Past, Present and Future of CAPER

Randall Brand, MD
Professor of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh
Origins of CAPER

- Midwest Multicenter Pancreatic Study Group first met in 1994 with the **goal of fostering collaborative research to impact on the clinical management of patients with pancreatic diseases**
  - David Whitcomb (Pittsburgh)
  - Charles Ulrich (Cincinnati)
  - Larry Gates (Kentucky)
  - Stephen Martin (Pittsburgh)
- At PancreasFest in 2006 there was recognition that the group had expanded outside of Midwest (in large part due to NAPS2) so renamed North American Pancreatic Study Group (NAPSG)
PancreasFest 2006

- Decided we needed a formal organization to address major unmet needs in the field of pancreatology
  - Foster clinical translational research
    - Share SOPs/lessons on running multi-center studies
  - Educate junior faculty and trainees
  - Develop future leaders in pancreatology
    - Opportunities to serve on committees
    - Present research ideas (mentoring)
    - Speak/Present at a major international meeting (PancreasFest)
Process of Becoming a Formal Organization

- During Pancreasfest 2006
  - Michelle Anderson and I were nominated to be Secretary/Treasurer and President of NAPSG by Dave Whitcomb
  - We were then assigned the task of creating bylaws and looking into incorporating organization as a 501c
- Changed name in 2009 to CAPER
What is a CAPER?

- *Capparis spinosa*, the *caper bush*, is a perennial winter-deciduous species that bears rounded, fleshy leaves and large white to pinkish-white flowers. A *caper* is also the pickled *bud* of this plant.
Key Individuals to Launch CAPER

David Whitcomb

Michelle Anderson

Patter and Tom Birsic

Cordy Glenn
Original Mission Statement

- Facilitate the collaboration of clinical, translational and basic science research of pancreatic diseases and to support scientifically rigorous multi-center studies in pancreatic diseases;
- To educate and train researchers interested in pancreatic diseases;
- To increase knowledge regarding pancreatic diseases.
Created Committees and Board

- First formal meeting at PancreasFest 2010
- Original Board of Directors- Tom Birsic (chair), Vicki Hall, Agi Hirshberg, Ed Purich, David Whitcomb
- Committee Chairs:
  - Tim Gardner (Communication Chair)
  - Wahid Wassef (Education Chair)
  - Santhi Vege (Meeting Chair)
- Michelle Anderson (Secretary/Treasurer)
- Carm Campbell (Administrative Support)
Accomplishments in first year: 2010-2011

- Website
- GI academy 2010
  - Highlights the support of CAPER by so many individuals
- Supported PancreasFest
- Developing mentorship program
- Hired an Executive Director: Patter Birsic
Top 10 reasons to join CAPER

1. Triple membership: also have membership to International Association of Pancreatology (IAP) and European Pancreatic Club (EPC)
2. Electronic subscription to Pancreatology
3. Recognition of your work /accomplishment by others in the field
4. Access to Mentors for junior members
5. For senior members, ability to serve as a mentor for individuals who are eager to do pancreatic research
Top 10 reasons to join CAPER

6. Assistance with clinical study design
7. Assistance with recruiting enthusiastic sites for multicenter studies
8. Speaking opportunities at CAPER sponsored programs: GI Academy, PancreasFest
9. Leadership experience
10. It’s a cool name!!!
Past Presidents

- 2010-2012  Randall Brand
- 2012-2014  Michelle Anderson
- 2014-2016  Wahid Wassef
- 2016-2018  George Papachristou
- 2018-2020  Walter Park
- 2020-2022  Greg Cote
Status of CAPER

The technology hype cycle

- 2010-2014: Innovation trigger
- 2014-2016: Peak of inflated expectations
- 2016-2019: Trough of disillusionment
- Plateau of productivity

Slope of enlightenment
Challenging Times

- Volunteer organization
- Not engaging junior faculty and trainees
  - Despite support of travel scholarships by Ed Purich
- Turnover of administrative support
- Development of Consortia like CPDPC, PCDC along with existing EDRN
Slope of Enlightenment

- PancreasFest 2016- During Board of Director meeting addressed future of CAPER
- Felt we should proceed but needed to hire a group to provide administrative support and management services
  - Identified and hired PACE effective Sept 30, 2016
Accomplishments

- Refined mission statement: “The Collaborative Alliance for Pancreatic Education and Research’s (CAPER) mission is: (a) to facilitate the collaboration of researchers of pancreatic diseases and to support scientifically rigorous multi-center studies in pancreatic diseases; (b) to educate and train healthcare providers in pancreatic diseases; (c) and to increase public health awareness regarding pancreatic diseases.”

- Restarted GI Academy- third consecutive year

- CAPER Pancreas Scholars

- Expand membership

- Expanded Board of Directors

- Apprentice Study
Top Accomplishment: Trainee Committee

Empowering clinicians and researchers to improve digestive health
Mentoring

John Cello, UCSF
Eamonn Quigley, UNMC
Margaret Tempero, UNMC
Henry Lynch, Creighton
Thank you for this honor!!