A Celebration of the Life of Daniel Sargent
1970-2016
“I really believe that we have to lead our junior faculty with guidance, but not direction. What does that mean? Let’s put it the opposite way. I don’t think it works to say ‘You have to do this’. That really does not foster intellectual curiosity, and it does not lead to individual personal satisfaction. If we provide opportunities for people to excel and let them grow into their full abilities...that’s when they deliver their best work.”

—Daniel J. Sargent, PhD on September 19, 2016
Group Statistician, Mentor, and Friend
Prayers are with Dr. Sargent’s family. The dedication to Alliance were appreciated. — Susan Jutle

Prayers & sympathy to your family. — Janne Geick Miller
Dan was one of the kindest, most motivated & enthusiastic researchers that I have come across over the last 15 years since I’ve been involved with NCTD & the Alliance. I always looked forward to seeing him and interacting with him twice a year at our group meetings. I’m very sorry for your loss. Much Aloha, Diana Kromceroski

Dan will be forever remembered for his wonderful work & personal qualities. I was fortunate to meet him this year and feel honored to have known him. He will be incredibly missed.

Kristen Clumby

Dan’s work & significance in cancer research continues in our prayers & Dan’s family. Ben Tan

When I was first a member of the executive committee, Dan was the person who most encouraged me and instilled confidence that this was a reason for me to be here. He was the warmest person always.
Dan was a confident and impactful investigator. He was dedicated to his team at Mayo and here at the Alliance. I am sorry for your loss. Deepest sympathy.

Jennifer

Dan will be truly missed. You are in our prayers.

Condolences to Dr. Sargent’s family.

[Image of a group of people wearing matching t-shirts with a symbol on them]
Dan’s Legacy

“Although I only knew Dan for a year, I learned so much from him. As a leader, I admire his respect and trust in his team. He hired the best people and trusted them to do their job. I admire Dan even more for his love of family and his genuine care for others. Dan was a great story teller and he laughed easily. My life is richer for knowing him. He is deeply missed.”

-- Jennifer Le-Rademacher, PhD
I feel privileged and very lucky to have known and worked with Dan. Over the years he became a true friend and ally, and I miss him.

Sini Ajayi

To the Sargent Family

Dan Sargent was a kind man who effectively led the ability to lead various groups of people was remarkable.

Lisa Jacobs
The Alliance was blessed to have Dan’s guidance and leadership for many years—never to be forgotten.

Barbara Barrett

We will miss him! 

Andrew Waylen

Dear Sargent family,

It was truly a miracle that we were able to get Dan in our clinical trial designing committees. He was appreciated globally. My prayers are with you. He will be deeply missed.

Rakesh Gaur (Kansaz City)
A Celebration of the Life of Daniel Sargent

I have known Dan for a number of years. I always admired his attention to detail – but most importantly, his commitment to the enterprise for improving Cancer Care in the U.S. He was not simply a numbers guy; he saw beyond that to the reason for the numbers. He was a kind and compassionate genius whose contributions will be remembered and he will be sorely missed.

J. Marie Leitch MD

I have had the great honor to work with and be mentored by Dan. Dan’s amount, availability and kindness to so many was such a gift. He seemed to give tirelessly of himself. Thank you, Dan.
A Celebration of the Life of Daniel Sargent

Dan was a true leader. He shared his vision, inspired everyone with his excitement and led us to many successes. I am honored to have had a chance to work with him. Dari Cummins

Thank you for sharing Dan with us all. I remember him well, foremost as a gentleman scholar, and also as a brilliant man and helpful colleague.
Fraser Symmans, M.D.
Houston, Texas

Dan was an outstanding scientist and an inspiration for all who worked with him—we will miss him deeply.
Debrahn, MD

Dan was a great leader and a wonderful man. He will be forever missed and remembered for his achievements with the Alliance.

Amazing colleague, brilliant statistician with incredible knowledge of oncologic literature. Extremely fair and supportive, the ultimate diplomat. Working with Dan is a highlight of my career. With tremendous gratitude for all he gave to us and was provided by his leadership internationally.
It is so rare for one to encounter such an accomplished person who valued his colleagues and took pride in their success. His legacy will continue.

