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Fitchburg resident urges support for lung cancer research

Fitchburg resident Susan Smedley Gerber has a lot of interest in a run/walk on Sept. 27 to support research into the causes and treatment of **lung cancer**.

She was diagnosed with **lung cancer** almost 11 years ago, when she was in her early 30s.

"I had always viewed **lung cancer** as a disease of old smokers," she said.

She was fortunate that **lung cancer** was diagnosed. Doctors had originally attributed her breathing problems to asthma. Medication didn't alleviate the symptoms and Susan wasn't going to pursue the matter until a small tumor in her lung started bleeding.

Doctors discovered a small tumor in her right lung and removed two lobes. Fortunately, the tumor hadn't metastasized.

Susan had smoked for a few years in her 20s, but had long since quit and adopted a healthy lifestyle.

Doctors don't think her **lung cancer** was related to smoking but couldn't identify a specific cause. Susan thinks it's related to her use of pesticides when she worked as a dog groomer. She said several other dog trainers have been diagnosed with other rare forms of cancer.

Susan will participate in the first Free to Breathe® 5K run in Madison at Olin-Turville Park.

The event is presented jointly by the National **Lung Cancer** Partnership and the UW Paul P. Carbone Comprehensive Cancer Center. The proceeds from the Free to Breathe® 5K run/walk and 1-mile walk will be used exclusively to fund National **Lung Cancer** Partnership's **lung cancer** research grant program and the "Creating Hope" campaign at the UW Paul P. Carbone Comprehensive Cancer Center, with a goal of raising \$10 million to provide the facilities and support needed to create a leading national **Lung Cancer** Center in Madison.

She has been training with fellow cancer survivors with Team Survive, and completed her first triathlon this summer.

Facts about **Lung Cancer** in Wisconsin

(Source: American Cancer Society)

•3,920: estimated number of Wisconsin residents who will be diagnosed with **lung cancer** in 2008.

•2,940: estimated number of Wisconsin residents who will die of **lung cancer** in 2008.

In 2008, **lung cancer** will kill more residents of Wisconsin than breast, colon, ovarian and prostate cancer combined

Race day registration starts at 7 a.m.

The 5K run/walk & 1-mile walk begin at 8:30 a.m. at Olin-Turville Park, 1101 Olin Turville Dr., Madison



Registration is \$20 by mail until Sept. 21 and online until Sept. 24. Race day registration is \$25.

Information: www.FreeToBreathe.org.