MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

Who is a Patient Advisor?
Patient Advisors are members of the Cancer Patient & Family Advisory Board (Cancer PFAB) or its associated committees.

Membership to Cancer PFAB is by application and an election process. Applications are accepted in May annually and can be found at www.mcancer.org/volunteer. The Advisory Board is composed of 12-20 Patient Advisors at any time.

Membership to Cancer PFAB committees is by application and invitation. Committee members are called Patient Advisors and participate in activities of the UMHS Cancer Program in a variety of roles.

Who is Eligible?
The University of Michigan Health System and Comprehensive Cancer Center’s Cancer Patient & Family Advisory Board and its committees are comprised of members who:

- Have recent experience within the adult cancer areas of the University of Michigan Health System
- Provide input fairly and objectively
- Communicate effectively
- Offer a patient or family point of view
- Register as a UMHS volunteer
- Register as a Cancer Center volunteer

Members may also need to:
- Have basic technical skills (Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and use of internet)

What are the Expectations?
Advisors are expected to:
- Commit to the mission, vision, and values of the Cancer Center
- Be active in discussions, activities or projects
- Meet timelines
- Commit to the required length of term

Most Cancer PFAB Board terms are effective for 24 months; however, the Cancer PFAB offers many opportunities to meet diverse interests and time availabilities.
How can I determine if I have the qualities of a good Advisor?
As an Advisor, you should be able to:
- Share insights and information about experiences in ways that others learn from
- See beyond personal experiences
- Show concern for more than one issue
- Listen well
- Respect diversity
- Speak comfortably in a group
- Work in partnership with others
- Show a positive outlook on life
- Show compassion while maintaining boundaries
- Demonstrate commitment to customer satisfaction
- Comply with hospital confidentiality policy
- Maintain open communication

The Advisor must also have had a personal experience with cancer care.

How Do I Apply for an Advisor Role:
Information and a “contact us” form is found at www.mcancer.org/volunteer.