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Title: Paul Satoh Interview  
Narrator: Paul Satoh  
Interviewer: Naoko Wake  
Location: East Lansing, Michigan  
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[Mr. Satoh's son Gordon Satoh was present at the interview, and when he speaks, he is denoted as GS]

<Begin Segment 7>

NW: So, I'm wondering if there is any family conversation about that, or anybody that they must have seen? I'm interested in this question because I see that many survivors—they don't have a chance to talk about it.

PS: Do they . . . Do . . . yeah, I know. That's interesting though, because my—my mother was curious about Americans. My father was, but my father was hiding so they, not, really allowed to say anything. He was really a low profile because of the uh—my father's company was uh . . . you know, my father's company was um . . . the military company so after that they were—there was very active purging anybody who associated with former military industries to be either, you know, incarcerated or something. So, he did not even mention these names—he was in hiding for many years. So, my father's opinion about the atomic bomb was not, you know, not really that severe. Uh, it was always kind of neutral things. But my mother was really furious about it.

NW: Do you think that she was worried about you? About herself? About her family members?

PS: Yeah . . . we were—we were constantly worried about it because . . . I think that probably that worry is true, too, because my mother died from leukemia. Uh, chronic lymphatic leukemia, which is . . . I'll tell you, she died at the age of 82. And . . . that is not that common in leukemia because usually you see those leukemia in younger people. And it could be, and there's no way to prove it was due to that. But, the funnier thing is that I came down with cancer, thyroid cancer. Was 2000—that was, 2007. Um . . . by funny reason that my endocrinologist actually who's—treating my diabetes for the . . . He was looking about . . . listening to my throat. And he asked me, do you have asthma? I said, no. I can breathe well. Do you have tuberculosis? No, I worked with the Center for Arsenic Bacteria when I was an undergraduate, and I'm highly positive with tuberculosis did uh, test, a skin test, but I have no symptoms, nothing. And let's take pictures. So we take X-rays. Nothing. The lung was clear and everything clear except it was kind of funny shaped shadows in that part of the X-ray that was developed. And he said what is that black shadows there? Well, what happened was they look at it with the, uh, ultrasound and they found a huge thyroid growth [?] tumor there. And then so they take it out and look and see what that is. So he took out the—the surgeon took out only part of it and they try to identify what was the type of cancer. Nobody could identify in Sparrow's pathology department. And people keep saying, now that's bizarre. So they, they—among the doctors they start talking and the good thing was this endocrinologist attended the meeting a couple months earlier of the thyroid cancer

by um, the uh, Chernobyl explosion. And um . . . um . . . Doctor Levosi, Virginia Lovosi, is Professor of Pathology, the uh, Pittsburg University. And so he contacted her and then Sparrow sent the sample to Doctor Levosi. And so she immediately sent back the email this is follicular carcinoma of the thyroid, which is very popular among the um, the Chernobyl accident people. And then this is usually caused by the extreme exposure to the radiation. So I must have had this thyroid cancer for many years, but encapsulated for many years. And then became so big that it pressed my trachea. So that's why the whistling sound is uh, that was the reason why he, now you open the Pandora's box, you had to take everything out. So the surgeon doctor went back into the same place and then took all the thyroid organs. He was so good I don't even have any scar tissue at all. And there's a reason I had to take the synthetic thyroid [?]. But that's the worry about cancer—yes, we had the worry about cancer.

NW: Did you tell your doctor that you're a survivor?

PS: Yeah . . . Someone did. Someone did ask questions, some don't want to ask questions I didn't. Because it doesn't really given any information that helps my—you know, taking care of my health.

NW: Uh, I ask you this because some people I talked to had told me it was difficult to tell their doctors here in the States because some doctors might feel uncomfortable about that piece of information because they don't probably know what to do with it.

PS: They—Yeah, there's nothing you can do about it, number one. There's no place to report to either. And uh, the good thing at this doctor is uh, Jordanian, so he was trained in Jordan, and uh, so that's one of those things. We became good friends, but uh . . . um . . . the, what he sees me sort of wow, that's a big difference in . . . because people in this area, American pathologists, cannot detect—tell the cell type by looking at stained cells, or that the cancer is see—the Chernobyl type or not. And so, they can only see bizarre cancers. But uh . . . that's one of the reasons why, you know, there's really no reason to keep that type of information they can't do much to help me.

**<End Segment 7> - Copyright © 2015 Densho and Naoko Wake. All Rights Reserved.**