



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2011

<http://www.FightColorectalCancer.org>

Contact: Catherine Knowles (202) 276-5682

## **Fight Colorectal Cancer Presents Andrew Giusti Memorial Award to Research Advocate Pam McAllister**

ALEXANDRIA, V.A. – March 9, 2011 – In memory of a former Board member, scientist and colorectal cancer patient, Fight Colorectal Cancer awarded the first-ever Andrew Giusti Memorial Award to research advocate Pam McAllister "for activism on behalf of colorectal cancer patients and for focusing, like Andy did, on pushing for great science that will translate to patient benefit as quickly as possible."

Nancy Roach, Chair and Founder of Fight Colorectal Cancer presented the award to Pam at the organization's annual advocate celebration dinner in Alexandria, V.A.

Ms. McAllister is a researcher whose brother died from cancer, and who was diagnosed herself. She first got involved with research advocacy in the early 1990s, and today many view her as the "grandmother" of colorectal cancer research advocacy. Ms. McAllister sits on the panel that sets the ACS screening guidelines. She has also been involved with the ASCO panels that set both the KRAS and the stage II treatment guidelines. Ms. McAllister has multiple research affiliations, including participation in a January 2011 meeting where the strategic direction of public-funded clinical research was defined. In addition to the extensive work that she has done herself as a research advocate, Ms. McAllister has taken the time to mentor people who came after her and helped explain how "just plain patients" make a difference when they understand the research process.

Like Ms. McAllister, Andrew Giusti was a superb research advocate. He was working on a vaccine against colorectal cancer when he was diagnosed in 2005 with stage IV widely metastatic colorectal cancer at the age of 40.

"Andy was committed to making science work for patients. And Pam truly exemplifies that advocate spirit. Both Andy and Pam translated the research that was happening into "what did that really mean for patients?" stated Ms. Roach. "I think Andy would completely agree that Pam deserves this recognition and we are excited to honor his memory and his work with this annual award recognizing the contributions of the research advocates who will shape the strategic direction of research in the future."

Fight Colorectal Cancer (formerly the C3: Colorectal Cancer Coalition) is the leading colorectal cancer advocacy organization in Washington, DC and demands a cure for the second leading cancer killer in the United States. In addition to our advocacy work, we offer support for patients, family members, and caregivers and serve as a resource for colorectal cancer advocates, policymakers, medical professionals, and healthcare providers. We also do everything we can to increase and improve research – at all stages of development and for all stages of cancer. Find out how you can get involved at [FightColorectalCancer.org](http://FightColorectalCancer.org).

###