Susan Faerber has been a project director for Cancer Prevention and Control research studies for the past 17 years. In this work, she has used her considerable interpersonal skills and her knowledge of database programs to initiate the development of an excellent prevention trial infrastructure that has led to multiple high quality studies. She has undertaken every support role on these prevention studies and this has included recruitment interviewing, conducting cooking classes, and undertaking project management including basic study statistics. She has used this intricate knowledge to design databases that take responsibility for almost all repetitive tasks on the studies. This infrastructure quickly became an essential component of each study. As a result, UCSD Cancer Prevention and Control program has gained an international reputation for the quality of its prevention trials. Currently, she is helping develop the infrastructure for the conduct of the Athena study, a partnership of the five UC Cancer Centers. This is an innovative research and cancer care collaboration that starts with the completion of a web-based survey prior to the clinical care appointment. The results of this survey are incorporated into the medical record and, with appropriate informed consent, to a research database for future studies.

In addition to doing her full time job as a project director in the cancer center, for the past five years, Susan Faerber has single handedly implemented a patient and community Healing Food Kitchen’s program at the Moores UCSD Cancer Center which supports the Cancer Center’s commitment to the benefits of good nutrition by providing information and practical dietary guidance to support healing and health. Since 2005, more than 2000 cancer patients and community members have taken advantage of this hands-on educational experience. The class curriculum and recipes change monthly and focus on seasonal foods. Participants receive educational handouts that include class goals and educational objectives, recipes with nutrient calculation per serving, class evaluation, and other educational materials pertinent to the class topic.

This program implements a series of 7 cooking classes each month, many in the evening. It is a free program offered specifically for cancer center patients and Susan’s participants have been generous in providing donations to support the program. She has also been very successful in obtaining a matching philanthropic grant. With her boundless energy, she has proposed and runs a “Mad Hatters Tea Party” each year as a Cancer Center fundraiser for the Healing Food Kitchen. The budget for these services is over $100,000 each year and she has been successful in raising that for each of the past 6 years.

These cooking classes are extremely popular with Cancer Center patients and help build a very positive reputation for the Moores UCSD Cancer Center. This is attested to by the endorsements of both Dr Barbara Parker, medical director for the Cancer Center and breast oncologist at Moores and by Ira Goodwin the Associate Director for Administration at the MCC.

In addition, Susan’s intricate knowledge of the conduct of studies has been invaluable to the set up of complex new trials such as those recently obtained by Dr Ruth Patterson who has also agreed wholeheartedly to endorse this nomination. Susan has established a reputation as a “can-do” person who is willing to work long hours in order to get an urgent task completed or to design a specific database so that a study can start on time.