A recent message from Julie Fleshman, PanCAN’s Executive Director

It is hard to believe that just five short years ago, there was no PanCAN and no place for pancreatic cancer patients and their families to turn. It is amazing that since PanCAN’s founding in 1999, the organization is making significant strides for the pancreatic cancer community. Due to PanCAN’s advocacy efforts, the research dollars for pancreatic cancer from the national government has increased by over 20 million dollars. PanCAN is funding over one million dollars toward career development awards for pancreatic cancer research to increase the pool of investigators with a focus in pancreatic cancer. The organization also has a comprehensive patient program called Patient and Liaison Services (PALS) for patients, family members and healthcare professionals, and there are over 75 grassroots affiliates around the country raising the awareness and visibility of pancreatic cancer.

Science follows money! As we continue to raise the research dollars available for pancreatic cancer from the national government, as well as increase the number of investigators with a focus in pancreatic cancer, the science and options for pancreatic cancer patients will improve. There are more clinical trial options available to pancreatic cancer patients today than ever before. Clinical trials will lead to better treatment options. Today, it is amazing that families and patients can call our PALS program and get information and support. They can get linked to the latest advancements in treatment through our clinical trial database, obtain educational materials and can be linked with patients and caregivers around the country.

PanCAN has done amazing things in a short time. Our organization is used as a model in the cancer advocacy community because of the breadth and depth of our programs for the pancreatic cancer community. You should feel extremely proud to be a part of this effort. We absolutely could not do it without you! Your time, energy and support are essential to the 31,000 patients that will be diagnosed this year. Volunteers are the essence and backbone to all of our efforts. You are helping to raise the funding level for pancreatic cancer, as well as the visibility of this disease. Keep up the incredible work that you are doing....we can't do it without you....and YOU are making a difference!!