
Triumphs of the Human Spirit

CLIMBING FARTHER THAN THE EYE CAN SEE

Blind Mountaineer Scales Mt. Everest

(NAPSA)—As Erik Weihenmayer attempted to climb Mt. Everest he considered his seasonal allergies, not his blindness, to be the biggest barrier to a successful expedition.

Weihenmayer and the National Federation of the Blind were attempting to make history as he left Base Camp in his quest to become the first blind person to successfully reach the summit of Mt. Everest. Erik hoped to stand on top of the world at 29,035 feet this year. He tackled the mountain as part of The National Federation of the Blind-Allegra® (fexofenadine HCl) 180-mg 2001 Everest Expedition, a group of more than 12 experienced climbers.

Like millions of Americans who suffer from seasonal allergies through each spring and fall, one of the many challenges Erik faced during his descent is the blooming flora on Everest. In order to keep the symptoms of his seasonal allergies under control during the trek, Weihenmayer takes once daily Allegra® (fexofenadine HCl) 180-mg, a non-sedating antihistamine that provides seasonal allergy relief and helps him control the distractions his runny nose and itchy eyes can cause.

Aventis Pharmaceuticals, makers of the seasonal allergy medication, Allegra® (fexofenadine HCl) 180-mg, is working with Erik to create a video documentary of this extraordinary trek. The *"Vision of Everest"* documentary will follow the climb along the South Col route from Nepal; it will be distributed some time in the spring of 2002. The National Federation of the Blind is sponsoring the expedition. In this way, the non-profit organization is spreading the word that blindness need not prevent people from accomplishing great things.



Photo: Allegra®/Jonathan Chester

Allegra® (fexofenadine HCl) 180-mg, is a powerful, safe and effective non-sedating antihistamine for the treatment of symptoms in patients 12 years and older who have seasonal allergies. Side effects with Allegra® (fexofenadine HCl) 180-mg are low and may include headache, upper respiratory tract infection and back pain.

Weihenmayer lost his sight at age 13 but has never let his blindness interfere with his passion for living an exciting and fulfilling life. A 32-year-old husband and father, Weihenmayer is an avid rock and ice climber and recently authored the book *"Touch the Top of the World."*

To learn more about the expedition visit the Web site www.2001everest.com or visit www.allegra.com. Prescribing information regarding Allegra® (fexofenadine HCl) 180-mg products is also available by calling 1-800-552-3656.