

GLAMOUR

GLAMOUR HERO OF THE MONTH

MAY 2007

She may have less than 10 years to live

Amy Farber's using that time to find a cure for her fatal disease—and for others, too.

AT FIRST, AMY FARBER DIDN'T THINK MUCH ABOUT THE tiny ache in her abdomen. After all, she was 35 and in her prime, with a new husband and a Ph.D. in anthropology. But when the pain didn't go away, she went for a series of tests—and received some horrifying news. She has lymphangioleiomyomatosis, a brutal, incurable disease in which cysts in her lungs will slowly suffocate her to death. The disease, known as LAM, strikes mainly women and can kill in just a few years. "I simply couldn't take it all in," she says. "Initially, I went into a period of acute mourning." But then she began thinking about the estimated 25 million other Americans with rare diseases—and found her new calling. She created the LAM Treatment Alliance to raise funds for research, and she also approached scientists studying common illnesses, like cancer, and persuaded them to apply their findings to LAM. Doctors hail that strategy as a way to find cures for *many* diseases, rare and common alike. "Scientists say this disease is crackable," says Farber, now 37. "And luckily I have a partner—my husband, who is a doctor, keeps me hopeful. Sometimes he tells me bedtime stories of quick medical progress to help me sleep." —ABIGAIL PESTA

Farber's racing to find an answer to LAM. Learn more at lamtreatmentalliance.org.



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the loss that
aped her life

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