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Cycling for a cure

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In October 2005, Lincoln resident Anne Doyle's father Hugh died of carcinoid cancer.

In his honor she is serving as the team captain of the Caring for Carcinoid Foundation's Pan-Massachusetts Challenge team.

"My Dad served as a role model for my life, giving back to his community in so many ways until he died of carcinoid cancer at age 74," she said. "In his honor, I look forward to contributing to the collective energy of the Caring for Carcinoid community and doing everything we can to eradicate this cancer. I would like a story that follows that of my dad's twin brother. He died at age 13 of Addison's disease in 1944, just a few years before a cure for Addison's was discovered. Similarly, just as my father died this year, I hope for an imminent cure for carcinoid cancer."

Anne has put together a team of 43 riders to ride in the Pan-Mass Challenge to raise money for cancer research. This is her sixth year riding.

"I will ride powered by my Dad's spirit," she said. "I've always shed tears riding the PMC listening to others' stories, and this year will be no different. But for this year's ride, I feel additional energy and drive riding to fund research to cure carcinoid cancer."

Hugh's cancer brought him and Anne together with Nancy O'Hagan, who was also diagnosed with carcinoid cancer. O'Hagan founded the Caring for Carcinoid Foundation, and Anne recently became the organization's director.

For years, O'Hagan had experienced tremendous fatigue and abdominal pain and, eventually, intense flushing. Her doctors always told her that these symptoms resulted from the stress of working long hours as a tax attorney. In fact, these symptoms were caused by carcinoid cancer and its metastatic effects known as Carcinoid Syndrome.

"A few days before my first wedding anniversary, at age 29, I collapsed on the subway in Boston," she said. "At the ER at MGH, I was diagnosed with extensive liver tumors that displaced the majority of my liver, as well as with innumerable bony tumors. The doctors gave me a few months to live."

Five years later, O'Hagan is the president of the Caring for Carcinoid Foundation. She is training to ride in her first PMC alongside her husband Patrick. She has made the transition from mountain biking to road biking and is logging more and more miles in a new sport and adventure for her.

The Caring for Carcinoid Foundation funds some of the brightest medical and research minds in the world to better understand the genetic causes of carcinoid cancer. Carcinoid cancer is a neuroendocrine cancer and as such has implications for other more familiar cancers, such as prostate cancer. The more researchers learn about the genetic and proteomic (protein) make-up of carcinoid and other neuroendocrine cancers, the more researchers will understand other cancers and develop cures.

Together, Anne and Nancy are achieving the Caring for Carcinoid Foundation mission to cure carcinoid cancer.

The PMC is a 192-mile bike ride on Aug. 5 and 6 in support of Jimmy Fund cancer research at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. It is the largest bike ride fund-raiser in the country. The Caring for Carcinoid Foundation team goal is to raise more than \$125,000 for carcinoid research during the Pan Mass Challenge. Funds raised by the Caring for Carcinoid Foundation team will go directly to carcinoid research at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Riding on the Caring for Carcinoid Foundation team are 11 riders from Lincoln: Doyle, Don Alden, James Alden, Woodie Arthur, Ted Charrette, Tia Doggett, Michael George, Leslie and Andrew Hallowell, Cindy Sweetser and Peter Watkinson. To support the team, go to www.pmc.org, click eGifts and type in team number TC0104 to provide a team gift, or put in the name of the rider you'd like to sponsor now.

On Sept. 17 the Caring for Carcinoid Foundation will sponsor a team in the Jimmy Fund Walk. To join the team walk, go to www.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=165744.

For more information about the Caring for Carcinoid Foundation, visit www.caringforcarcinoid.org.

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