



The 2013 BAARN symposium is dedicated to the memory of the late, great John Quinn, MD, a close friend and colleague to many BAARN members who lost his battle with cancer just a few weeks ago on October 26. He was 62.

John was a native of Chicago. He graduated from the University of Illinois and Rush Medical College. He did his internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Loyola University and his ID fellowship at the University of Chicago. He spent 25 years there in various academic ID posts including Michael Reese Hospital, the University of Illinois, Northwestern, and most recently Rush and Cook County Hospital. He ran a research lab devoted to understanding molecular epidemiology and mechanisms of antibiotic resistance, primarily in gram negative bacilli, and published more than 130 papers on these topics. As Dave Shlaes recently posted in his blog, “John realized that to make an even greater impact on the lives and health of patients, a turn to the dark side – the pharmaceutical industry – was going to be the best way to bring new and needed therapies forward.” So in 2008 he moved to industry, taking a post at Pfizer R & D in Groton, CT. He split his time there between clinical development and research. When that group was shut down in 2011, he joined AstraZeneca Infection in Waltham, MA until about a year ago, when he decided to make the most of the time he had left with family and friends. John is survived by his beautiful wife Maria Virginia Villegas, an academic ID physician who runs a research institute in Cali, Colombia and four children, whom he described as “a store manager, an IT guy, a medical student, and a school teacher in the Bronx”.



John was hugely supportive of the creation of the BAARN and made many valuable suggestions on how to make it happen and whom to include. Although we would have much preferred to have him join us today in person, we take great comfort in knowing he is right here with all of us in spirit.