

Carole Baas

Born: Oklahoma

Currently: National Cancer Institute,
Southlake, Texas



I was a biomedical engineer with two young children when I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I decided to spend whatever time I had left with my family.

While getting treatment, I would come in with a stack of journal articles to review with my doctor at each visit. Some clinicians might not appreciate that approach, but he was wonderful, so we would spend five minutes on my exam and the rest of the appointment time chatting about the latest medical research in breast cancer. It helped me handle the stress of my treatment.

Now, I'm a patient advocate at the NCI, incorporating the patient's voice into research projects - and educating patients about the science driving progress in cancer research. Patients have a unique perspective that can enrich medical research, and the more the public understands about science and why it's exciting and why they should support it, the better off we all will be.