



Name: Austin Sarat

Role on PFAC: Co-Chair of the Adult Patient & Family Advisory Council

Date joined: November 2021



What brought you to the PFAC? I come from an era that values “the ethic of service”. Outside of Dana-Farber, I am an active volunteer. I have coached my son’s Little League team, have served on the Zoning Board of Appeals, & most recently, I am a Board Member of *Amherst Neighbors* which empowers elders to maintain socially engaged lives while aging at home.

I have great respect for DFCI, and I have benefited from the Institution personally. So, the PFAC is a way to take my gratitude and make it material. As a co-chair, I am committed to do whatever it takes and I view my new role as another way to do service, be useful, and give back.

1. For PFAC members, what is your profession and/or what passion and skills do you bring to the Council?

I teach political science and law at Amherst College. My scholarship focuses on America’s death penalty. I bring a passion for excellence and a commitment to service. I hope to bring compassion, kindness, dedication and a little humor to our very important work.

2. Tell us something about yourself, your background, or your culture that you would like to share. I was born in New England and am originally from Providence RI. I studied Political Science at Providence College and the University of Wisconsin, and I then went on to work at Amherst College for 48 years where I teach Political Science and Law, Jurisprudence, and Social Thought. What is my biggest hobby? Going to the Doctor! I would also like to say once and for all that I hate the out-of-doors!

Instead, I religiously follow the Boston Sports Scene and my special pleasure is finding that perfect, bingeable show. But above all, any time that I can sit across the dinner table from my Sweet Love is my favorite activity.



- 3. What is something that you aspire to accomplish as an advocate for patients and caregivers/families?** One of my primary goals is to facilitate the work and commitment that brings volunteers to the PFAC. With respect to the Institute, I aim to find and strengthen ways for the voices of patients and caregivers to be useful to the work that DFCI does every day.

I am eager to work with both the APFAC and the Institute on accessibility issues, such as the basic challenges of getting in the door, finding the right providers, and making appointments. DFCI champions caring for the whole person. I know that the Adult PFAC can strengthen this commitment to make it real for every patient that walks through these doors.