



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

David Haney, Director of Strategic Communications
University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria
309.671.8404 | dhaney@uicomp.uic.edu



'Tracy Trot' raises more than \$40,000 for pancreatic cancer research and patient care

PEORIA – (December 9, 2015) The 3rd Annual Tracy Trot, the primary fundraiser for the Theresa Tracy Strive to Survive charitable foundation, raised more than \$40,000 to battle pancreatic cancer this year.

About 500 people registered and 150-plus volunteered for the 4 mile run and 2 mile walk held at the East Peoria Levee District on November 7, 2015. Of the \$40,000-plus raised, a symbolic \$30,044 will be presented at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10 at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria to fund on-going pancreatic cancer research at the College of Medicine. An additional \$10,044 is earmarked to Illinois CancerCare for patient care.

The specific \$44 ending amount is intentional. The not-for-profit was set up in memory of Theresa Ann (Naramore) Tracy who after battling pancreatic cancer passed away in 2010 at age 44. The mission of Theresa Tracy Strive to Survive is to increase survivability of pancreatic cancer through awareness and to support the advancement of a cure.

"We have an amazing all-volunteer group who are driven and throughout the year put forth a passionate effort in the fight against pancreatic cancer, and in memory of Theresa," said John Kahl, President of Theresa Tracy Strive to Survive. "Simply put, we want a cure for this deadly disease and we want to help do what we can to find it." In just three years, the volunteer organization has raised nearly \$100,000 for pancreatic cancer research and patient care.

Christopher Gondi, PhD, a research assistant professor at the College of Medicine whose work focuses on pancreatic cancer, is investigating how pancreatic cancer cells develop resistance to anti-cancer therapies. "We are developing strategies to overcome this resistance," he said.

Pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the U.S. with more than 38,000 deaths annually. About 94 percent of patients die within five years of diagnosis.

The next Tracy Trot will be held on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016. Learn more about Theresa Tracy Strive to Survive by visiting www.theresatracytrot.com.