

Richard Hatch Memorial Fund

Richard Hatch, star of the original “Battlestar Galatica” passed away on February 7, 2017 after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Hatch was best known for his role as Captain Apollo in the original “Battlestar Galactica” sci-fi series, which earned him a Golden Globe nomination for Best Actor in a TV drama series. He played Tom Zarek, a different character on the Syfy remake in 2003. Hatch started acting in Off Broadway productions but his career took off after landing a leading role in “All My Children.” He has a lengthy list of TV credits, including many guest roles in ’70s and ’80s television favorites like “Baywatch,” “MacGyver,” “CHiPS,” and “Murder She Wrote.”

The Hirshberg Foundation, with the blessing of Richard’s family, is honored to invite fans, family & friends to pay special tribute to Hatch on March 19 at the Los Angeles Marathon. The Hirshberg Foundation, an official charity of the Los Angeles Marathon, hosts a cheer station in Brentwood, along the course. Dubbed the Purple People Party, our cheer station brings out hundreds of volunteers to cheer on the runners and raise awareness for pancreatic cancer. We invite you to join us as we honor Richard Hatch at the Purple People Party.

[Memorial Fund >](#)

We’re Fighters!

By Leslie N.

This year our family learned the devastating news that my father had pancreatic cancer. Having watched a very close friend pass one year earlier from this horrific disease, I was in disbelief. The thought of having to go through the experience of watching my father suffer at this time in his life was more than I could handle. But we're fighters, and we circled our wagons and prepared ourselves for what we knew lie ahead.

My father is a retired doctor and very strong man but he was up against an opponent that was bigger and tougher than him. As I watched both he and my stepmom struggle I reached out to the Hirshberg Foundation for guidance on how I could help them help themselves. That one phone call literally changed my life and the path of our experience through this struggle.

First I learned that there were resources offering support to both the patient as well as family members in need. Second I learned how I could get involved in an organization that one day will help save the lives of my family members and friends. And third, but most important, I learned that there was a small group of people who had walked the walk, just a phone call away, available to comfort me at a moments' notice. I immediately became part of a family who understood and sincerely cared.

While my father was going through chemotherapy and preparing for surgery my sister and I volunteered on the L.A. Cancer Challenge planning committee. And when my father had his surgery Agi, Amy and the Hirshberg Foundation team were by our side, offering support. Two weeks post-op our team Carabet's Crew walked proudly in honor of our father who was recovering from the Whipple Procedure performed by the best of the best, Dr. Hines.

The LACC may not be the biggest 5k/10k around but in all my years of participating in similar events I have never felt the

love, support and determination I experienced that morning. To be surrounded by so many people who care, understand and are working toward a common goal of curing pancreatic cancer gave us hope that one day we'll be able to prevent other families from having to watch their loved ones suffer.

My Greatest Inspiration

By Sebastian B.

My Dad has been one of my greatest inspirations from a very young age. My Dad has been my rock, fueling and motivating me to pursue my dreams, my goals, and my ambitions. He encouraged me to pursue my passion for the sciences – driving me to my first science fair, helping me balance equations, concocting zany science experiments. When my Dad was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in May 2013, I truly felt as if the world had been pulled away from under my feet.

After joining a clinical trial, my Dad underwent the Whipple Procedure, proton radiation and lengthy chemotherapy. His relentless energy, fueled by the support system built by our family and friends, proved to be the best healing therapy he could possibly receive. I feel unspeakably fortunate that over three years later, he is in remission with only a 15% chance of recurrence.

I recently relocated to the Los Angeles area from the East Coast where I grew up. I was searching for a home away from home, a community who could relate to my family's experience with pancreatic cancer. The Hirshberg Foundation proved to be exactly

the community I was searching for; they are a driven group of passionate team members who are committed to fighting a devastating disease. My experience this Pancreatic Cancer Awareness month means joining the efforts of the Hirshberg Foundation. The Hirshberg Foundation welcomed me with open arms as a volunteer for their fall 2016 LA Cancer Challenge. Their motto – “Pancreatic cancer is relentless. Fortunately so are we.” – speaks volumes about the ceaseless energy they put towards their fundraising, event coordination, and community action.

This very combination of science and community, of intricate treatment and collective support, forms the foundation of not only my Dad’s ongoing treatment and recovery, but countless others. I am inspired to enter the field of cancer research and treatment myself, and carry the encouragement and energy of my Dad.

