



## (NOT SO) EASY RIDERS

This is a story of bikes, beer, broken bones, and a satisfying dip in the ocean.

A couple of years ago, Jason Dragavon Dahl, now a third-year University of Pittsburgh med student, left his home in Duluth, Minn., for an impromptu bike ride ... to Girdwood, Alaska. In rural Alberta, a rapid 30-degree temperature increase caused his body to rebel and the resulting crash left him bleeding by the side of the road. Things took a turn for the better when, on another day, a passing motorist left him an iced can of brew at the top of a long, hard climb.

In 2007, Brack Hattler, MD/PhD professor of surgery and executive director of the Medical Devices Laboratory at Pitt, was part of a 40-person ride to raise money for the American Lung Association.

He garnered \$35,000 in donations but didn't see the end of the road; instead he wiped out near Huron, S.D. His fractured skull and pelvis healed, Hattler hopes to try again but says, "I'll have to negotiate with my wife."

Second-year student Anita Chang also rode for a cause—Bike & Build, which raises money for affordable housing projects. In May 2007, her group left North Carolina. Two months and 3,400 miles later, she safely dipped her wheels, and her toes, in the Pacific.

—Joe Miksch  
—Photo by Anita Chang

To read Hattler's and Chang's blogs:

[www.mirm.pitt.edu/news/archive/2007/0706\\_HattlerBikeRide.asp](http://www.mirm.pitt.edu/news/archive/2007/0706_HattlerBikeRide.asp)  
[anitasbikeadventure.blogspot.com/](http://anitasbikeadventure.blogspot.com/)