Dr. Ahlquist is a consultant in gastroenterology and hepatology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester MN and the Carol Gatton Professor of Gastrointestinal Research. Dr. Ahlquist has served as the Mayo GI Training Program Director, Director of Endoscopy, Director of the GI Neoplasia Clinic, Chair of the GI Group within the Mayo Cancer Center, Director of Mayo Development, and President of the Mayo Clinic Staff and has mentored more than 40 research fellows.

Dr. Ahlquist has been a pioneer in noninvasive approaches to the early detection of GI neoplasia and has published extensively in this area. His current research focuses primarily on the assay of molecular markers in stool and other media for the screen detection of colorectal cancer and precancers as well as of neoplasms throughout the GI tract. He and his research team have helped to develop and validate a multi-marker stool DNA test, which is currently under review by FDA and expected to soon become available in the US for general colorectal cancer screening.