

SPGA Golfers Chipping Away At Their Arthritis

(NAPSA)—Almost every golfer says, “If I could just spend a little bit more time practicing, I could be so much better.”

But finding time isn’t the only challenge for many. The pain, stiffness and inflammation of arthritis keep countless golfers off the links. More than 43 million Americans battle arthritis, with 21 million suffering from osteoarthritis, a degenerative joint disease that occurs when cartilage becomes worn or damaged.

Senior PGA Tour golfers Tom Kite, Bruce Fleisher, Dana Quigley and Bruce Summerhays all suffer from osteoarthritis. But they haven’t let it keep them from winning a combined 50 professional tournaments. All of them spoke with their doctor about treatment options, and found a prescription medication approved for the treatment of osteoarthritis. Each began to take CELEBREX (celecoxib capsules), a prescription medication approved for the treatment of osteoarthritis. Now these professionals find it easier to practice more often.

The ability to be successful despite arthritis prompted the foursome to join Pharmacia Corporation and Pfizer Inc. to take part in the B.E.A.T. Arthritis campaign: Boost Education of Arthritis Treatment. The campaign aims to increase awareness about arthritis and effective treatments for the condition.

“About three years ago, I was playing golf with a friend of mine who is an orthopedic surgeon. I told him about the arthritis pain in both my hands and feet. It was



With new arthritis medications, seniors can stay on par with their golf game.

affecting my grip and the follow-through of my swing, not to mention limiting my ability to practice as much as I would like,” said Kite, the 1992 U.S. Open champion. “He suggested that I try CELEBREX and now my pain is significantly less, helping me to stay on top of my game.”

Kite, along with Fleisher, Quigley and Summerhays, have been on tour with the B.E.A.T. Arthritis campaign since 2001. In each city, the foursome, paired with a doctor, try to raise awareness about arthritis by hosting an

educational seminar on the golf course for local residents.

According to Dr. Edward Palank, cardiologist from the Naples Community Hospital in Naples, Florida, each golfer’s message is an important one.

“People are beginning to realize that arthritis doesn’t have to keep them from taking part in the activities they enjoy, like golf,” said Palank. “The use of CELEBREX can help make the arthritis pain more manageable, allowing senior golfers to continue to play and practice.”

Prescription CELEBREX is not for everyone. People with aspirin-sensitive asthma or allergic reactions due to aspirin or other arthritis medications or certain drugs called sulfonamides should not take CELEBREX. In rare cases, serious stomach problems, such as bleeding can occur without warning. The most common side effects in clinical trials were indigestion, diarrhea and abdominal pain. CELEBREX should not be taken in late pregnancy. Tell your doctor if you have kidney or liver problems.

For important product information, call 1-888-CELEBREX or visit www.celebrex.com.

Tips to help B.E.A.T. Arthritis

- Pay attention to pain signals. Pain is a warning sign that something is not right with your body.
- Talk to your doctor about arthritis, possible treatments and an exercise program that’s right for you.
- Call **877-480-BEAT (2328)** for free information about arthritis, or log on to www.celebrex.com or www.arthritis.com.