

Number 1: December 13th, 2002

The Kafka Approach by Jerry Lemler

Solidifying our infrastructure has been the battle cry here in Scottsdale this fall. Thanks especially go to our (still relatively new) Director of Suspension Services, Charles Platt, for creating the master plan, and to the Alcor Board of Directors for allocating the requisite funds to implement it.

Charles's plan is easily the most comprehensive and far-reaching in the history of cryonics. It calls for a sweeping professionalization of our rescue teams for Standby field operations, upgrades to our in-house operating room, and a fleet of strategically placed, specially fitted transport vans. In turn, the Alcor Board, after but a minimum of discussion, agreed to appropriate the \$342,000 required for bringing this plan to fruition. Details will appear in a future issue of Cryonics magazine.

Early next year our senior staff will convene a week-long training session in Arizona for both our new first responder professionals and our Anatomical Donor Recovery (ADR) Team members. We expect contingents to be attending from Phoenix, northern California, southern California, south Florida, and the U.K. The basis for this intense week of training will be a newly revised CryoTransport manual. Alcor is truly at a crossroads in our development. By rebuilding and fortifying our infrastructure, we hope it will be nothing less than a metamorphosis.

Who Works for Alcor?

Some of our members have complained that they don't know who is working at Alcor anymore, or what the various job roles are. Here's a quick update.

The following people are currently full-time employees:

Jerry Lemler, MD	CEO
Jennifer Chapman	Member Services Administrator
Hugh Hixon	Alcor Fellow and Facility Engineer
Joe Hovey	Comptroller and Treasurer
Mike Perry, PhD	Patient Care Associate
James Sikes	Operations Manager
Jessica Sikes	Administrative and Membership Associate
Mathew Sullivan	Director of Suspension Readiness
Katherine Waters	Accounting Administrator

The following people receive retainers or are providing regular service as independent contractors:

Russell Cheney	Project Future Bound So.Cal. Coordinator
Bill Haworth	Public Relations Counsel
Paula Lemler	Special Projects Coordinator
Charles Platt	Director of Suspension Services

Michael Riskin, PhD Fund administrator/VP/Chairman of Board
 Steve Rude Mortician

The following people are unpaid Alcor volunteers:

Paul Garfield General Services
 Lisa Lock Editor of Cryonics magazine
 Judy Muhlestein OSHA Compliance
 Jerry Searcy General Services

The following people are Alcor directors:

Kat Cotter
 Hugh Hixon
 Saul Kent
 Ralph Merkle
 Carlos Mondragon
 Michael Riskin
 Michael Seidl
 Steve Van Sickle

Recent Employee Changes at Alcor

Karla Steen, who was active in the public relations department, has left the organization.

Steve Rude, a mortician and former perfusionist, is now an independent contractor but is continuing to provide services to Alcor on that basis.

Tom Brown, a mortician who had participated in two standbys and hoped to sell cryonics through mortuaries nationwide, has left the organization.

Dave Shipman, who had been Director of Suspension Services and then moved to part-time status after he resigned from that position, has left the organization.

Fred and Linda Chamberlain do not hold any positions as officers or directors of Alcor since their resignation in mid-2002.

Alcor Seeks Professional Medical Personnel

Alcor is initiating a search for a new employee with medical training. Ideally, we hope to hire someone who has been a hospice nurse, since this profession provides extensive experience assessing terminal patients. Salary will be \$40,000 to \$45,000 per year, depending on experience and other attributes.

We are also hoping to find paramedics who can augment our volunteer-based standby teams on an as-needed basis. As our caseload increases, we will be relying more on paid help. Paramedics Unlimited, a Phoenix-based "temp agency" that provides paramedics for special events, has expressed very

strong interest in helping us, but has been slow to finalize an agreement. We are still hoping they will follow through.

Reassessing Operating Room Protocol

When Alcor acquired the capability to vitrify patients using a cryoprotectant developed by an independent laboratory, this prompted concerns about cost, since the vitrification solution is more expensive than traditional glycerol-based cryoprotectant that we used in the past. To address these concerns, Alcor Fellow Hugh Hixon developed a new procedure for neuro patients in which the head alone is perfused via blood vessels in the neck with vitrification solution. Neck perfusion consumes about 7 or 8 liters compared with approximately 40 liters that we estimate were used in the procedure that existed formerly, which consisted of opening the chest (a surgical operation known as median sternotomy) and perfusing via major vessels near the heart, while clamping the descending aorta and the patient's limbs to restrict perfusion of the body.

Hugh has made many major improvements in the neck perfusion process, but it still takes longer than we would like, and requires cannulation of four blood vessels instead of two. Recently our supplier of critical ingredients in our vitrification solution suggested various cost-cutting measures that could make the solution more affordable. Consequently our Director of Suspension Services made a formal proposal to revert to median sternotomy as the procedure of choice, and Dr. Jerry Lemler, our CEO, has approved this request. More details about this topic will appear in a future article for Cryonics magazine.

Alcor Vehicles and Local Response Capability

The Alcor Board has allocated funds to buy and convert a panel truck (generally speaking, the kind of truck that UPS uses for making deliveries) as our new patient transport vehicle, which will replace our aging ambulance. In the meantime Hugh Hixon has serviced our ambulance and Alcor has purchased an almost-new Chevy Suburban to deal with routine local journeys such as runs to the airport to collect visitors. The Suburban can also provide patient transport backup when necessary. James Sikes has welded a rigid framework for a noncollapsible portable ice bath which will fit in the back of the Suburban, and we will be using an inverter (modified by Alcor Southern California team member Keith Dugue) that provides sufficient power to run a recirculating pump in the ice bath.

Alcor Patient Scott Yesberger Enters Cryopreservation

As reported on CryoNet, Alcor conducted a successful local standby/transport of its seventh patient this year, on Thanksgiving Eve. Scott Yesberger, Alcor patient A-1235, had been diagnosed with a malignancy in the right side of his

mouth which spread to his neck. After we suggested that Scott relocate near the Alcor facility, his wife made special arrangements and heroic efforts to accomplish this. We followed Scott's condition closely and asked Tanya Jones, who has participated in 15 Alcor standbys and 18 cases in the operating room, to assist us. Tanya arrived on Sunday, November 24th. With her assistance we began a formal standby in the Yesberger home on November 27th. Our patient experienced cardiac arrest just four hours later, was transported to the Alcor facility, was perfused successfully, and is now in longterm cryopreservation. This case taught us a lot about doing a local standby. A full description will be in the next issue of Cryonics magazine.

Alcor's Real Estate

Alcor occupies five units of a large commercial building, and can expand into additional units when current tenants move out. We have been discussing how much space we need and can afford. Currently Alcor has some unused or partly utilized space in the section of the building which was devoted to our public relations activities during 2002 and was previously used by Cells4Life, until that project was terminated and Alcor took over the cell samples. Also we have access to a unit at the far end of the building which is empty right now. Operations manager James Sikes has been modifying a plan of the building to show internal features that have changed since the plan was originally drawn. James will make preliminary usage recommendations to a steering committee established by our CEO, Jerry Lemler MD, to decide on the best way for Alcor to use available space. The committee members are former Alcor president Steve Bridge, Director of Suspension Services Charles Platt, and Alcor Director Steve Van Sickle.

Our wish-list includes a greatly enlarged laboratory area, a larger patient storage area (the current space is almost fully utilized), and a crew room where team members may sleep during a local standby or following all-night work in the operating room.

Alcor News is written primarily by Charles Platt.
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