So sad for the loss to all of us. I exp. his family will be greatly missed as a person and cancer research icon. Deni Wyle

I remember when Dan was elected group statistician and how much there was enthusiasm and how much I loved working with him. Gini

Dan was a giant. His contributions were immense. In addition to being a great scientist, he was a great leader. He inspired many of us. His legacy will long outlast him because he was loved by all of us. With respect and sincerest condolences.

Dee Sheehy
In the short amount of time I have worked with Dan, I have never heard colleagues speak so highly of an individual. His legacy will live on at Alliance, and his memory will remain with those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Dan was an incredible leader and person. He was always interested in and listened to patients. He cared deeply about the impact of his work on patients and their care - he will be missed.

He will be truly missed.

Dan truly was a visionary who changed my way of approaching cooperative group correlative science. We miss him terribly.
What a true honor it was to have gotten to know Dan, a brilliant, dedicated, kind, and generous individual. He has touched the lives of millions of patients and investigators as well. He epitomized collaboration and inspired everyone else to do the same. His impact is ever lasting and his work will be forever missed.

George Chang

Dan was so inspirational on how we evolve Clinical Trials. He was the glue between best quality and trial goals.

MICHAEL UNO
IROC OHIO

I will remember Dan as a pleasant and brilliant scientist with a unique ability to foster collaboration. He will be missed greatly, but his legacy will be carried forward by all who knew him. He accomplished more in 46 years than most people do in a lifetime!

Den was the statistician’s statistician. Measured, calm, thoughtful and a beloved mentor.

Rick Stone
It is near impossible on a page or many pages to summarize Dan’s immense contributions to CE oncology and oncology. His impact on my career, work, and family has been enormous. While this is not a statistician, I have some knowledge of CE and state any item testing me with such enormous respect and collegiality. His support of proposals in accept, with the appearance of ideas, efforts and time starting as CE committee co-chair, will always shape my approach to research, mentoring, and collaboration. We recently made the connection of our love for playing tennis (much after learning both his children were nurturing Racket), I was not keen to propose to play vs. Dan to avoid embarrassment. Thank you for the opportunity to be included in a little part of Dan’s enormous contribution to cancer research.

-Jeff Heyerantly

Dan’s commitment to the staff within the SDC inspired courage & people in their careers lives. I will always remember the lessons taught person for person, having known

Print Week
Dear Sargent Family,

We are deeply saddened by the news of Dr. Sargent’s sudden passing. Many of us at Celgene had the honor and privilege of working with Dan on multiple projects over the years. Through his collaborative spirit, leadership, and strategic thinking, Dan’s work with the global cancer community led to significant and incredibly meaningful outcomes for cancer patients worldwide.

Dan made a deep impression on us. We remember him as a brilliant, innovative thinker, and for his humble nature. When meeting with Dan, he always brought a warm smile and an open mind. He was willing to hear different sides of issues and worked hard to find solutions. Dan remains a role model and continues to inspire and motivate us to be our very best. Dan leaves a tremendous, lasting legacy to cancer research and to patients. We miss him dearly. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sincerely Yours,

Celgene
A Celebration of the Life of Daniel Sargent

We loved Dan. As the Breast Cancer Committee was learning to integrate biology into clinical research—a real challenge on many fronts for the statisticians! Dan was 100% supportive, thoughtful about how to implement change, and kind even when he was saying “no.” We will all miss him.

Lisa Carey

Dan's memory and work will live on for so very long. His contributions to oncology and our patients are indelible. His loss will be felt widely, but so will his enduring great work and contributions to science.

Sincerely,
[Signature]

What a tragedy to lose such a brilliant, important person so early.

Peggy Kone
Dan made remarkable contributions in our fight against cancer. It will be missed.

Caprice Greenberg
U of Wisconsin

Dan—our time together in NICE and the Alliance was a wonderful experience for me. You are a beacon of what knowledge and a good friend.

Dorothy Moston

Dan, you were a true inspiration to me. I will be thinking of you.

David Kozono

As the recently appointed PSMB Chair, I was looking forward to a long and productive relationship with Dan. I am grateful for the time I did have with him and his lessons will stay with me forever. I am still in shock but will move forward.

