



## News Release

For Immediate Release

For Additional Information, Contact:

Christine Canevari  
Director of Marketing  
(813) 426-3544 / Cell: (813) 600-9100  
[christine@highfivedragonboat.com](mailto:christine@highfivedragonboat.com)

### Dragon Boats Support Cancer Research & Prevention in Women

Orlando, Fla. (Mar. 1, 2013) — Individuals and teams from throughout Orlando and Central Florida will converge on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Turkey Lake to compete in the Orlando Dragon Boat Challenge, a dragon boat race supporting MD Anderson Cancer Center Orlando.

It is anticipated that over 25 teams from local, corporate and community groups will be present at Bill Frederick Park to partake in this fun community event and to raise dollars and awareness for cancer. A local dragon boat team from the Orlando Rowing Club has partnered up with the event to recruit and train newcomers for this event. Marelize Dingman, of the Orlando Dragon Boat Club said "It's a privilege to promote an event that brings the community together and gives back to such a great cause." Dingman also added "We're very excited to be growing the sport in Orlando, in an effort to raise more funds for Orlando Health."

Dragon Boat Racing is great fun for anyone, young or old. Most local events attract primarily mixed teams from corporations, public service groups, clubs sponsored by small businesses, high schools, colleges and universities. There are now over 70 communities hosting Dragon Boat Festivals in the U.S. alone, and over 60 million participants worldwide.

Entering your own dragon boat team in the races is easy. Paddles, life vests, boats, and steerspersons will be provided as well as a one training session in advance of the event. Each team just has to provide 20 paddlers, a minimum of 8 must be female, and a drummer. On race day each team will race in three heats on a 350m course.

If you're interested in entering your own Dragon Boat team or if you would like more information visit [www.orlandodragonboatchallenge.com](http://www.orlandodragonboatchallenge.com)

#### ABOUT MD Anderson Cancer Center

In 2012, more than 790,000 women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with some form of cancer and more than 275,000 are predicted to die from the disease. Please help us to raise awareness and financial support for the early detection, prevention and ultimately a cure of cancers affecting women. The mission at MD Anderson - Orlando is to "use every available resource to defeat cancer." To achieve this goal, we are committed to:

- Creating superior programs in multidisciplinary patient care, prevention, research and professional and community education
- Bringing together the most highly trained and compassionate staff, who provide care in a supportive and comfortable atmosphere
- Providing our staff with resources needed to render the most advanced diagnostic and therapeutic procedures that will improve the quality of life for all patients
- Managing our financial and human resources in an effective manner that contributes to the fulfillment of our mission

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