



L-R: John Soper, Joanie Hope, Will Winter, Nimesh Nagarsheth, William "Rusty" Robinson, John Boggess

# N.E.D.

## No Evidence Of Disease

### Cancer Surgeons Rock Out

A medical society convention isn't often the impetus for the creation of a rock band. For N.E.D., a band made up of gynecological oncology surgeons from across the country, there probably wasn't a better opportunity. Frankly, there probably wasn't any another opportunity.

When the idea was conceived that a bunch of wayward musicians-cum-surgeons could get together and perform cover songs to entertain the convention's medical masses, there were hesitations.

"Most of us didn't know each other well," says John Boggess, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine by day and lead singer and guitarist for N.E.D. by night. "We were reluctant but we all knew music. We rehearsed for a day and a half and performed in front of 1,000 people. It went great. Eventually we thought, 'What if we took this more seriously?'" And so the group began the transition from being a novelty band to an honest to goodness rock & roll outfit. They got together and, despite six very busy schedules from various time zones, managed to come up with 20 original rock tunes that they then pitched to Motema Records.

"[Motema] is primarily a jazz label," says Boggess, "but they have connections to fund-raising efforts through the jazz foundation in

New York. Our drummer and female singer went to their offices, sat there with a guitar, played our music and convinced them we had merit." Motema took N.E.D. under their wing and set them up to record with producer Mario McNulty (David Bowie, Linkin Park, Fall Out Boy). Boggess explains that the music was designed to be appealing to all people. The lyrics were kept ambiguous so as not to force N.E.D. into a narrow niche. Boggess says the musicians are still developing as a band and going through the hard work and growing pains most acts endure in order to earn the respect of their listeners. The singer says the players hope to gain fans because of the music and not only the cause.

Still, at the heart of the tunes, there is the theme of the cancer experience.

"Patients who have been affected feel very appreciative that there is music being made [for them]," says Boggess. "We are more than just physicians. We are here in support of what they're going through. Gynecological cancer is a silent one that doesn't get talked about. Patients really appreciate that we represent them. They are excited and energized by the fact that their doctors aren't just physicians. We have a range of emotions and are willing to spend our extra time to benefit them." Boggess explains that these patients buy the albums for themselves and for their loved ones, to give insight into

their experiences from the mouths of their own doctors.

"The CD has changed things in my clinic experience," Boggess says. "Now when I come to work to do cancer clinics, I have to take care of the patients and autograph CDs." Not only is N.E.D. a band that many cancer patients love to listen to, those are also the three letters cancer patients most hope to read. N.E.D. stands for No Evidence of Disease, and is what a doctor writes on a patient's chart when the disease has gone into remission. It signifies hope and a new beginning, which far too many patients don't live to experience.

The doctors in N.E.D. continue the fight for their patients, both at the hospital and in the recording studio. But would these docs consider ditching their scrubs for studs and living the lives of rock stars? Boggess says, "That's a problem we'd love to have."

N.E.D.'s album is available for purchase at major digital retailers. Check out the band's website at [www.nedtheband.com](http://www.nedtheband.com) for band info, as well as important information on gynecological cancer.

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