
Media Release

Aussie Heart Patient to Cycle across United States

Australian heart patient Steve Quinn, is preparing to cycle across the United States in June 2008 to raise awareness for little understood heart conditions that affect over 200,000 Australians and 2 million Americans. These potentially life threatening conditions of the heart's electrical activity, atrial flutter and atrial fibrillation, can affect both adults and children.

Steve has battled these debilitating heart conditions for some years. The condition affected all aspects of his life, and, as a 39 year old with a young family, his condition really took a toll on his loved ones as well.

The sense of relief Steve experienced when his condition was controlled was, nonetheless, accompanied by a lingering frustration that it took so long to diagnose a condition that affects so many people. Surprisingly, the side effects of the treatments are just as severe as the condition itself.

With his conditions now under control, Steve has decided to channel his energy into making more people aware of the conditions and raising money to learn more about the causes and to improve treatments. He started cycling during his rehabilitation and it's become a passion.

"I've really grown to love cycling and it has helped me enormously on the road to recovery. I really want to make a difference and thought, what can I do that is significant enough and raises awareness dramatically. So the idea of riding across United States grew from there." said Steve.

Steve Quinn sets out from San Francisco on June 1st 2008 and arrives in Portsmouth NH on July 22nd 2008 after covering 3836 miles.

According to Steve, finishing the ride and raising awareness will be one thing but just as important will be meeting his wife and children at rides' end. "It will be a tough seven weeks with all sorts of extremes but the one thing that will keep me going will be the thought of hugging Della and the kids when I get off the saddle in New Hampshire," he said.

Professor Robert Graham, Director of the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute commented that much work was needed to help more people like Steve, which is why the Institute had developed major active programs into gene abnormalities causing these disorders.

Donations can be made to The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute www.victorchang.edu.au or <https://secure.donman.net.au/client/victorchang/victorchang.asp> or (02) 8382 3022

Track Steve's progress on www.ride4rhythm.com

Further information:

Steve Quinn
contact@ride4rhythm.com
03 9009 4626 or 0407 117 330

Jan Savage
Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute
(02) 8382 3298