

Why We Run

Chicago Team

Olya Marchand, RockwallTX: *My mom died of melanoma in 2014, and I ran the NYC marathon in 2016 for another charity that was also started to finding a cure for melanoma. I also ran the Boston Marathon with another Melanoma charity. My husband ran the NYC marathon in 2021, and we want to run this marathon together.*

Samuel Marchand, RockwallTX: *My wife lost her mother to melanoma in 2014, and she ran the NYC marathon in 2016 for another charity that was also rooted in finding a cure for melanoma. My wife also ran the Boston Marathon with another Melanoma charity. I have yet to run Boston.*

Christina Ouellette, BostonMA: *About 4 years ago, I went to the dermatologist for a suspicious mole - it turned out to be an early melanoma that I quickly got removed. While I've always been careful about sunscreen and shade, I realized quickly that I was not as cautious as I could have been - and neither were the people around me. Early discovery, great doctors and further prevention have allowed me to live melanoma free, but I am lucky. Many people do not have access to the treatment and preventative measures that I do.*

Sloane Carriger, Overland Park, Kansas: *I would consider myself a 25-year-old running ""newbie." I've run two half marathons, with hopefully a third in April. Running a marathon, let alone the Chicago Marathon, is something I could only dream of being able to do. A bucket list item I am finally ready to conquer.*

When looking into the charity entry I immediately knew what cause I wanted to support. Unfortunately, I know all too well about melanoma. I was diagnosed with stage 1a in 2018, when I noticed an odd-looking mole on my back. Thankfully the only lasting effects I have are a scar and frequent trips to the dermatologist for skin checks. I feel very lucky it was caught when it was, it could have been a very different outcome.

After reading Jack's story, I felt even more drawn to this organization. I am a huge advocate for melanoma awareness and prevention. I'm sure I sound like a broken record to friends, always asking "are you wearing sunscreen?" and "don't worry I have some" is just the beginning. I can't imagine running for a better cause. I would be honored to be a part of the Jack H. Marston II team for the Chicago Marathon. To run for myself, Jack, and anyone else that has been affected by melanoma."

Jez Marston, New YorkNY: *My maternal grandmother passed away from complications of UV-related cutaneous melanoma in 1991 and left behind her husband and four daughters. She is remembered so fondly 30+ years later and her loss is still felt in our family. I am currently an MD-PhD student studying melanoma and hope to pursue a Dermatology research track residency to continue my endeavor to understand and tackle melanoma.*

Tolson Jeffrey, Chapel HillNC: *I started running two years ago as a way to process and find my own limits. I was a collegiate athlete at UNC-Chapel Hill and found myself looking for physical endeavors post graduation. Since I have run several half marathons and a marathon last year. I now work in the medical field after attending Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern in Chicago. I see this race as a triple intersection of my love for Movement, Chicago, and the Medical World. I also have a very close friend whose sister fought melanoma this past year. It would be an honor to represent this charity through giving my best effort in running the 2023 Chicago Marathon.*

Ashlee Taylor, Chapel Hill NC: *I run to let loose of stressors in my life! It's a wonderful centering exercise and gives me reason to be thankful.*

Scott Struber, WashingtonDC: *It's literally, going to be a book...Procrastination Causes Cancer: How Being Lazy & Dismissive Nearly Killed Me.*

The short version: Put off getting a biopsy--until 1/28/21--of something suspicious (that I thought were just some large cysts) on my inner right leg between my calf and ankle. I, finally, went because I was scheduled to run the 2021 Chicago Marathon running for the ASPCA.

Exactly two weeks later my dermatologist called to let me know the biopsy came back...metastatic melanoma. That was an interesting evening, following that call, with my lizard brain tossing out all kinds of random thoughts--some not so pleasant. Though, texts from that night show what I recall, that I immediately took on the mindset of a cancer-killer. Truly, I was intergalactically pissed off AND offended by the invader.

Less than two weeks after that, I got my first PET/CT scan and met my multidisciplinary oncology team for the first time, the following day, on February 24th. If I'm recalling correctly, I was designated Stage IIIc, thought Stage IV does come up in the notes, from that first visit, with regards to the dual-immunotherapy treatment I'd start on March 4th (perhaps from a suspicious, but undefinable 6mm mass in my right lung.) The primary tumor was deemed unresectable and surgery would allow the invader time to continue to spread.

By the second pre-infusion visit, with my DNP and medical oncologist, it was clear my massive tumor was regressing quickly. When I went in for the third visit, the DNP told me that ""nobody

improves this quickly." "Unfortunately, when I asked her how many people had my attitude (absolute certainty of outcome...cured) she also replied, "nobody."

