

Dear Fellow CAPER Members,

I am Vicki Hall. I am honored and humbled to be elected as the new Chair of the CAPER Board of Directors. I have served on the Board for several years. For some time, the Board has discussed a non-physician being the Chair. Well, that's me! I am married to Bob and have three children, four granddaughters, and one great granddog. I am retired Director of Development at The University of Tennessee.

My real claim to fame is I have Hereditary Pancreatitis. I have one daughter, two granddaughters, aunts, uncles, cousins and my mother with HP. I have two cousins who died of complications of pain medication addictions to deal with pancreatitis pain.

My family came to know the reputation of Dr. David Whitcomb and his work on HP. Actually, my granddaughter and I are patients of Dr. Adam Slivka. Finally, Dr. Ken Lee and his team removed my pancreas in 2006.

So, from personal experience, I have a profound interest and powerful passion for the development of treatments and pain medications that HP patients can use safely to deal with the excruciating pain of pancreatitis attacks. I am passionate about educating all physicians about pancreatitis, especially HP. A not-so-funny fact...when my daughter was two and in UT Hospital (a teaching hospital at that) for an HP attack, a resident came in, sat down, and asked me when my daughter had started drinking. I was FURIOUS. I informed Dr. Resident that she did not drink but had HP. He had the gall to tell me that was not possible because the only way one has pancreatitis is because of drinking alcohol. I very politely, in the kindest Southern way, told him, "Bless your heart. Perhaps you need to go look more closely at her chart *outside the room.*"

It is this kind of ignorance that fuels my passion for CAPER. CAPER can do so much to further the education of young physicians, those considering specializing in gastroenterology, recruiting those to specialize in diseases of the pancreas, and finally, enticing young physician researchers into pancreatology research. It is also because of personal experience working with gastroenterologists locally, that many absolutely do not know enough about pancreatitis.



As we continue to learn, pancreatitis is highly individualized with treatments that vary from patient to patient. Only through research can treatments and effective pain management be achieved.

My goal is to help encourage all who enter the field of pancreatology. Also, I believe it is my responsibility to remind physicians, researchers, and support staff that the patient is a person — not a number, or a set of lab results, or someone who should not be heard. We depend on you. Right now, there is no cure, but physicians need to be absolutely committed to HELPING us with dignity and respect.

I want to take this time to thank each of you for your individual and collective efforts to improve the quality of the lives of those suffering from pancreatitis. Please know that you are appreciated.

Please feel free to contact me at vickihallCAPER@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Vicki