Active Surveillance Patients International Inc.
Stroudsburg, PA. | contactus@aspatients.org

Honoring a Visionary in Patient Empowerment: Mark Lichty's PCRI Award

Mark Lichty, co-founder of Active Surveillance Patients International (ASPI), received the 2025 Harry Pinchot "Making the Difference" Advocacy Award at the annual meeting of Prostate Cancer Research International in September, recognizing his long commitment to empowering men with prostate cancer to make informed, evidence-based choices about their care.

In accepting the award, Lichty reflected on the personal roots of his advocacy work. "I often think about my father Girard, hometown of Sellersville, who died of prostate cancer at the age of 76 in 1996," he said. "He never told me to go work in this field. But seeing him suffer from overtreatment gave me my purpose. Without my father, there wouldn't be Active Surveillance Patients International."

Lichty noted that ASPI itself was created through collaboration and shared courage at early conferences of Prostate Cancer Research International (PCRI). "These meetings were unlike anything else," he recalled. "It wasn't only what happened on stage—it was everything happening between conversations, the exchange of knowledge, the friendships that took shape."

"Congratulations to Mark on this award. He deserves it," said ASPI co-founder Howard Wolinsky, who previously was a recipient of the PCRI award.

"Mark has been a visionary in this work that recognizes the special needs for support of men on Active Surveillance that other support groups did not acknowledge. Mark has the uncanny

ability to recruit people to volunteer to advance the cause to support and educate these men to consider and stay on AS, but not to rule out necessary treatment."

Mark was also a co-founder of the AnCan Virtual Support Group for Men on AS.

Lichty said, "If we could bring the same spirit of collaboration to the rest of the world that we bring to our discussions about prostate cancer, I think we'd find more peace everywhere." With characteristic humor, Lichty added, "Today I'm announcing the formation of the Prostate Peace Party," before quickly adding that his real message was about finding "peaceful vigilance" through active engagement in one's health.

"If we stay involved, informed, and connected, we can live peacefully while staying watchful," he said.

Bill Manning, Executive Director of Active Surveillance Patients International, said: "I met Mark at a PCRI conference 10 years ago and later became involved in ASPI at its founding. I always found Mark to be a very compassionate person, always wanting to help others with his goal of sharing peaceful vigilance. Through ASPI, Mark continues to advance those values—building a global network of men and families committed to learning, living, and thriving with Active Surveillance."

Alex Scholz, CEO of PCRI, said: "Mark has been an incredible friend and a steady source of inspiration," she said. "When I served on the ASPI board, I saw firsthand how deeply he cares about this community. His leadership has made a lasting difference for thousands of men around the world."

The Harry Pinchot Advocacy Award honors individuals who embody empathy, persistence, and courage in serving the prostate cancer community.

Active Surveillance Patients International Inc.
Stroudsburg, PA. | contactus@aspatients.org

Click on the thumbnail below to watch Mark's acceptance speech at the 2025 PCRI Conference in September.