Jeff Kirshner
I was fortunate to work with Dan in recent years and admired his devotion both to his work and to his family. My last visit with him was one where he described a few trips he took with his wife, and the lovely memories he carried from Italy and England.

Tony Nyyslo
Deke University

11/3/16

Dan has contributed so much to cancer research and promoted the field of statistics worldwide. He will be sorely missed.

Donna Niedzwiecki
Alliance Onc
Dan’s work in cancer trials saved millions andcharted oncology’s future in an unprecedented way. He will be missed! Condolences to family, friends, and colleagues. In memory, Shapiro and

Dan was an amazing person both professionally and personally. He will be missed and my condolences go out to you. Betty Burrud.

Dan was an absolute role model for balancing excellence in work and commitment to personal life.
A Celebration of the Life of Daniel Sargent

Dan Sargent was my first true collaborator and simultaneously mentor in the research. I had the honor to work with him to conduct elderly analyses in recent, possibly trials and in advanced metastatic settings and ACC pool. He was a lovely person and we will always be missed as a colleague and superb research mentor, colleague, and gentleman. Nadine Jackson McKay.

Dan was a leader in our field, and we will miss his energy and talent.

Benjamin Figuren
Washington University

A kind man who never hesitated to support my research study. I will be forever grateful for his guidance and collegiality. - Kelly Parsons, urologist

My deepest sympathies. - Peter O'Donnell (U. of Chicago)

Don was the first person (MD) at Mayo Clinic. He was a friend, a leader, and a role model. An organizer, Don always found time for the patient advocate. He always smiled. He kept his brilliant brain on high energy and shared it with us. Don was my friend and mentor of contact. He is very much missed.
Dan was every special person. I had the opportunity to work with him for the past 13 years on different projects. I am so grateful for his contributions in science but also for his wonderful humanity & personality. I am honored to have known him. Best of all, he dearly loved his family & God bless them all. — Libra T. Scheller

Jim Atkinson, Snow Corp — Dan always had a smile on his face, a friendly voice, and kind words for everyone.

Jeff Gandrud, Duke PT/EC Number — Dan was a great leader who got the best out of people with whom he worked. We all miss him.

Dan’s memory will always be remembered and honored at Alliance. Praying that God comforts you and your family. May his legacy live on in your family.

Dan’s contribution to the field of medical oncology is truly astounding. He is a role model for all of us.
Dan’s Legacy

“I would often discuss opportunities with Dan which I thought were a bit crazy (i.e., beyond my level of expertise). Dan was always highly supportive and encouraging. I still vividly remember the day I walked into his office filled with dread to tell him that I was moving to Mayo Arizona. I’m not sure what I was expecting (disappointment perhaps?), but Dan was instantly happy for me and then immediately started discussing how he could help me to succeed in my new role! Thank you, Dan, for your years of mentorship in person and from afar -- you have forever changed me.”

-- Amylou Dueck, PhD

Thank you for all your contribution to the cancer research through Alliance. I know you are in a great place and will be missed. Sandip Mehla
A Celebration of the Life of Daniel Sargent

Introduction: Daniel Sargent, PhD
• Native Minnesotan
  • Parents moved to Rochester (from Red Wing) in 1980
• BS, MS, PhD all from U of MN
• Hired at Mayo 9/1996
• Wife (Becky), 2 children (Alec, age 13, Paige age 11)

Dear Sargent family,
It has been a pleasure working with Dan at several levels in trial designs. He’ll be missed dearly. May he be with you.

Rakesh Gaur (Kansas City)

Dr. Wagen

Dear
Thank you for all the difference you have made in the life of so many patients.

Dr. Wagen
Don was internationally recognized, respected, and loved not only for his scientific contributions, but for his personality, his humor, this humanity. He is irreplaceable and will always be remembered.

-Dick Alm

Don was not only an amazing scientist/teacher, but also an incredibly wonderful human being — he is missed. Scott Tagawa

Don,
Thanks for all your contributions to the community.

-Loretta

Don,
It was tremendous to learn from you. You were such a great influence on everyone. You will be missed.

-Tyler Zemla

I will remember Dan for his unparalleled collegiality in EVERY interaction.

