



In The News....

Lance Armstrong's LIVESTRONG organization, recently featured in **Newsweek** magazine, introduced "The Cancer Screening, Treatment and Survivorship Act of 2007" to Congress so that the nation's number one disease will become a national priority.

A Marietta resident, Julie Houston, was chosen as a LIVESTRONG delegate for South Carolina and met with South Carolina Congressmen regarding the impact that cancer has on America and its citizens. The priority of the legislation is to guarantee forward funding of the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute so that programs can be expanded by the Centers of Disease Control to screen, treat and survive cancer.

Recently, Ms. Houston was selected to attend Patient Congress and receive training as a State Policy Liaison for South Carolina. Patient Congress has occurred for the last 8 years on Capitol Hill-introducing healthcare reform legislation and relaying patient concerns. The National Patient Advocate is a national organization for healthcare reform and the Patient Advocate Foundation (a partner with the Lance Armstrong Foundation) insures equal access to healthcare for all Americans, one patient at a time.

Attendees of the 8th Annual Patient Congress numbered over 200, came from 49 states and the District of Columbia, completed 189 visits to Capitol Hill offices including 60 meetings with the House or Senate member. Our attendees visited 96 Senatorial Offices and 100 House of Representatives Offices representing the voices of patients everywhere. The five key points that were brought to Capitol Hill by 200 advocates representing 49 states were:

Eliminating Barriers to Health Insurance Coverage

-Under current law, pre-existing restrictions can be as long as 12 months. NPAF believes the maximum permitted pre-existing condition limitation period under HIPAA should be lowered to 3 months.

Restore Medicare Reimbursement Cuts for Imaging Services

-More than 1/3 of the total Medicare savings in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 was derived from dramatic cuts to payments for imaging services under Medicare.

Reauthorize and Strengthen the S-CHIP Program

-The State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) is for families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, yet cannot afford to buy private insurance.

Provide Increased Fiscal year 2008 Appropriations

In 2007, federal funding cuts to the National Cancer Institute resulted in the closure of 93 clinical trials which affected 3,000 cancer patients. NPAF also supports funding for the Patient Navigator, Outreach and Chronic Disease Prevention Act (enacted in June 2005 but never funded) and asks for appropriation of \$7million in FY 2008.

Preserve Access to Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents for Cancer Patients-

A decision to cut payment for ESAs was made without Congressional discussion. ESAs are life-saving agents administered to chemotherapy patients due to its effects on blood counts. Without them, millions of cancer patients would die as a result of the treatment, not necessarily the cancer itself.

To view these issues online:

http://www.pc.patientadvocate.org/index.php?p=issue_briefs

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT-CHANGE OCCURS WHEN YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS HERE FROM YOU!

Patient Advocate Foundation's Mission Statement

Patient Advocate Foundation is a national non-profit organization that seeks to safeguard patients through effective mediation assuring access to care, maintenance of employment and preservation of their financial stability.

Mark Your Calendar:

Brain Tumor Awareness Week

May 1-7, 2008

LIVESTRONG Day

May 16, 2008

Patient Congress

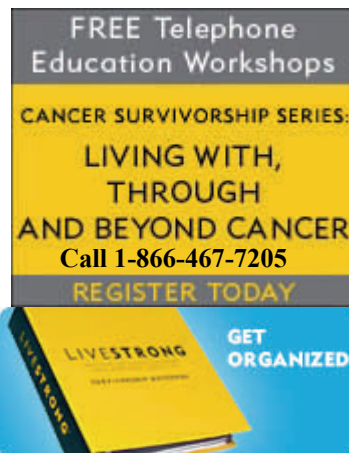
June 23-24, 2008

Presidential Cancer Forum

August 27-28, 2007



www.patientadvocate.org



Order a free **LIVESTRONG Survivorship Notebook** with worksheets to help you organize your cancer experience.

Wear your gray ribbon
In support of
Brain Tumor Awareness!

