



LIFE/TRAVEL Health

Dr. Jekot: Cancer survivor, racer and fighter

Breast cancer in her own family leads physician to her calling

09:15 AM CDT on Wednesday, October 17, 2007

By MARY JACOBS / Special Contributor to The Dallas Morning News

With someone as energetic and determined as Dr. Elizabeth Jekot at its heels, breast cancer doesn't have a chance.

Dr. Jekot will be running again in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Dallas County on Saturday. But she's really racing to beat the disease every day of her life, on the job and off.

She joined the race in 1991, when her older sister, Mary, was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 32. At the time, Dr. Jekot was a resident at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas.

"That prompted me to pursue a fellowship in breast imaging, and I discovered I'd been blessed with a natural talent in that area," Dr. Jekot says.

Breast cancer is an unwelcome theme in Elizabeth Jekot's life. Her mother and younger sister were also diagnosed with the disease. And in 2000, at the age of 37, Dr. Jekot was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer. That led to a double mastectomy, four rounds of chemotherapy and reconstruction surgery.

Now, Dr. Jekot devotes her days to staying healthy, spending time with her husband, David Miller, and daughter, Katie, 10, and running the Elizabeth Jekot Breast Imaging Center in Richardson. She founded the center in 2005, convinced that the most up-to-date digital technology gives women the best chance of detecting the disease as early as possible. It was voted one of the top five most influential women's centers in the U.S. by the publication, *Imaging Technology News*.

"We've tried to create a warm, loving environment so that patients feel they are being taken care of," she says. "If I need to give someone difficult news, I have a heightened sense of what they're going through."

Dr. Jekot has raced in the Komen event before – she won the survivor event in Plano, held in June, four years in a row and won the Dallas survivor event in 2003. She says she hasn't had much time to train this year but is ready to join the race and have some fun.

And what will be going through her mind while she runs the Komen?

CLICK IMAGE TO ENLARGE



G.J. MCCARTHY/DMN
Ceilings in Dr. Elizabeth Jekot's sonogram rooms simulate a soothing, starry night.

Also Online

[Special report: Help for facing cancer](#)

"I'll think about my family and what we've been through," she says. "I'll think of myself as running to the future with hope."

RACE DETAILS

Walk-up registration for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Dallas County will take place Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at NorthPark Center. Tables will be set up on the first floor under the AMC Theatre. Registration is \$35. Participants may also register on race day at 6:30 a.m.

[Race for the Cure Dallas County official Web site](#)