



**Participants Will Go the Distance to Raise Funds for Cancer Research
During Two Swim Across America Events in Chicago**

(Chicago—July 16, 2015) -- While it's common to figuratively "run for your life" when trying to escape an uncomfortable situation, hundreds of athletes will literally swim for the lives of others during two upcoming events that raise funds to support potentially life-saving cancer treatment research.

On July 25th, Olympians, cancer survivors, family members and many other swimmers who simply want to get in a good swim for a great cause will go the distance during Swim Across America—Chicago. During this family-friendly event, which will start at 7 a.m. at Ohio Street Beach, participants of all skill levels will complete a .5 mile, 1 mile, 1.5 mile or 3 mile swim, while raising money for cancer research programs at Rush University Cancer Center.

Many activities that call attention to the plight of the cancer honorees are on tap for the day. Before the swim starts, participants will share "Why I Swim Stories" and everyone in attendance will take a moment to acknowledge all of the cancer survivors. In addition, Rush University Cancer Center researchers will be on the beach, ready to talk about how the funds raised during this event are supporting important clinical research initiatives.

"The event really isn't about how fast you go. It's about coming out to honor others who are facing a battle that is so much more grueling, challenging and punishing than an open water swim. It's about raising money to support the important research that is being conducted right here at Rush University Cancer Center in Chicago," said Patti Piaseki, RN, a nurse practitioner who works in the orthopedic cancer unit at Rush and is the captain of the hospital's Swim Across America team. "It's really just a great day that is designed to give hope to cancer patients and survivors – and to honor all those who have succumb to this disease."

Just a week following this first event, many of the same participants will participate in Swim Across Lake Michigan, July 31-August 1, 2015, which also helps to raise money for cancer

research at Rush. During this open water mega-swim designed for the more experienced and adventurous athlete, about 25 participants form a relay team to swim from Burnham Harbor in Chicago all the way across Lake Michigan, landing just south of New Buffalo, Mich. This 43-mile challenge is expected to last between 20 and 30 hours – and to test the mettle of all involved.

For more information about these events or to make a donation, go to:

<http://www.swimacrossamerica.org/Chicago>.

About Swim Across America

Swim Across America, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to raising money and awareness for cancer research, prevention and treatment through swimming- related events. With the help of hundreds of volunteers nationwide and past and current Olympians, SAA is helping find a cure for cancer through athleticism, community outreach and direct service.

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