



Conference offers cancer victims tips on coping

Posted Saturday, June 25, 2005 - 1:29 am

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A diagnosis of cancer can mark the beginning of a new life for many, and a conference that helps show people the way is in the Upstate this weekend.

The two-day event — "Cancer as a Turning Point -- From Surviving to Thriving" — gathers medical experts, nutritionists, entertainers and survivors at Furman University to share their stories and their guidance.

Featured are psychologist and author Lawrence LeShan, who counsels patients on how they can enrich their lives; Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen, who helps health-care providers tune into the mind-body connection with her message of empathy and compassion; and nutritionist Jeanne Wallace.

Survivors include David M. Bailey, who gave up the corporate life years ago and became a singer-songwriter after he was diagnosed with a brain tumor, and motivational speaker Terri Tate, who fought back from tongue cancer.

Also featured are comedian Scott Burton, actor Annan Paterson and singer Bukeka Newby-Shoals.

Cancer survivor Robin Davenport of Greenville says the conference provides a blueprint for what life can be after a diagnosis.

"When you have a life-altering illness, oftentimes you feel as if you've totally lost control," she says. "This conference helps people realize there are many things they can do on their own."

The conference is free and will be held at McAlister Auditorium today and Sunday, beginning at 9 a.m.