

Actor Stefán Karl Stefánsson Dies Following Battle With Cancer

The *LazyTown* actor had bile duct cancer.

August 24, 2018 By Alicia Green

Many young people—and their parents—may remember Stefán Karl Stefánsson as villain Robbie Rotten on the Nickelodeon hit children's show *LazyTown*. Stefánsson died Tuesday at age 43 after a two-year battle with bile duct cancer, according to his wife, [PEOPLE](#) reports.

Bile duct cancer, or cholangiocarcinoma, is a rare and aggressive cancer that starts in the bile duct. The [American Cancer Society](#) defines bile ducts as “a series of thin tubes that go from the liver to the small intestine.” Nearly 8,000 Americans are diagnosed with bile duct cancer annually.

“Per Stefan’s wishes, there will be no funeral,” his wife, Steinunn Thorsteinsdottir, told [PEOPLE](#) in a statement. “His earthly remains will be scattered in secrecy in a distant ocean. Stefan’s family wants to express their gratitude for the support and warmth received in recent years, and to express their deepest sympathy to the many friends and fans of Stefan Karl.”

News media, including [BBC Newsbeat](#), began reporting on the Icelandic actor’s condition after Thorsteinsdottir made an announcement via Facebook in June 2017.

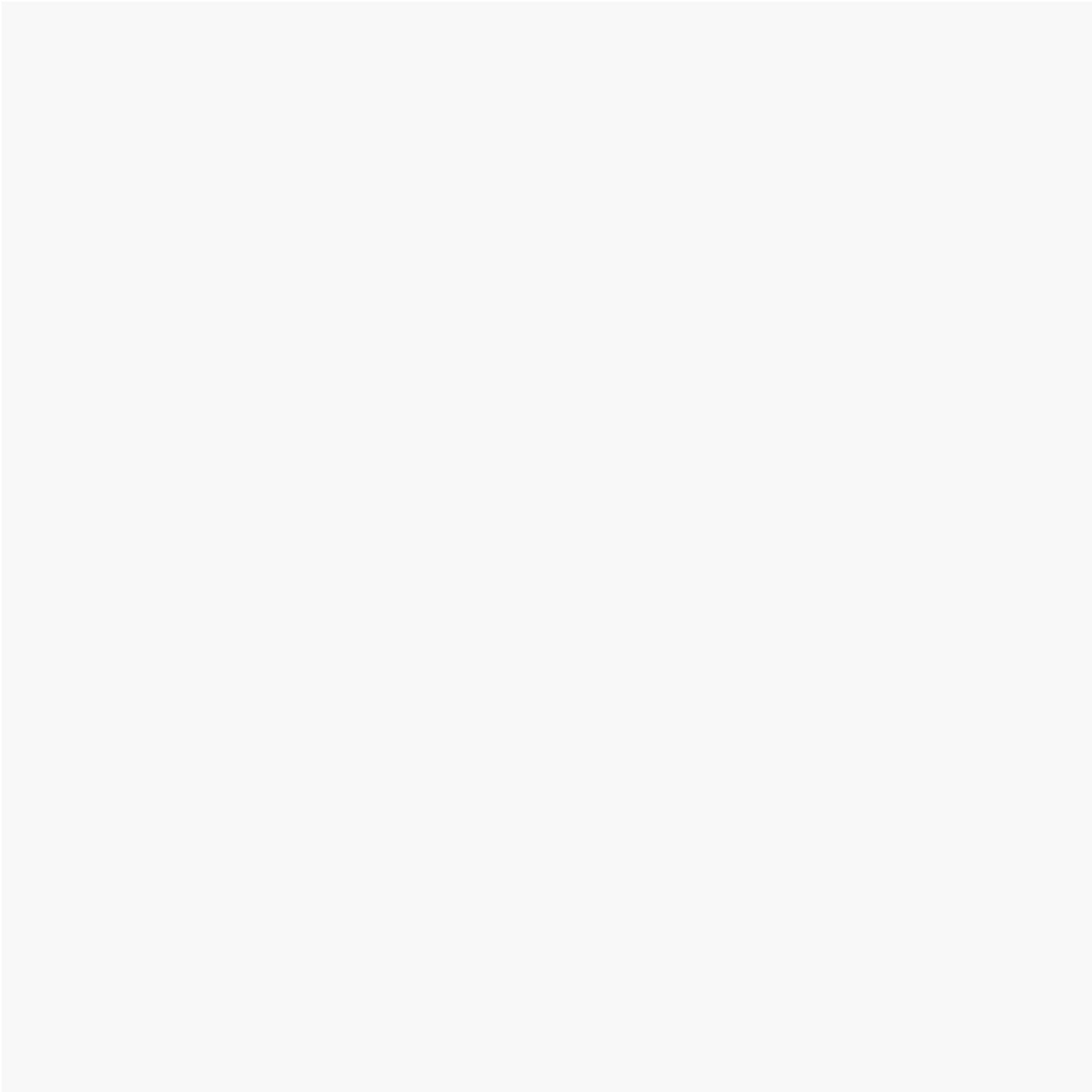
“Stefan has bile-duct cancer (cholangiocarcinoma), a rare and little-researched disease,” she wrote. “The disease is now advanced to stage four, and therefore, his life expectancy is unfortunately significantly reduced.”

