

Women's Power Lunch Against Cancer Set for May in Springfield

The first Women's Power Lunch Against Cancer will be held at noon Friday, May 21, at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield. Sponsored by Simmons Cancer Institute at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, it will feature author and syndicated advice columnist Amy Dickinson.

Dickinson writes the daily column "Ask Amy," which appears in more than 200 newspapers, including the Chicago Tribune, Washington Post and Los Angeles Times. She was chosen in 2003 to step into the void created by the death of legendary columnist Ann Landers.

Her bestselling memoir, "The Mighty Queens of Freeville: A Mother, A Daughter and the People Who Raised Them," released in 2009, was released as a paperback in April 2010 and will be available for sale at the event. Dickinson will autograph the book after the program.

"This event recognizes the very important role that women have as the individuals who schedule the doctors' appointments, see that they are kept and often notice a health problem first," explains Dr. K. Thomas Robbins, SCI director. "Our wives, mothers and daughters are the ones who guard our health care as if it is their own. This event is designed to encourage mutual support among women as primary health caretakers in our communities."

The event also is being used as an opportunity to honor oncology nurses. "These individuals are the unsung heroes when it comes to delivering treatment to cancer patients," Robbins adds. "Their compassion, care and commitment to their jobs help patients, their families and their caregivers every single day."

Tickets for the event are currently \$45 each. After May 15, tickets are \$50. More information regarding the event is available by calling 217-545-2955 weekdays.

The mission of Simmons Cancer Institute is to serve the people of central and southern Illinois by addressing their present and future cancer care needs through a comprehensive approach of education, research and patient services. The Institute's Web site is www.siumed.edu/cancer and its phone number is 217-545-6000.