

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Pulmonary Hypertension Association Launches New Social Network *myPHA*** ***Tool will Help Empower, Support and Celebrate the PH Community***

[Silver Spring, MD – April 13, 2015] – The [Pulmonary Hypertension Association](http://www.PHAssociation.org) has launched a new social network exclusively for its community of pulmonary hypertension (PH) patients. myPHA is designed as a one-stop-shop virtual home for all members of the PH community to gather, interact and get the education resources and community support they need to fight back against PH, a debilitating disease of the lungs that affects the functioning of the heart and can lead to right heart failure. Without treatment, the average survival rate is less than three years.

“Our vision for myPHA is to create a virtual home for all members of the PH community to gather and interact,” said Kim Lamon-Loperfido, Manager of Patient and Caregiver Services at PHA. “Too often, the rarity of PH has meant that someone may go years without meeting another patient or caregiver. With myPHA, we hope to create many more connections within our community so that no one is alone in his or her journey.”

myPHA will connect patients and caregivers with shared experiences that may even live near each other. Without displaying anyone’s address, the site can highlight members who live nearby so that those interested in finding patients and caregivers in their area can do so easily.

Some of the other site features include:

- Forums – also called discussion boards, forums allow members of every type to share tips, get to know each other and discuss news within the community.
- Resources – a customized collection of resources for patients and caregivers. Based on their registration information, the resources section will show the most relevant articles, videos and online tools that PHA has to offer.
- Groups – a private and protected space for members who share the same connection to PH.
- Blogs – posts from PHA’s blogs including Our Journeys, PH Plus and Generation Hope, as well as blogs from other community members.

The power of community lies at the center of every PHA initiative — from the organization’s inception as a patient support group to the far-reaching programs it runs today. myPHA is another resource PHA hopes will connect its community of patients and caregivers who continue to find hope in the face of a devastating disease. To learn more about myPHA, go to [myPHAssociation.org](http://myPHAssociation.org).

### **About the Pulmonary Hypertension Association**

Headquartered in Silver Spring, Md., with a growing list of chapters across the country, the Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA) is the country’s leading pulmonary hypertension organization. Its mission is to find ways to prevent and cure pulmonary hypertension and provide hope for the community through support, education, research, advocacy and awareness. PHA does this by connecting and working together with the entire PH community of patients, families and medical professionals. PHA relies on donations to fund its many programs, including early diagnosis efforts, more than 245 support groups around the country and continuing education for medical professionals. For more information go to [PHAssociation.org](http://PHAssociation.org).

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