After 4 infusions of Opdivo and Yervoy, my liver sent a LOUD & CLEAR message that it would take me out if I didn't stop that shit. My pre-infusion bloodwork, for my May 27th Opdivo-only treatment, brought immunotherapy to a screeching halt. My ALT and AST (liver enzymes) looked like I had Stage 3 Non-Fatty Liver Disease.

A life-saving course of prednisone followed...and no return to immunotherapy. My regression was SCREAMING along.

By August 26th, the day before I turned 50, my PET/CT scan was sufficient to have my medical oncologist have me to go 3-month intervals on my scans & visits, and that went to every 6 months as of my scan & visit from a month ago.

I am a cancer-killer. And I will use my story to get a many people as possibly to go get that most embarrassing of doctor visits EVERY SINGLE YEAR. This race is a big part of me opening my mouth...and the first of 2 marathons I'll be running to celebrate my 52nd birthday. 52-for-52!!!!

Randall Casey, NRHTx: *I have worked with my former boss Joe for almost 20 years and in that time he became a very dear friend of mine, earlier this year sadly he passed away from ocular melanoma and i will be running his race in his honor.*

Morgan Goetz, BrooklineMA: *My sister in-law passed away this past June after a two year battle with melanoma at the age of 30. She was initially turned away when she went in to see the doctor and her spot that then became late stage melanoma was not examined completely. I miss her everyday and love where this organization is putting their money and time. I would love to run in her honor and to help make it so less people have to have her fate.*

James Van Bastelaar, Maastricht Limburg BE: *I am a melanoma surgeon from the Netherlands and would love to run the Chicago Marathon and whilst doing so raise money for a well deserving charity.*

Amelia (Amy) Litterski (JMT alum), Park RidgelL: *I am a melanoma survivor since 2013, and my mom passed away from melanoma in 2014. This cause is extremely near and dear to my heart!*

Carmel Burton, Salida CO: On October 8th, my best friend Hope lost her year-long fight with stage 4 melanoma. When she was diagnosed, she said maybe she has this disease to raise awareness. With the Chicago marathon being a year to date on the day she died I felt called to run. As well as it being in my home city, where Hope and is friendship began many years ago, as just kids.

Stephanie Johnson, Jamaica PlainMA: *I run for my father Brian. He is the warmest, funniest, most adventurous and loving father out there, and he is one of my best friends.*

In October 2021 my father's melanoma diagnosis moved to a Stage 4 diagnosis. Reality came crashing down on our family that what we hoped could be a simple surgical removal would be much more difficult. We never thought something like this would happen to us.

I had my own fair share of brushes with mole removal procedures, but the misconceptions around the dangers of skin cancer had lulled me into a false sense of security. While we were always cautious with sunscreen at the beach and had been taught about the warning signs in school, the seriousness of the cancer hadn't truly resonated until then.

Thankfully as I write this, he has been undergoing a course of immunotherapy treatment that has been successful so far. But I know this is only very recently possible thanks to the incredible medical advancements being made by researchers across the world.

I run to support the advancements of education, prevention and research around skin cancer and melanoma research into melanoma charities I could support with a 2023 Chicago marathon run

Anna Marzulla (JMT Alum), South ElginIL: *In 2020, we lost my sister in law to a complication of Melanoma. In 2021 I sign up for the Chicago Marathon. I finished! I was so proud of myself. My brother also did it. I want to do it in 2023 to continue to honor Lydia-but also for me. She was a true warrior and encountered many hardships. I can do this and get a better time! I can do hard things too! And Jacksfund is a great foundation to do it with! We have been doing Melanoma walks since 2017*

Abigail Miller, SchaumburgIL: *My aunt Jill was diagnosed with Melanoma in February 2009. After several surgeries, Interferon Therapy, Chemotherapy, and Radiation Therapy, Jill lost the fight with Melanoma on September 20th, 2009.*

During her short 42 years, Jill discovered a love for running and completed 22 marathons total.

My family and I have raised money and participated in the This Run's for Jack 5K since 2009 and every year since. I believe it is important to raise awareness for such a preventable cancer.

In 2015, my Aunt Pam ran the Chicago Marathon on Jack's marathon team in Jill's honor and I am looking forward to carrying on the tradition in 2023. We have participated in the This Run's for Jack 5K since 2009 (Green Team).

Scott Thomas, Florida (JMT alum)

John Looby, Lake ForestIL

Leah Nicholas, East BrunswickNJ

Riana Schleicher, ChicagoIL