



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AT PEORIA

PRESS RELEASE

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The tally: 'Walk for the Mind' raises consecutive \$50,000 for brain cancer research

PEORIA – [December 17, 2014] The 12th Annual Mark Linder Walk for the Mind raised \$50,000 a second straight year for brain cancer research at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria.

Nearly 700 people, including about 50 brain cancer survivors, participated in the September 27 event held along the Peoria Riverfront. For the second year in a row, this is the largest amount raised in a single year since the Walk began in 2003.

"I know Mark would have been so pleased to see how successful the Walk has become. He had a mission and it was his vision to make this a success," said Peggy Flannigan, chair of this year's Walk for the Mind.

In an effort to reach out to brain cancer survivors and help raise funds for brain cancer research, Mark Linder founded the Walk for the Mind in 2003. That first walk attracted over 150 walkers and raised more than \$12,000 for research programs. While Mark died in 2005 at age 31 from brain cancer, the Walk continues and to date has raised nearly \$400,000 for research.

The Walk for the Mind is coordinated entirely by volunteers, many of whom themselves are brain cancer survivors. All funds raised support research at the College of Medicine in Peoria toward understanding the mechanisms that make brain cancers grow and invade.

"This is research we hope will lead to breakthroughs originating here in the laboratory at the College of Medicine and then someday translate to brain cancer treatment at the Illinois Neurologic Institute here in Peoria," said Dr. Andrew Tsung, a surgeon scientist for UICOMP and Director of the Brain Tumor Center.

Next year, the Mark Linder Walk for the Mind will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015. Learn more about the Walk by visiting www.marklinderwalkforthemind.org.

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