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**Gastroenterology Team
Races to Cure Cancer**

Austin Endoscopy Center II,
Austin, Texas

Gastroenterology Team *Races* to Cure Cancer

The team of the six-year old Austin Endoscopy Center II in Austin, Texas, has made cancer prevention a priority. The facility hosted the Get Your Rear in Gear-Austin 5K fun run and walk April 2007 to raise money for the Colon Cancer Coalition.

“Texas is the second state to put on this run, and we are hoping to spread the word and have an event for colon cancer in every state by 2010,” says Dana DeSapio, RN, CGRN, charge nurse. “We do this to make sure we keep colorectal cancer awareness in the forefront of everyone’s mind.”

This inaugural walk/run was coordinated in conjunction with National Colon Cancer Awareness month in March. The funds raised will be used to educate and inform people about the early detection and prevention of the second-leading cause of cancer in the U.S.



“The event was wildly successful, with over 400 participants registered this year,” says DeSapio. “Our runners and walkers also enjoyed live music, great food, massages, and lots of educational, informative literature about the disease, risks, and prevention of colon cancer. There were inspirational stories from colon cancer patients and families

of colon cancer victims. The Austin Gastro volunteers were extremely pumped about the whole experience of hosting this event, and about the fact that with this event, we could hope to make a difference in the number of people being screened for colon cancer.”

This all-star group consists of CGRN-certified RNs, GI associates (most with SGNA associate certifications), physician assistants, and business office personnel, as well as the gastroenterologists. The team staffs two freestanding endoscopy centers, physician offices,

and the administrative office of Austin Gastroenterology, which is the largest GI group in Austin and the surrounding area.

The volunteer staff worked diligently behind the scenes putting the Get Your Rear in Gear event together, from December 2006 through the event day. “Many of our volunteers were up at 4:30 a.m. the morning of the race, getting everything set up, and staying late that day taking it all down again,” DeSapio recalls. “They did all this on their own time, and the success of the event is proof of their hard work and dedication. These volunteers put in so much time and effort to ensure this event’s success.”

The team is already in the planning stages to bring this event to Austin again in 2008. They have also begun planning events to go on throughout the coming year to continually educate and inform their community about colon cancer. ❧

Byrne Medical, Inc., salutes the staff of the Austin Endoscopy Centers for their hard work and commitment to exemplary patient care. The team will receive a commemorative plaque in celebration of their EndoNurse All-Star recognition.

There’s no secret to getting your team on the cover as All-Stars — just submit a nomination!

Visit www.endonurse.com/allstar.html and nominate your team, then submit a high-resolution photo of at least 300 dpi (at full size) to kdix@vpico.com.



By Tim Horn and Kathy Dix