World Pancreatic Cancer Day

November 17, 2016, is a day we will unite and make our voices heard. In the battle against pancreatic cancer, we will show the world we are in it together.

According to a global survey, 60 percent of people know “almost nothing” about pancreatic cancer. It’s time to elevate the global conversation.

We will come together to draw attention to pancreatic cancer and highlight the need for greater awareness, funding and research – and most importantly, create a brighter future for people around

the globe.

World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition

Never has a group been more passionate and committed to fighting for our patients! An astounding 58 organizations based in 24 countries across the globe have partnered in an effort to inform and educate the public, share ideas, offer support & resources, and most importantly collaborate. Members of the WPCC are acutely aware of the obstacles patients and families face, because they too have been personally impacted by the disease. As the coalition grows, we have great hopes that the pancreatic cancer movement will thrive and change lives.

Collectively, the World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition members are working to:

- Advance research
- Educate patients and the medical community
- Provide genetic testing resources
- Share clinical trial information
- Facilitate community outreach
- Improve patient care & services

What you can do in November, Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month:

1. Throughout November and on November 17, take a picture with friends, family and colleagues to show we are in it together.
2. Use #HirshbergFoundation #WPCD and tag @hirshbergfoundation and @worldpancreatic so your posts can be seen.

3. [Share your story](#) to help us raise awareness in November and year round.
4. Don't forget to wear purple!

Hero Stories

Every day the Hirshberg Foundation is inspired by extraordinary stories shared by survivors and families deeply affected by pancreatic cancer. Sharing insight into your personal experience could make all the difference for a family facing a cancer diagnosis today and give our doctors and researchers a glimpse into the lives of those who support and fund their work.

[Share Your Story »](#)



Marlene

"My mom's a fiercely independent woman who did so much on her own so this has been quite an adjustment. Like so many other pancreatic cancer patients has had to adjust to her new normal. I am thankful for each and every moment shared with my mother and pray that scientists will soon find a cure for this horrible disease."

– Melissa, daughter



Lupe Romero

"I know what I face. This cancer can do whatever it wants to my body but it will never touch my heart or my soul; it will never change who I am and I will not allow it to take away my joy. On the good days and the bad days I inhale life to the fullest!"

– Lupe



Marge

"Our mother's diagnosis of pancreatic cancer has been difficult but her spirit is strong. We have been presented with some of the most unimaginable circumstances but she has given us the room to laugh, love and live gracefully."

– Ricci & Robin, daughters

November 13th is World Pancreatic Cancer Day



What is World Pancreatic Cancer Day?

- World Pancreatic Cancer Day was established to mobilize a global effort and raise the profile of pancreatic cancer focusing on the need for urgent change!
 - The goal is to raise awareness and further educate all pancreatic organizations and their supporters on an international scale.
 - The first ever World Pancreatic Cancer has been driven by leaders of pancreatic cancer organizations across the globe.
 - Learn more about pancreatic cancer and how the Hirshberg Foundation is battling back.
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This November join us as we Pledge. Share. Wear.

Welcome to November! To kick off

Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, we are launching our newest purple campaign, Pledge Share Wear. Here are three simple and easy ways for you to join our fight this month and raise awareness about this disease. In honor of the nearly 49,000 people that will be diagnosed this year, help us build an army of pancreatic cancer survivors able to speak out and advocate for more research. It couldn't be any easier! Join us all month long as we Pledge. Share. Wear.

Pledge Purple

We know you are committed to the fight against pancreatic cancer, now voice that dedication/perseverance by pledging purple! Your pledge is a personal commitment to stand against this disease and be a voice for all those who have lost the battle to pancreatic cancer. It can be a small step or a giant leap, whatever you commit to will have the power to change lives.

Share Purple

You are committed to changing the face of pancreatic cancer; now share your passion with others. Once you've taken the pledge, be sure to share it with your friends, family, community and the world! When we join together to raise awareness, our voices can be heard. Share your story, share why you support, share how this disease has touched you – the more we speak up, the louder we will be heard.

Wear Purple

This one's the easiest and we know you have purple in your

closet! This month ask others to join you and wear purple together. Snap a photo of your purple party, whether it's at school, in the office, at your community center, the gym or just your household. Show off your purple duds and share your dedication to fight pancreatic cancer wherever you go.

This month is all about making our voices heard. Be sure to tag all your posts with **#pledgepurple2015** or [email](#) your photo or story to us so we can share them too! Here's to a very purple November!