

Herald News: Letters, November 12, 2010

Real Meaning to those Memorial Runs

As a daughter robbed of a loving father by pancreatic cancer, I should be aware of all there is to know about this most fatal cancer. But this month, Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, has taught me something new: Fund raising works.

For the past seven years, my sisters and I have organized a fund-raising run in our father's memory and donated the proceeds to Johns Hopkins University. Frankly, I never thought Hopkins' research would amount to much in my lifetime, even as I followed Dr. Christine Iacobuzio-Donahue, whom we directly support with our fund raising, on a tour of her lab.

This past week, however, Iacobuzio-Donahue made national headlines. With colleagues at Hopkins and England's Sanger Institute, they announced a breakthrough toward early detection. This breakthrough is in part a direct result of donations by this community — as corporate sponsors, as purchasers of necklaces in our silent auction, and as devourers of spinach pie in our Greek-inspired cafeteria.

Having raised \$360,000 to date, the George Rubis Endowment is credited as a research supporter in the Nature article where the Hopkins-Sanger findings first appeared. I am humbled to know that our grass-roots efforts have helped both scientists and people who might face this monstrous disease. And motivated.

I hope readers will be motivated, too, to join us on Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. at Upper School, 143 Charlotte Place, in Englewood Cliffs, to keep making strides, dollar by dollar, spinach pie by spinach pie.

Anastasia Rubis

Little Falls

Checks made out to Johns Hopkins University may be sent to PO Box 1406, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632.