Medtronic News

2010 Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon "Global Heroes" Celebrate Accomplishment

Extraordinary Runners from Around the World Complete Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon Events with Help from Medical Technology

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct 05, 2010 (BUSINESS WIRE) --

Twenty-four Medtronic Global Heroes, long-distance runners who benefit from medical technology, successfully completed either the Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon or the Medtronic TC 10 Mile on Sunday, Oct. 3.

These extraordinary runners hail from the United States and nine other countries, including Canada, Chile, China, Finland, Italy, Serbia, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Global Heroes is a cooperative effort between the Medtronic Foundation and Twin Cities Marathon, Inc. that celebrates the accomplishments of runners who have medical devices to treat conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, spinal disorders, chronic pain or neurological disorders, and whose continued passion for running serves as an inspiration to others. The Medtronic Foundation launched the program in 2006.

2010 Global Hero award winners and finishers include:
(Visit www.medtronic.com/globalheroes to read their individual stories.)

Marathon Participants

Jill Braswell, Waco, Texas
Braswell has a pacemaker to treat an arrhythmia.

Nicola Combs, Norwich, United Kingdom
Combs has spinal therapies to treat scoliosis, a curvature of the spine.

Sean Erkonen, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Erkonen has an amplatzer septal occluder to treat an abnormal opening between the left and right atria of the heart.

Dan Hochberg, Charlotte, North Carolina
Hochberg has a pacemaker to treat an arrhythmia.

Gregory LaMothe, Coppell, Texas
Lamonthe has a heart valve replacement to facilitate blood flow to the heart.

Paul Langworthy, Fountain Hills, Arizona
Langworthy has an insulin pump to treat diabetes.

Tanya Plonske, Rogers, Minnesota
Plonske has a neurostimulator for bladder control.

Kathryn Poehling, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Poehling has an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) to treat an arrhythmia.

Ninoslav Raskovic, Pancevo, Serbia
Raskovic has an insulin pump to treat diabetes.

Fabio Valgonio, Casto, Italy
Valgonio has an insulin pump to treat diabetes.

Ten Mile Participants

Tina Bergstrom, Vora, Finland
Bergstrom has an insulin pump to treat diabetes.

Kai Fischer, Geroldswil, Switzerland
Fischer has a pacemaker to treat an arrhythmia.

Erin Howe, Denver, Colorado
Howe has a heart valve replacement to facilitate blood flow to the heart.

Leslie Johnson, Prescott, Wisconsin
Johnson has a neurostimulator for bladder control.

Pablo Maillet, Santiago, Chile
Maillet has a pacemaker to treat an arrhythmia.

Maureen McCann, Austin, Texas
McCann has spinal therapies to treat scoliosis, a curvature of the spine.

Greg Prom, St, Anthony, Minnesota
Prom has a pacemaker to treat an arrhythmia.

Kelly Robinson, Seattle, Washington
Robinson has an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) to treat an arrhythmia.

Francisco Manuel Rodriques, Cape Town, South Africa
Rodriques has a pacemaker to treat an arrhythmia.

Jeff Sanborn, Glyndon, Maryland
Sanborn has a pacemaker to treat an arrhythmia.

Chloe Steepe, Toronto, Canada

Steepe has an insulin pump to treat diabetes.

Marcella Teran, San Diego, California
Teran has spinal therapies to treat spondolysis, a degeneration of the disc spaces between the vertebrae.

Jeremy Woodward, Concord, New Hampshire
Woodward has a heart valve replacement to facilitate blood flow to the heart.

Le Ting Zhang, Beijing, China
Zhang has an insulin pump to treat diabetes.

In addition to providing each Global Hero with an entry into the marathon or 10-mile race and a travel allowance, the Medtronic Foundation will donate $1,000 to a non-profit patient organization that educates and supports people who live with the runner's

condition.

For more information on how to apply or nominate someone to be a Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon Global Hero, visit www.medtronic.com/globalheroes. All runners with medical devices are welcome to apply with no restrictions on manufacturer. Applicants must certify that they have obtained physician approval to participate in the Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon or Medtronic TC 10 Mile race. Global Heroes are chosen by a committee of the Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon.

These patient stories capture individual successful experiences and individual results may vary Implantable devices are not for everyone, and all devices described on this site carry risks. You should consult with your physician about any questions or concerns you have related to your own health, and also about the risks and benefits associated with medical device therapy to know whether medical device therapy might be an option for you.

About Global Heroes

A cooperative effort between the Medtronic Foundation and Twin Cities Marathon, Inc., Global Heroes is a first-of-its-kind program that brings runners from around the world with medical devices to Minnesota to run in Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon events. Global Heroes benefit from medical device therapies that treat chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, spinal disorders, chronic pain or neurological disorders. All runners with medical devices are welcome to apply; complete information is available at www.medtronic.com/globalheroes.

About Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon

Known as the Most Beautiful Urban Marathon in America(TM), the Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon is a three-day weekend celebration of fitness that includes the Medtronic TC Family Events and TC 5K, the Medtronic TC 10 Mile, and the marathon. Twin Cities Marathon, Inc. is the non-profit organization that directs high-quality running events as a community service for the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. Visit www.mtcmarathon.org for more information.

About Medtronic

Medtronic, Inc. (www.medtronic.com), headquartered in Minneapolis, is the global leader in medical technology - alleviating pain, restoring health, and extending life for millions of people around the world. The Medtronic Foundation is committed to improving the health of people and communities. Its grant making is focused in three areas: health, education and community.

SOURCE: Medtronic, Inc.

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