BTAO needs your help!
Online volunteers, webmasters, fundraising participants and business supporters are all needed to participate via our website to build a much needed network of support for those we serve!



...Also recycle your cellphones!
For more information visit our website and click on link above!

Get One-on-One Support

Through the LIVESTRONG SurvivorCare program, you can request help dealing with your cancer experience, including:

- Counseling and referrals to local resources
- Help addressing financial and insurance concerns
- Clinical trials matching to new treatments in development

Call 1-866-467-7205 to request help

Call LIVESTRONG SurvivorCare toll-free

Monday through Friday from 9:00-5:00 p.m. EST to speak to a case manager.



The *Living After Cancer Treatment* brochure series is an introduction to survivorship that is: Culturally relevant, User-friendly, & Easy to read. The brochures raise awareness of the physical, practical and emotional concerns of cancer survivors, list resources and encourage survivors to seek support. [Order your FREE copies of the brochure series](#) today. Each of the brochures contains the same basic content but is adapted to be culturally relevant to the needs of a specific audience. [Order multiple copies of the brochures](#) to distribute through non-profit organizations, government agencies, foundations, hospitals and clinics serving cancer survivors and caregivers. [Make a gift to the LAF](#) so we can continue to provide brochures free-of-charge to underserved communities.



“Hidden Under Our Hats” Campaign kicks off for South Carolina

Thanks to our friends in the community, we have collected many hats for the “Hidden Under Our Hats” campaign. Though the project is to collect hats decorated by brain tumor families in honor of their “Warrior” or “Angel” the hats that have been donated will be given to other cancer agencies. This is an effort to build a state display representing brain tumor “Warriors” and “Angels” to raise awareness. Each year the Brain Tumor Action Network has carried the national display of hats to the Upper Senate Fountain during “Brain Tumor Awareness Week”



“Hidden Under Our Hats” Display in Washington, D.C. 2005 (above) Keith Houston, Grade 3 Brain Tumor Survivor with his hat at Upper Senate Fountain, D.C. (below)

May 1-7. The hats are decorated with personal attributes of the individual, it must also include the tumor type, diagnosis date and status. Brain tumors do not discriminate-it affects all ages. We will be taking suggestions for venues to host our display and raise awareness in your community.

Thank you to our sponsors:
The Bank of Travelers Rest;
The Cancer Society of Greenville County; The Cancer Centers of The Carolinas; The Cancer Association of Anderson; ASP Pool & Spa James Island, SC; The Cancer Centers of The Carolinas; Classic Café; The Cancer Association of Spartanburg/ Cherokee Counties; Edward Jones Investments; Leopard Forest Coffee Company Joyful Creations Salon/A Novel Idea Book Store; and the International Ballet Academy of Dance.



Many Patients with Malignant Gliomas Don't Receive Recommended Care

To ensure that they receive care consistent with current best practices, patients with a diagnosis of malignant glioma should always obtain a second opinion from a brain tumor specialty center, advises Fine. NCI supports brain tumor specialty centers around the country; some centers specialize in treating adults while others specialize in treating children.
Source: NCI 2/28/05

A New Exciting Link– www.vitaloptions.org
Interactive call-in cancer radio talk show
8/5/2007 4-6 pm EST
Cancer and the Creative Impulse Program #600
1-800-GRP-ROOM 1-800-477-7666

Congress must reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) before it expires on September 30th! This Program provided health coverage for Keith when his COBRA ran out. Contact your elected officials and encourage them to support SCHIP! Call their office or you may Go to www.senate.gov and www.house.gov to send to your elected officials. Thank you!
Check website for more advocacy action alerts!

Definition of brain tumor: The growth of abnormal cells in the tissues of the brain. Brain tumors can be benign (non-cancerous) or malignant (cancerous).

Estimated new cases and deaths from brain and other [nervous system](#) tumors in the United States in 2007:
New Cases: 20,500 **Deaths:** 12,740
Source: NCI