**PAC Fast Facts**

- PAC is a medical student run patient advocate organization to benefit cancer patients. We hold the belief that together we can make a difference. Battling cancer alone is scary. We’re here to help.
- Joining PAC is **free** for patients.
- Getting started with PAC is as easy as asking your oncologist for a student match.
- Patients have the opportunity to receive assistance and added support from Creighton medical students who genuinely care. Also, the patient gets the chance to assist in the education of a future physician.

For more information about PAC, please contact:

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**Why PAC?**

Helen Uong, one of Creighton University’s Medical School students (Class of 2013), thought of the idea for the program from her own experience seeing a loved one battle with cancer. When her cousin was in the hospital, her family took shifts taking care of him, “making sure that someone was with him all the time.” She and her family knew how important it was to be there for him and show him support, “We encouraged him to be strong and made sure that he didn’t feel he was fighting this alone.”

With the believe that no one should walk this journey alone, Helen and another classmate, Naomi Whittaker, founded Partners Against Cancer. As future physicians, they hope to start making a difference in the lives of patients.

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**Patient Information Pamphlet**

Partners Against Cancer

Creighton University
School of Medicine

Partnering medical students with patients in need
**PAC: Partners Against Cancer**

**Our Mission**

The mission of Partners Against Cancer (PAC) to provide physical and emotional support to cancer patients as they battle their disease. Through this program, patients will have the opportunity to build a unique partnership with a first or second year medical student.

PAC students are **patient advocates** that help patients understand medical terminology, assist in navigation of the medical system, and provide insight into American Cancer Society programs and other available resources. Additionally, student-patient relationships foster an environment of open communication for learning, support and fortitude.

Not all patients have a support system of family or friends, and PAC wants to help those battling cancer by providing those in need with a medical student companion. No one should battle cancer alone. And even if you have a support system already in place, it always beneficial to have one more person you can rely on during this troubling time.

**What does PAC offer?**

Student patient advocates will spend at least three months helping their patient in various ways such as:

- Offering emotional support during chemotherapy and doctor visits
- Answering questions that patients may have regarding his or her treatment
- Directing patient to resources available by American Cancer Society and other local organizations
- Helping patient manage their health records
- And finally, your PAC student is a friend and a confidant with whom you can talk to about any of the struggles of daily life.

**The PAC medical student is your partner in your fight against cancer**

**What are my obligations as a patient?**

Participation is PAC is completely voluntary.

Patients are matched with a medical student after the initial introduction by the physician. The students are responsible for working with the patient and finding out what the patient’s needs are.

Weekly communication between the patient and their student is encouraged, either via phone or email.

The patient decides how often the student accompanies them to appointments or treatments. If at anytime the presence of the student is not desired, the patient has the right to ask to be left alone.

In addition, we ask the patient to complete a short survey after the initial match and three months after being matched.

**PAC Patient Testimonial:**

"My partner has been a loving and supportive presence during this journey. We are able to discuss sensitive topics associated with death and dying. It's so comforting to have someone to lean on."