Name: Gina Paglucia
Role on PFAC: Co-Chair, Adult Council

What do you do for work (or hobby or passion)?
I have spent more than 20 years in business as a consumer and industry researcher, strategy consultant, and project manager. I have worked for a variety of firms, including start-ups and Fortune 500 companies. I am currently bringing my business skills to meet my passions and interests in health care advocacy, patient experience, and senior advocacy/elder services. In addition to being part of PFAC, I also teach workshops on fall prevention and balance strategies to seniors, and I volunteer with several elder service agencies.

What brought you to the Patient and Family Advisory Council?
My husband was treated in 2012 at Dana-Farber for stage IV cholangiocarcinoma. This is a rare but aggressive cancer of the liver bile ducts. His journey ended 9 months after diagnosis. I didn’t hear about PFAC until a nurse friend told me about the council in 2016 during a conversation regarding my interests in advocacy and the patient experience. At that time, I had reached a good place and felt ready to step beyond my own experience and represent the voice of others. Joining the council gave me an opportunity to turn my life-changing experience as a caregiver into a positive one by helping to support future families dealing with cancer.

Why is the council’s work important to you?
Dana-Farber is an amazing place made up of dedicated individuals working tirelessly to provide hope to patients and families dealing with one of the scariest times of their lives. In partnership with that team, the pediatric and adult advisory councils bring the voice of patients, families, and caregivers to help improve the overall experience. This voice brings a unique perspective of knowing what it is truly like to be in treatment, what a good and bad day is, what it feels like to be in crisis, what kind of communication is important, and what resources are needed. The council’s work with the leadership and staff at Dana-Farber helps to support the delivery of true patient-centered care, and I am honored to be a part.

What do you bring to the council?
From my business career, I bring leadership as well as analytical, project management, and strategic thinking skills. From my caregiver experience, I bring a deep understanding of the challenges and complexities of the role of caregiver during the cancer treatment of a loved one.

What are your hobbies and interests?
I love to walk and explore, especially new cities and new neighborhoods – it feels like being on a treasure hunt. But to relax and clear my head, I head to the beach – especially in the winter. My favorite beach is Aquinnah on Martha’s Vineyard. I also really enjoy Broadway music, Broadway musicals, and seeing live theater on both the big stage and the local stage.