-Mary Bentz (Wash U)
A Celebration of the Life of Daniel Sargent

Dan was an inspiration to us and our Meyers committee was privileged to work with him and his amazing team, a true tribute to his brilliance. He was above all a caring and working leader who will be so missed. His spirit lives on with us and our group in every best possible sense.

Paul Redmond for the Meyers committee.

Dan made research accessible. His gentle nature was wonderful. He always had a smile for you. Phyllis Nesso

Dan shared with me that he married his high school sweetheart @ Colleen

Personality, conviction and dedication were his trademarks. We will never forget his humanity, humor and humility.

Shawn Porterfield
A Celebration of the Life of Daniel Sargent

We will miss your leadership and passion, Dan. You were an inspiration and role model for us all. God bless. Dan Coyle, DVL P

I only got to meet Dan once, but was struck immediately by what an amazing person he was. I hope his values can live on in us. James Blackly
As a young investigator with a new concept, I had a lot of people/committee regarding putting down my concept. I had 3 Statisticians work on my protocol, all eventually left the Alliance. Dan was kind and wonderful enough not only to fill in as a Statistician but to advocate for the design and statistics of the protocol. He spent hours working with me and perfecting the protocol, when we finally went to present the protocol to the NCI, it was unadvisedly reviewed! Dan fought for the protocol and helped me get the protocol approved. I am forever grateful for all the dedication, patience, kindness and support he has offered me. I would like to dedicate this protocol to Dan, the "AMBASSADOR" study as it represents the person Dan was. I will miss him very much.

Andrea Apollo

I was thinking of your family and share in your loss.

Alison Walker

Sorry for your loss,

Lori Altman

Dan was a leader and inspiration. He had a huge impact and will have a lasting impact on people who knew him and the field in general.

Jane Perlmutter
Dan’s Legacy

“....Through his words and his actions, Dan taught me how to thrive in a fast-paced, collaborative environment, and helped me find myself as a statistician. More importantly, Dan was a perfect example of what I hope to become personally. He was incredibly kind and thoughtful, and just being around him was enough to brighten my day. He loved his family very much, and seemed to always put them first. He was the greatest mentor I’ve ever had, and I will miss him terribly.”

-- Jared Foster, PhD
Dan was a friend of cancer patients everywhere and actively sought our input into the research. We considered him a friend and colleague.

Bob Jones

Dan was an amazing individual who could take complex statistics and turn it into basic English for the non-statistician. Cool and calm, he made sure what we do here was sound and reasonable.

Jim Stower

Dan was such a huge presence in our community. I remember being in a meeting years ago and I didn't know who he was, but I remember distinctly when he started talking everyone listened intently. He will be missed.

Dan was such a huge presence in our community. I remember being in a meeting years ago and I didn't know who he was, but I remember distinctly when he started talking everyone listened intently. He will be missed.

Dan, your kindness, collegiality, intelligence, and collaborative spirit will be missed, but your legacy will live on in your work and people you have trained and touched during your lifetime.

Billung
A Celebration of the Life of Daniel Sargent

Dan was extremely kind to all he worked with. He would always take time to answer questions and was a master of explaining difficult concepts in an understandable way. He is greatly missed.

Dan was an incredible role model of kindness and teamwork.

Dan was a great leader and a wonderful man. He will be forever missed and remembered for his achievements with the Alliance.

It’s hard to think of a more essential leader than Dan. His smarts, heart, and enthusiasm will be very hard to replace. Very best wishes to his family.

-Ben Sanford

Thank you for what you have done for the patients, families, and for the scientific community. You will be missed.

Shamsudin Virmi

Dan was not only a theoretically successful professional but was a remarkably nice guy! It was my privilege to know him.

Ganymede Sorin MD
“Dan did not give up on things easily; things that I just wanted to forsake, he pushed me the hardest. And it rejoiced him when he saw my progress in those domains. It is said that people show their true color at difficulties. And through Dan, I saw a fighter and a great advocate.”

-- Vivien Yin, PhD
My deepest sympathy to the Sargent Family on your loss. He was a good man!

Coleen Caw

Dan,
You have influenced so many people in so many ways. You will be missed tremendously.

Jennifer Chen

Dan, you are tremendously missed. Your legacy will endure forever.

