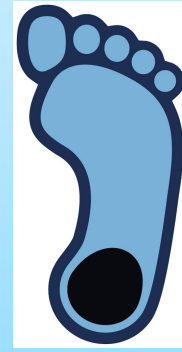


# UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center Patient Advocates for Research Council



Laurie Betts (Patient Advocate) and Patty Spears (UNC Patient Advocate mentor)  
*AACR Scientist-Survivor Program 2022*



LINEBERGER COMPREHENSIVE  
CANCER CENTER

## UNC Patient Advocates for Research Council (PARC)

Provide the patient perspective in research to ensure the knowledge created will improve the lives of all cancer patients

Provide a **training program for new advocates** to introduce them to our Cancer Center, its research programs, to its advocacy group. Available virtually to encourage state-wide participation

We will promote, support and ensure inclusive behavior among all patient and community members by guaranteeing every voice is heard, provide implicit bias training and other resources, and recruit diverse patient and community members to participate.

## PART-Tissue

We helped create a UNC-specific biospecimen donation program INITIATED by PARC and UNC Researchers together



## My Story

I was treated for esophageal squamous cell cancer in December 2019. Once during my daily radiation treatments for 7 weeks ( I called it the long walk), I happened to meet another patient that is a UNC Patient Advocate for Cancer Research. That chance meeting has changed my life for the better since I have become a patient advocate!!



What do UNC patient advocates for research do?



## We have monthly meetings



**BEFORE COVID**

- We are educated by speakers about cancer research, opportunities for engagement.
- **\*\*Our Cancer Center Leadership are actively involved in our meetings.**



**AFTER COVID**

## PEER – Patient and Community Engagement to Educate Researchers

### Benefits for Researchers

1. Facilitate interactions between researchers and patients
2. Bring the human element to research.
3. Improve researchers' understanding of the importance of their work to patients and improve the translational quality of their research.

### Benefits for Patients

1. Bring Science to the public
2. Give patients the hope that passionate researchers have their interests as primary

We provide a patient perspective in research grants and documents

- **Review UNC Cancer Center Internal grant proposals** (basic science, translational science, and clinical research) from the patient perspective, make sure the proposals are inclusive of the LCCC catchment area
- **Discuss Research and Provide Letters of support** for clinicians that need a patient advocate on their grant proposals, e.g. ASCO AACR
- **Read and edit Consent Forms for clinical trials** to make them patient-friendly

## Contact Information

<https://unclineberger.org/research/patient-research-advocacy-group/>