

LIVER CANCER CHARITY TAKES ON THE MARINE CORPS MARATHON

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BURBANK, CA – September 1, 2004. Among the thousands of civilian and military runners in the Marine Corps Marathon on October 31st will be two runners from Washington, DC. They hope to show a few marines that they have what it takes to go the distance as they run to support the fight against liver cancer.

Team Blue Faery, consisting of Susanne Eymmer and Sherri Weinstein, are running the Marine Corps Marathon in support of Blue Faery: The Adrienne Wilson Liver Cancer Association (www.bluefaery.org). Blue Faery is the only non-profit charity in the United States devoted to fighting Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC). HCC, or liver cancer, is the fourth most common cancer and the third largest cause of cancer deaths in the world.

Weinstein is a founding board member and chair of the medical research committee of the charity. She is a senior honors student at the George Washington University and recently completed the prestigious Summer Institute for Training in Biostatistics at Boston University. She has run two previous Marine Corps Marathons in 2002 and 2003. Eymmer is currently a counselor in Arlington, VA. As a first time marathoner she said, "I didn't know anything about liver cancer before I heard about Blue Faery. I was fascinated by the link between viral hepatitis B and C and liver cancer. Running a marathon for Blue Faery is my way of calling attention to this cause. I hope to help educate people the way Blue Faery has educated me."

Over 1.2 million people in the United States and 400 million people in the world have hepatitis B. Millions more have hepatitis C. According to the Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, viral hepatitis B and C, aflatoxin intake, and alcohol remain the major causative factors of HCC. The use of the hepatitis B vaccine has shown a decrease in the incidence of HCC in vaccinated children and preventive vaccination is one of Blue Faery's key messages.

Among its achievements, Blue Faery has produced a Patient Education Brochure that is available to doctors, patients, and their families free of charge. This project was largely completed by Weinstein, who has been instrumental in its distribution in three major hospitals across the United States. Development of a Patient Education Video and other educational and advocacy programs are planned for the future.

Despite its devastating effects, HCC continues to be one of the least researched and discussed forms of cancer. Last year there were 17,300 new cases of HCC in the United States alone. Worldwide the incidence rate is even higher, with 430,000 new cases reported in 2003. There is no known cure for HCC and the five-year survival rate is 2%-6%.

Blue Faery was founded by Andrea Wilson when her 15-year old sister, Adrienne, died after being diagnosed with HCC. Weinstein met Adrienne in their high school dance class and felt a tremendous loss when she passed away. She has devoted her life to Blue Faery and its mission to prevent, treat and cure HCC through education, advocacy, and encouraging research. As a young and growing charity, Blue Faery is always seeking private, corporate and in-kind donations.

If you would like more information about HCC or Blue Faery please visit its website: <http://www.bluefaery.org> or contact Blue Faery at 818-636-5624. Ms. Weinstein and Ms. Eymmer are available for interviews.

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