S. Jane

I knew Dan for more than 20 years. I greatly respected his analytical approach, and yet his first concern was always to be patient-centered. Dan was a true giant in medicine, and he has left an indelible impact on our world. I will sorely miss Dan and pray God bless him.

Dan Macewen (MD) PhD
Jeff Abram - NCI - Dan accepted all the challenges we posed and thrived. We will sorely miss his leadership.

Condolences to Dr. Sargent’s family. He will be missed by his Alliance family. Steve Dyer
Although I did not know him personally, I am aware of his massive contribution to oncology, which will forever live on.

Gary Meng

Thank you, Dan, for all that you taught us. Your legacy will live on in the hearts of the patients whose lives you’ve changed.

Respectfully, Jane Varian

Dan will be missed by us all.

Yui'a Wen
Chicago

Dan was an incredible leader in oncology and his contributions to the field were countless. He will be missed.

Melina Voy

Dan always brought a smile to the room and a kind word.

Scott Wickman
A Celebration of the Life of Daniel Sargent

My favorite quality in Dan was his ability to listen and understand all the parts & a discussion, and offer feedback and guidance. Katie Altendorf

Dan was a kind, caring, gentle and brilliant person. He is truly missed and so appreciated for his leadership and friendship. Please know that his spirit lives on in the work to end this terrible disease.

Electra Paskett
Dan’s Legacy

“We began to work closely with Dan through the merger of the North Central and CALGB. His rigor, humanity, precision, and drive came through in everything he did. His advice – whether directed at the biostatistical design of a study, the management of a team of investigators, or the interpretation and presentation of a result – always kept the patient at the center and helped us try to develop and deliver clinical research that matters!”

-- Eric Winer, MD and Clifford Hurdis, MD
Dan’s Legacy

“Dan has had an ever lasting impact on the oncology clinical trials system both domestically and internationally and has contributed to the well-being of countless cancer victims and their families. His guidance and wisdom will be sorely missed. My condolences and prayers go to Dan’s family for their and our loss.”

-- Stephen Grubbs, MD
Remarks by Dr. James Doroshow of NCI during a tribute to Dr. Dan Sargent at the November 2, 2016 Clinical Trials and Translational Research Advisory Committee (CTAC) Meeting

It’s a sad but wonderful opportunity that we have to take a minute or two to think about the career of one of the first members of CTAC, one of the founding members, Dan Sargent, who you all know recently passed away. Let me say a few things personally about Dan’s contribution, because all of you know already how much he contributed to the Mayo Clinic and how much he contributed to the feasibility of actually putting together the Mayo Clinic clinical trials resources with the CALGB. It never would have happened without Dan.

But beyond that, he had a personal commitment to understanding how to treat colon cancer and how to develop new endpoints for colon cancer. I think everyone who knew him and worked with him understood clearly that he was not just a biostatistician who crunched numbers. He was a supreme clinical investigator who could get to the heart of almost any issue.

As we were thinking about how the various cooperative groups were going to come together and how we were going to do IT across the group system and even at the Mayo Clinic, Dan spearheaded our efforts to bring everybody together, to come to a coalescence around what kind of IT the NCI should purchase, what the characteristics of those systems ought to be.

And I could tell you -- because he used to sit right here, almost always, at CTAC meetings -- when something just didn't smell right, Dan would just have no hesitation about telling you, in his very calm way, that you didn’t know what you were talking about. It was never offensive, but it was always clear and to the point. And I remember presentations at the FDA where we learned what you could do in terms of using progression free survival as a criterion for colorectal cancer trials, which changed how we looked at those studies, and it's 100 other things.

And, of course, all the ways that he contributed his time, took away from his academic productivity, to work on committee after committee after committee for those incredibly rewarding honoraria that you all get, and he made innumerable visits to Bethesda from Rochester.

And so I would like for everyone to think about all the incredible things that he did in really a relatively short time frame. There's not one of us around this table who wouldn't love to be remembered for his level of academic productivity. Personally, I would love it if we remembered him for the incredible level of collegiality that he brought to the enterprise of doing clinical investigation because it was, bar none, at the highest possible level.

We should all aspire to that level of collegiality and that level of academic insight. And that’s the kind of memory that I would like to carry forward of him and what he contributed to all of our lives.