

Local physician will give the keynote address at Relay for Life's Fight Back ceremony

Local physician Dr. Stephen M. Schleicher, MD, will be the keynote speaker at the Relay for Life of Greater Hazleton's Fight Back ceremony on Saturday at 1 p.m. at Louis Schiavo City View Park, 700 S. Poplar St., Hazleton.

Dr. Schleicher brings over 20 years of experience in the field of dermatology. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Rutgers University, received his medical degree with academic honors from Hahneman Medical College and completed his residency at Temple Skin and Cancer Hospital.

The author of two books and over 100 journal articles, Schleicher serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Emergency Medicine* and for 15 years served on the advisory board of the Day Spa Association. He co-hosts the cable television show, *Skin Sense*.

Founder and director of the DermDox Center for Dermatology (www.dermdox.org), he has traveled throughout Europe investigating skin care products as a consultant to the health and beauty industries. A pioneer in the field of teler dermatology, his medical columns are viewed on a monthly basis by thousands of medical practitioners.

In 2010, he addressed both the International Esthetics, Cosmetics and Spa Conference in Las Vegas as well as the World Spa Conference in Brazil. In 2011, he was named a Laureate in the Computer World Honors program, this global competition recognizes "men and women whose visionary applications of information technology promote positive social, economic and educational change."

Schleicher is a clinical instructor of dermatology at King's College and Marywood University as well as an associate professor of medicine at the Commonwealth Medical College and an adjunct assistant professor of dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania Medical College.

According to research from the American Cancer Society, skin cancer is the most common type of cancer. Teens who use tanning beds have a 74 percent higher risk of melanoma, the most deadly form of skin cancer.

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives is considering a bill to allow minors to use tanning beds with parental consent. However, Rep. Rosemary Swanger (R, 102nd District) has posted an

amendment that would not allow minors to use tanning facilities. Votes on both the bill and amendment are expected sometime this month.

The keynote speaker for the Survivor's Ceremony is Hazleton native Maria Pedriani.

A self-proclaimed political activist, Pedriani can best be described as a businesswoman, mother of three, wife and grandmother to four amazing children.

Before her cancer diagnosis, she was a volunteer with the American Cancer Society and worked on the Survivor Celebration at Relay For Life.

Now, she is paying it forward by speaking at this year's event at 11 a.m. Saturday.

Pedriani's successful journey with cancer is inspiring and will help others to realize that there is hope and that there are many success stories.

The Survivor Celebration defines what the Relay For Life is all about. It is a time to honor and encourage cancer survivors. A person is considered a cancer survivor the minute they are diagnosed. A time to recognize the courage of area cancer survivors and to allow the community to celebrate with them.



Schleicher



Pedriani