Be sure to follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on all events and support group meetings. We love to share photos, articles, advice and more!

CONNECT WITH US:
National Pancreas Foundation Michigan State Chapter
@michiganpancreasfoundation.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 Member Spotlight: Georgian Ziegler

5 Event Recaps + Updates

6 Upcoming Events: Fundraising + Educational

7 Michigan NPF Support Groups

8 Michigan NPF Board

9 Michigan NPF Centers of Excellence
NAME: Georgiann Ziegler  
DIAGNOSIS: Chronic Idiopathic Pancreatitis  
FUN FACT: I am a brand new grandmother!

YOUR DIAGNOSIS: In 2004 I was diagnosed with Chronic Idiopathic Pancreatitis. Never knew where or what the pancreas did but I sure realized how painful an angry pancreas can be. After a 65 day hospital stay in 2004, I continue to have multiple hospital stays each year. Fortunately, when not in a pancreas flare my days are good.

YOUR SUPPORT SYSTEM: Faith, family and friends are my greatest support team, along with my medical team. For me, I could not do this journey alone. The challenging part of all this is that most of my family and friends knew very little about the pancreas so we all learned together. I can say we are all still learning.

LIFESTYLE CHANGES YOU’VE MADE: I had to disability retire from a great job with the UAW in 2010. This was not only hard emotionally but financially as well. I always thought I would work to what I believed was retirement age, have the going away lunch and walk away fulfilled. I felt cheated that my illness determined my timeline for retirement.
Member Spotlight

WHAT HAS THIS DISEASE TAUGHT YOU ABOUT YOURSELF: I feel that my attitude and strength is greater than I ever could imagine. I run with my good days and try not to worry if a flare is around the corner. If asked to go somewhere or participate in something I generally say yes with the hope I will be well enough to go. I take my diagnosis seriously but I do not let it steal my joy.

WHERE ARE YOU NOW: I continue to have pancreas flares and hospital stays. Happy to say that the admits are getting farther apart. For me, my cup will always be half full and never half empty. Because of my pancreatitis I am a patient advisor at Michigan Medicine which allows me to be a voice for not only myself but many patients and families.

HOW ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH NPF MICH: I was approached to be a board member for the NPF Michigan Chapter nearly a year ago. I was honored to be asked and to be a part of a very important group. I currently am the fundraising chair and am excited to not only raise funds for research but to build relationships with others that are on the same pancreas journey.

ADVICE FOR SOMEONE FACING A DIAGNOSIS: The greatest advise I would give to family and friends when dealing with someone with a chronic condition would be to love us, listen to us, and just be there. I understand how hard it is to watch me struggle but many times all I need to know is that you’re there. As for the new patient I would say it’s okay to be mad, angry and upset.
Event Recaps + Updates

Patient & Family Centered Care (PFCC) for Pancreatic Diseases

Sept. 30th, 2017
Hosted by Michigan Medicine + the National Pancreas Foundation.

35 Patients/Family members attended the educational event.

96% felt the event increased their knowledge

Frozen Yogurt Day Fundraiser for NPF Michigan

July 22nd, 2017
Fundraising event for the NPF Michigan Chapter. Hosted at the FroYo Cafe in Novi, Michigan.

Proceeds of the fundraiser were donated to the National Pancreas Foundation.

Check these inspiring events, hosted by the NPF Michigan Chapter. Our chapter events would be nothing without you!
Upcoming Events

Michigan Medicine & The National Pancreas Foundation (NPF) Michigan Chapter 2nd Annual Patient and Family Centered Care for Pancreatic Diseases

Saturday, September 29, 2018
The Inn at St. John’s, Plymouth, MI

Bowling Event
Date: TBD
Look to the NPF Michigan FB page for updates.

Have an event idea? Connect with us and let us know.
Michigan NPF Support Groups

This group welcomes everyone who suffers from any disease of the pancreas. This includes caregivers, family and friends!

Do You Have Pancreas Disease?
JOIN OUR MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUP

NPF Support Groups are funded by a generous education grant from:

The National Pancreas Foundation

The National Pancreas Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that has dedicated the last 20 years to providing hope for those suffering from pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer through funding cutting-edge Research, Advocating for new & better therapies.

Please contact Robin Winke at (michigan@pancreasfoundation.org) for additional information and locations.

www.pancreasfoundation.org

DATES:
March 17th, 2018
April 28th, 2018
May 19th, 2018
June 16th, 2018
July 21st, 2018
August 18th, 2018
September 15th, 2018
October 27th, 2018
November 17th, 2018
December 15th, 2018

LOCATION:
Ann Arbor
Downtown Library
343 S. 5th St.
11:00AM
Michigan NPF Board

For more information about the Michigan Chapter Board members, visit the National Pancreas Foundation website, HERE.

Dr. Michelle Anderson MD, MSc, FASGE
Dr. Clifford S. Cho FACS
Angelique Baird Communication/Media Representative

Mara Bagos Education Chair
Dr. Richard Kwon MD
Lance Judd Patient Advisor
Vicky L. Vincent, CAP Chapter Secretary

Robin Winke Chapter Chair
Matthew DiMango, MD Medical Director
Dr. Erik-Jan Wamsteker MD
Derrick Winke Patient Advisor Treasurer
Georgiann Ziegler Patient Advisor Fundraising Chair
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Information for physicians:
Placing a Referral

NPF Michigan Site