simone's journey has been made a little easier through encountering a fellow New Zealander at Renkang Hospital who had a similar diagnosis, had trodden a similar and largely ineffective medical path back home and was about to return to New Zealand after highly successful SPDT treatment.

"Gisella was towards the end of her treatment when I arrived and was a source of enormous optimism," Simone said.

"After four months at Renkang Hospital, her cancer tumour and the lesions had disappeared, her metabolism had returned to normal and she was about to return home a new person, bubbling over with newfound enthusiasm for life brought on by her positive prognosis.

"Just seeing Gisella gave me enormous encouragement, and although so happy for her that she was going home, a part of me was very sad to see my friend go.

"But I know I'm heading in the same direction and can begin to look forward to my own miracle rather than the funeral that was on my horizon before I found the right place, with the right treatment!"