But [Instagram](#) posts from Stefánsson show many of his fans knew of his condition since as early as 2016. He shared several posts throughout his cancer treatment journey, including one in which he revealed he was “all done with chemo for now.”

Stefánsson often expressed gratitude toward his fans for their love and support, including in his final Instagram post on June 25, 2017.

“From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for the support you provide me,” he wrote. “You give me hope and you all move me.”

[Click here](#) to learn more about bile duct cancer.

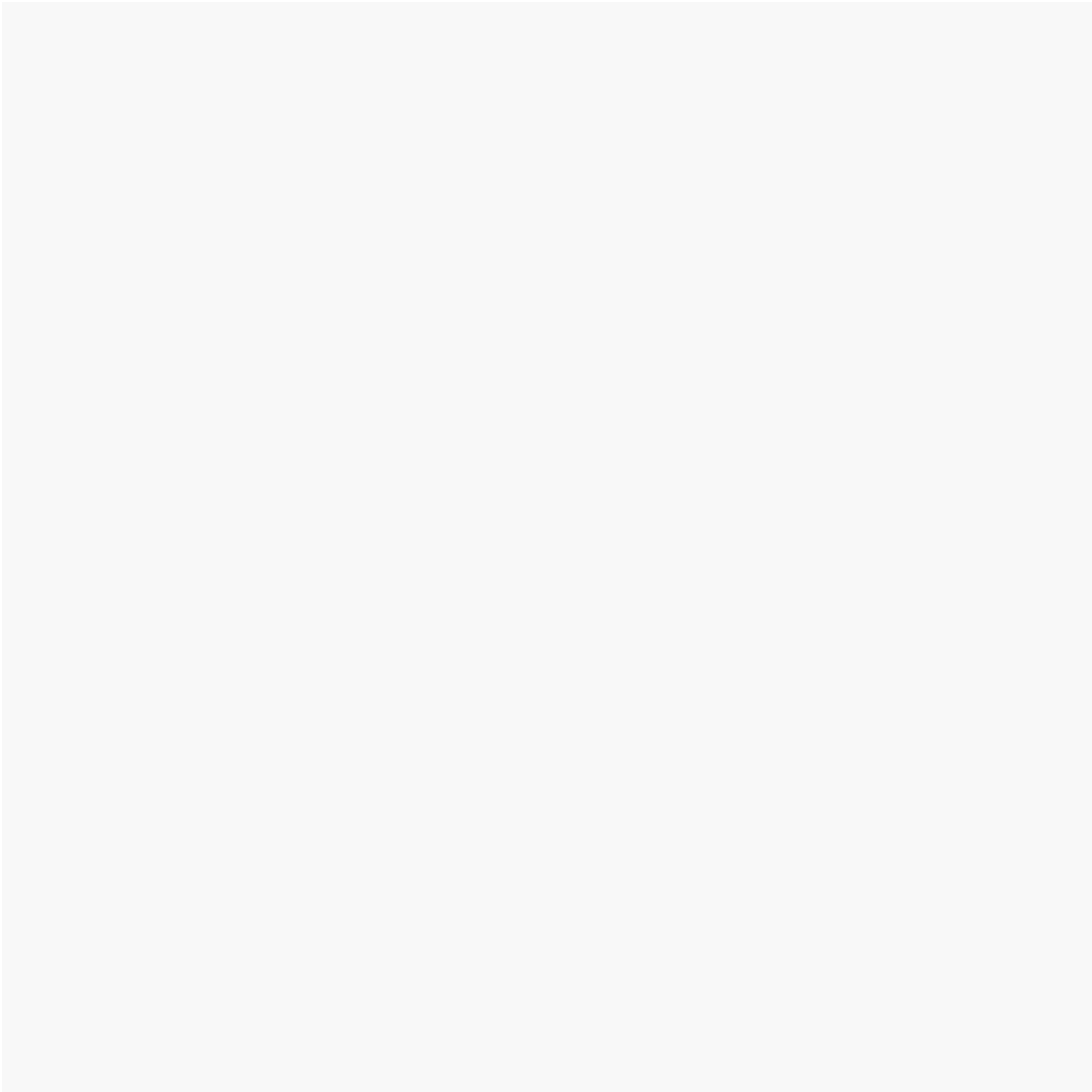


Thank you for the support.

A post shared by [Stefán Karl Stefánsson](#) (@stefanssonkarl) on Nov 22, 2016 at 7:15pm PST

Lyfjameðferð hálfnuð eftir þennan skammt, skál fyrir því :-) Medications halfway point after this dose :-)

A post shared by [Stefán Karl Stefánsson](#) (@stefanssonkarl) on Jan 4, 2017 at 2:16am PST



All done with chemo for now. ??? #allover #happy #happyplantdad

A post shared by [Stefán Karl Stefánsson](#) (@stefanssonkarl) on Feb 22, 2017 at 12:56pm PST

From the bottom of my heart I thank you for the support you provide me. You give me hope and you all
move me.

A post shared by [Stefán Karl Stefánsson](#) (@stefanssonkarl) on Jun 25, 2017 at 6:24am PDT