



Name: **Jenny Dahlstein**

Role on PFAC: **Adult PFAC Co-Chair**

What do you do for work (or hobby or passion)?

My background is in public health and operations work. I'm a consultant and work with mostly non-profit organizations in the education and public health fields.

What brought you to the Patient and Family Advisory Council?

I completed treatment for triple negative breast cancer at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in 2016. Dana-Farber had an ad tagline that said: "Right now, you have cancer. But what your cancer doesn't know is, you have us." If I were to describe my patient experience at DFCI in one word, it would be "held" – DFCI had my back during a scary and emotionally/mentally/physically painful year. In 2020, I was looking for a way to give back and came across information about the Council on DFCI's website – I didn't know it even existed until then. Everyone's experience navigating cancer is so individual, which of course is true for the council members too – but what we have in common is a drive and commitment to ensure that other patients and family caregivers are offered as good an experience as possible.

Why is the council's work important to you? What do you bring to the council?

I'm so impressed by how genuinely and consistently DFCI staff involve the Adult and Pediatric PFACs to offer patient perspectives for program design, planning services, designing research efforts, and developing policy. DFCI is committed to centering the patient experience in every aspect of cancer care, from the moment someone arrives at the clinic to survivorship. Council members work closely in partnership with DFCI staff, not as an afterthought or a "nice-to-have". I bring to the council decades of public health work experience, my relationship-building and organizing skills, and my international perspective, having grown up in Sweden, Italy, Russia, Kenya, Ecuador, and Argentina. I'm interested in patient access and equity.

What are your hobbies and interests?

My passions are cooking, gardening, and going on safaris. All three are meditative and joyful experiences for me. I love reading recipes for inspiration but my cooking style is more spontaneous and organic – I make up new dishes all the time. We have a small, urban garden full of perennials, many of them edible. I'm at my happiest digging my hands into the dirt and contemplating how many more plants I can cram into the small plot. I live in Boston with my husband and our two sons.