NEWS RELEASE

#NonstopFight: 10 Questions with Vicki Putnam

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Thousands of our team members are engaged in a nonstop fight with breast cancer, whether they are patients, caregivers, family, friends or champions of research. Team members with metastatic breast cancer (MBC) are engaged in a very literal nonstop fight. MBC is cancer that has spread beyond the breast to other organs in the body (most often the bones, lungs, liver or brain) and although it is treatable, it has no cure. MBC claims the lives of approximately 40,000 women and men each year.

Vicki Putnam is one of our 2017 Be Pink champions. She started her career at American 27 years ago as a flight attendant. Today, she can be found at Flagship University (FSU) working as the project manager for flight attendant operational integration (FOI) training. In June of last year, Vicki began her nonstop fight when she was diagnosed with Stage 4 MBC affecting most of her bones and liver. Her new reality includes taking more than six medications daily and visiting the doctor close to 30 times a year. Get to know more about Vicki below – like who she looks to for inspiration and her best non-rev trip.

What are three things you always bring with you when traveling?
A phone (and charger), a purple wrap that has travelled all over the world with me the last six years and bottled water.

Best non-rev experience?
Girls trip to NYC to see "Wicked" the day after a chemo treatment. So fun and good for the soul to get away from it all for a weekend.

If you could keep five possessions what would they be?
Not sure. My four boys and my husband.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?
"Snap out of the fog and keep living" from my co-worker and mentor Julie Bourk-Suchman.

Why is research important?
MBC is terminal as there is no cure. Research is the only hope for a cure (or at least making the disease more responsive to treatment).

What advice do you have to share with someone on their own cancer journey?
Be your own advocate, always ask questions (and more questions), if something doesn't feel right get it checked out; get a second or third opinion if necessary.

Who do you look to for inspiration?
My husband and my friends and family, specifically a special group of women all wearing an anchor ring showing our bond and their support for me during my cancer journey.

What are you most afraid of?
Not meeting my grandchildren and not being remembered by my youngest child.

What are you currently reading?
Anything to do with cancer research or legacy writing. I'm currently working on writing my boys and other family members letters for when I'm gone.

Favorite vacation?
Any beach, anywhere, brown, green, blue, doesn't matter.

Vicki Putnam, project manager, FSU