



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 'Tracy Trot' raises symbolic \$17,044 for UICOMP pancreatic cancer research

**PEORIA** – (January 9, 2015) The 2nd Annual Theresa Tracy Trot, the primary fundraiser for the Theresa Tracy Strive to Survive charitable foundation, raised more than \$34,000 to battle pancreatic cancer.

Nearly 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 1, 2014. Funds raised from the event were split with \$17,044 given to the University of Illinois Foundation specifically for pancreatic cancer research at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, and an equal amount donated to Illinois Cancer Care for care and treatment of those with pancreatic cancer.

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.

"Our all-volunteer organization puts forth such a passionate effort throughout the year in the fight against pancreatic cancer, and with little to no advancement in treatment or a cure of one of the most deadly forms of cancer, we are extremely grateful for another successful event that led to our ability to split over \$34,000 in funding between two outstanding recipients who share a common goal with us," said John Kahl, President of Theresa Tracy Strive to Survive.

"We believe our discoveries in the lab will lead to new methods for treatment of this devastating disease, improve patients' quality of life, and extend the lives of many," said Christopher Gondi, PhD, a research assistant professor at the College of Medicine whose work focuses on pancreatic cancer. "Thanks to the Theresa Tracy Foundation, our work can continue and grow."

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. 7, 2015. Learn more about Theresa Tracy Strive to Survive by visiting [www.theresatracytrot.com](http://www.theresatracytrot.com).

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