

# Hope STARTS HERE

at MARQUETTE GENERAL

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## CYCLING CHALLENGE RAISES \$26,000



May 12th dawned cool and sunny as the cyclists in the 2nd annual Hope Starts Here Cycling challenge got under way at Marquette General Hospital. There were 194 riders, more than double last year's participants, who chose either a 35-mile trek or a 5-mile meander on the Lake Superior shoreline bike path. There were also 17 participants from the Houghton area who participated in a satellite ride in the Keewenaw. The fun event raised \$26,000 for the Upper Michigan Brain Tumor Center (UMBTC). More than 30 generous sponsors provided food, beverages, advertising, cash and volunteer support making the event safe and memorable.

This year's top team fundraiser was Team Kus, led by John and Molly Kus of Marquette. Family and friends rallied behind the Kus's as they fight Molly's newly diagnosed brain tumor. For the second year, Elizabeth Schut garnered individual top fundraiser recognition. Elizabeth raised more than \$1500 by asking people for \$1.00 each. A

successful strategy we hope she'll try again next year.

After a delicious lunch, participants enjoyed an inspirational concert by David Bailey. Bailey's music brought the crowd to tears one minute and laughter the next. Bailey, a 10-year survivor of a malignant glioma, sang of hope, love, friendship and faith during the 90-minute concert. David will return to Marquette for a third year April 24, 2008. Be sure to mark your calendars

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## STAY CONNECTED WITH CAREPAGES

CarePages is a personalized web page that allows patients, family and friends to stay connected during hospitalization, through treatment and beyond.

CarePages is secure — only people you invite can view your CarePage. CarePages is easy to use and is completely free. Even if you are well beyond your hospital stay and are in the midst of treatment, you can use CarePages to communicate with your family and friends.

Learn more about this important opportunity by visiting Marquette General Hospital's web site at [www.mgh.org](http://www.mgh.org). You can also get to the CarePages site through the UMBTC web site at [www.hopestartshere.org](http://www.hopestartshere.org), click on the Community link.

In addition to CarePages, the UMBTC offers two additional web-based opportunities to connect with and share experiences with other brain tumor patients and families. You can find a Pen Pal through the American Brain Tumor Association. Or you can create your own blog — an on-line diary of your experiences. Just remember, the blog is public, while CarePages and the Pen Pal program are private. Please take advantage of these programs.

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## BIKE CHALLENGE

for this fabulous concert.

Finally, a handmade quilt in UMBTC orange featuring the star of hope design, was presented to Brain Tumor Center founder, Dr. Richard Rovin in memory of his patient John Karry. Karry's family was present and witnessed the awards ceremony dedicated to John. The John Karry Spirit Awards were presented to the top fundraisers for 2007

The next Cycling Challenge will be May 10, 2008. Hope to see you there!

## WINN TO PRESENT MGMT RESEARCH

Robert Winn, PhD, Professor of Biology at Northern Michigan University will present, "Temozolomide in addition to Gliadel wafer and radiotherapy in adults with newly diagnosed glioblastoma multiforme. The impact of MGMT expression," during the Society for Neuro Oncology meeting in Dallas, Texas.

Winn and co-authors Richard Rovin, MD, and Nicholas Brown, BS, reviewed the clinical course of 19 patients with glioblastoma multiforme treated at Marquette General Hospital. Two groups of patients were compared. The first group of 10 patients was treated before temozolomide was available. The second group of 9 patients was treated after temozolomide usage was approved. Both groups received maximal surgical resection, Gliadel wafer placement and radiation therapy. The second group additionally received temozolomide once it became available. The authors wanted to know if there was a difference in the time to tumor return on MRI scan.

"We anticipated that the addition of temozolomide to our standard management program would delay the tumor's return," Rovin said. "What we found, though, was no difference between the two groups."

Confronted with this unexpected result, the investigators turned to the lab. "We knew that some tumor cells produce a DNA repair protein named MGMT. MGMT reverses the changes in DNA caused by Gliadel wafer and temozolomide. This means that tumors that make MGMT tend to be more resistant to the common chemotherapy treatments," Winn explained.

After developing a genetic test to see if MGMT was being made in tumor cells, Winn, Rovin and Brown tested the tumor tissue from the two groups of patients for the presence of MGMT.

"We found that the majority of tumors in the group of patients that was treated with temozolomide in addition to Gliadel wafer and radiation made MGMT. We believe that the MGMT counteracted the temozolomide and that's why we didn't see a clinical difference between the two groups," noted Winn.

"We believe this information reinforces the need to develop molecular strategies to turn off MGMT in tumor cells," Rovin concluded.

Such strategies are currently being pursued by UMBTC scientists.

## BAILEY CONCERT CHANGES VENUE

Due to the increasing popularity of the concert portion of the Hope Starts Here Cycling Challenge, organizers have decided to make the highly acclaimed David Bailey performance a totally separate event.

The concert will be April 24th at 7:30 PM at the Reynolds Recital Hall on the campus of Northern Michigan University. The Reynolds Recital Hall is an acoustically superb facility — this is only fitting as David Bailey gives an uplifting, enriching and inspirational performance.

According to Laurie Neldberg-Weesen, "As a brain tumor survivor, David's message of hope is so important. We wanted David to share his message with as many people as possible and not limit it to those who participated in the Cycling Challenge."

Northern Michigan University, a partner in the UMBTC, is generously providing the Reynolds Recital Hall for the concert. Though admission is free, donations to the UMBTC will be accepted. More information will follow in the winter Newsletter and on [www.hopestartshere.org](http://www.hopestartshere.org).

