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American Head and Neck Society
Cancer Prevention Service Community Service Awards

Dear AHNS Cancer Prevention Service Committee,

We are writing to express our interest in applying for the 2025 Cancer Prevention Community Service Awards. We are submitting this application for consideration of the AHNS Community Service Award, which aims to support projects or community activities related to oral head and neck cancer awareness and prevention.

Project Overview:

Title: Stronger Together ENT 5k cancer walk/run

Targeted Population:

Our target population is those in and around the Alachua County area as well as North-Central Florida. We would also like to have outreach to not just our county, but also other parts of northern Florida and southern Georgia.

Methods to be Used:

We will be utilizing this 5k walk/run as a means to raise awareness and money for Head and Neck Cancer research and to raise awareness for Head and Neck Cancer. We will be performing a free Head and Neck Cancer screening performed by faculty and residents/fellows at the University of Florida. We will also be distributing advertisements in the form of posters, newspaper ads, and the University of Florida community events pages to improve awareness of head and neck cancer. Furthermore, we have partnered with Impact melanoma to distribute sunscreen at the event to help protect patients from UV rays. Additionally, earplugs will also be passed out at the event. We hope to offer education on HPV and offer testing to the community as well.

The event will also honor our patients. Head and neck cancer survivors will be invited to participate at no cost. We will acknowledge our patients in the pre-run PA announcement. Those who are interested will be given an opportunity to speak to the crowd as well. Stickers saying "I am running for ____" will be given to runners. A slideshow highlighting the importance of early screening and the stories of cancer survivors will be shown.

Expected Outcome:

We hope to be able to raise over \$10,000 for Head and Neck Cancer Research through sponsors, donations, and proceeds from the 5K. We would also like to spread awareness about Head and Neck cancer, to have people come in sooner for screening, and to be able to recognize key signs of concern.

Expected Impact on Community Health and/or Knowledge:

We wish to help the local community become more educated about Head and Neck Cancer. This is in the hopes that we can catch cancer early on and treat it as soon as possible. Currently, the University of Florida Otolaryngology Department serves a wide area from Ocala, Florida to the panhandle region of Florida and certain areas in Southern Georgia.

Estimated/Actual Cost of the Project:

We do not have a current estimated cost per se; we are planning on using a combination of local donations and volunteers to cover the potential costs of the 5K (registration, timing, hydration station). We have reached out to many local Gainesville, FL businesses and medical sponsors to donate to our cause (either financially or through products).

Other Available Funding:

To date, we have secured 1,375\$ amount of money to help fund the project. We have reached out to multiple local franchises to donate money and supplies for the 5K. We have secured donations for the fastest times of the 5K along with food and drink for runners. Our team is actively pursuing additional funding opportunities to ensure the project's success.

Uniqueness and Innovation:

Our project stands out by using the 5K as an opportunity to provide free cancer screenings for the community. Additionally, in raising awareness for Head and neck cancers, we hope to include other departments (Dermatology) in providing free sun protection for runners and community members in the hope of also raising awareness of other cancers. We believe that our approach will captivate the audience and make a lasting impression.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, we are excited about the prospect of contributing to the objectives of the AHNS Cancer Prevention Service through our innovative project. With your help, we believe we can truly impact our community and help fund Head and Neck Cancer research. We appreciate your time and consideration and eagerly anticipate the opportunity to further discuss our proposal during the review process.

Thank you for your dedication to cancer prevention, and we look forward to the possibility of being a recipient of the 2025 AHNS Cancer Prevention Community Service Award.

Sincerely,

Brett LaBella

& Dr. Peter Dziegielewski

Peter T. Dziegielewski MD, FRCSC, FACS

Professor

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