

Visiting Professor Program – Named Lectureships



Boyce Family

Inaugural Boyce Family Lectureship 2019

Jim Boyce is CEO of Defenders Inc. Jim's daughter Caroline (Callie) has been diagnosed with a genetic mutation causing recurrent acute and chronic pancreatitis. She sought care at UC and underwent a total pancreatectomy with autologous islet cell transplantation. In addition, Jim's wife's mother died from pancreas cancer. Based on the close relationship with Dr. Syed Ahmad and his team at UCMC and the family's issues with pancreatic diseases, Jim and his family have endowed a lectureship to promote awareness and research for pancreas disease.

Here is what Jim wrote:

Pancreatic disease has greatly affected our family. Our dear mother/grandmother Mary Ann Perna died of pancreatic cancer over 25 years ago at the age of 59. Throughout her brave battle she often said, "I wish they could take 'this' out! Someday they will!"

Little did we know how true and close to our hearts this statement would become. Our daughter Caroline (Callie) Jones faced this very decision in 2015 after a devastating diagnosis of pancreatitis. Callie and our family were blessed to meet Dr. Syed Ahmad and his team at UCMC; the best of the best for our daughter. Dr. Ahmad has been our anchor in this storm!

We see this lectureship as a means to build on and multiply the gifted, compassionate expertise of Dr. Ahmad and his team. Our hope is that others suffering from pancreatic disease will benefit from the learning and ever expanding influence these lectures and relationships will provide.

We can think of no better way to honor our mother and daughter than by investing in this endowed lectureship series.