

Alcor News Bulletin

Number 6: January 21st, 2003

Training Sessions Commence March 1st.

Alcor is scheduling a comprehensive six-day training session for any of our members who would like to learn the basics of field work. This is an exceptional opportunity to receive free state-of-the-art information about our current methods of human cryopreservation. We urge all Alcor members to consider taking a few days to learn how to intervene in a health emergency, how to minimize postmortem brain damage, and how to administer vital medications.

Since space is limited, we urge you to sign up as quickly as possible. You don't have to sign up for the entire six days of training, so long as you begin with the first session. Prior experience is not required. Below is the preliminary teaching schedule. Each day consists of three hours of instruction, a one-hour lunch break, and three more hours of instruction including a short written test. An exception is the initial Saturday, when we will commence later to allow people from distant locations time to arrive.

Students will receive one credit for each day they complete successfully. The credits will entitle you to dues reductions, and you will receive additional compensation if you participate in a future standby. Dues reductions and standby payments are tabulated below.

Proposed Teaching Schedule:

Saturday, March 1st.

Commencing 4 PM: Two sessions of two hours each, separated by a one-hour break for dinner. Basic concepts in standby/transport work. Methods for cooling the patient. Medications sequence, medication purposes, cardiopulmonary support, oxygen, blood washout, transportation. Recommended contents for an overnight travel kit for transport team members.

Sunday, March 2nd.

Commencing 9 AM: Two sessions of three hours each, separated by a one-hour break for lunch. Assessing vital signs of a patient before legal death. Interacting with family members and hospital personnel. Blood saturation, pulse, blood pressure, other indicators. Pronouncement of death. Ambu bag application, CO2 detector, use of oxygen, use of Thumper and/or Cardio-Pump. DualLogR use and temperature probe placement. Entering data on Alcor patient-data forms.

Monday, March 3rd.

Commencing 9 AM: Two sessions of three hours each, separated by a one-hour break for lunch. Intubation, gastric tube placement, IV placement (central and peripheral), blood washout equipment (ATP).

Tuesday, March 4th.

Commencing 9 AM: Two sessions of three hours each, separated by a one-hour break for lunch. Logistical and legal issues regarding transport of human remains. Legal aspects of anatomical donation. DNR orders and other medical issues. Techniques for cooperation with hospitals and mortuaries. Ischemic injury. Tradeoffs between time, temperature, and medication. Decision-making in the field.

Wednesday, March 5th.

Commencing 9 AM: Two sessions of three hours each, separated by a one-hour break for lunch. Fundamentals of infection control. Mechanisms of disease transmission. First-aid response to possible infection. Fundamentals of cryobiology and cryoprotectants. Mechanisms of cell injury and cell death.

Thursday, March 6th.

Commencing 9 AM: One session of four hours. Recent developments--an itemized list of revisions and enhancements which have been made during the past two years. Future developments--a collaborative brainstorming session in which students and staff will swap ideas in an effort to refine and improve our procedures.

For Those who Took Previous Courses:

We are reverting to the old "Alcor Cryotransport Technician" appellation (ACT). The term "Alcor Donor Recovery Team" was never widely used and, while it was strictly accurate, it had the potential to create a misleading impression among health professionals.

If you took a previous training course you can receive free credits without attending the new training sessions, provided you have demonstrated and practiced your skills during 2002. Please contact Charles Platt at if you have ACT status which you want to maintain, and you feel you should receive free credits.

If you are not eligible for free credits, you must receive new training to maintain your ACT status. If you cannot attend the course commencing March 1st, you will be given an opportunity to attend another course later this year.

Discounts and Standby Participation Fees:

In the future, for each three-month period in which you have been available as a transport technician, you will receive a discount on your next three months of membership dues: 20% basic discount plus an additional 10% discount for each credit that you have earned. Thus, for any student who earns credits on all six days of the training week, the total cumulative discount would be 80%.

Any ACT who participates in a subsequent standby will receive travel and lodging expenses plus daily participation fees as follows: For the first day on standby, \$120 plus an additional \$20 for each credit you have earned. For each subsequent day on standby, \$80 plus an additional \$20 for each credit you have earned.

Instructors:

Instructors will include Todd Soard, a paramedic who has participated in cryonics cases and runs a teaching program in Florida; Tanya Jones, a former team leader with almost unmatched experience in field work; David Hayes, who played an indispensable role in several cases during 2002; Larry Johnson, a nationally licensed paramedic who is joining Alcor as our future team leader; Jeff Kelling, a surgical technician with 20 years of experience in the operating room; Steve Rude, a mortician and former perfusionist; and Charles Platt, director of suspension services at Alcor.

A Unique and Beautiful Location:

All the classes will be held at the Creekside Preserve, owned and operated by former Alcor director David Pizer. This beautiful retreat is located in wild country about one hour north of Phoenix. We have negotiated exceptionally low lodging rates with Dave, with all meals included.

For two people in one room, with two beds or with one king-size bed: \$49 each. (Some rooms also contain a jacuzzi. These will be made available to couples on a first-come first-served basis at no extra charge.)

For one person in one room with a king-size bed and no jacuzzi: \$75.

For one person in one room with a king-size bed plus a jacuzzi: \$85.

Remember, these rates include all meals! We will have low-fat and vegetarian options for guests who require them, so long as you let us know in advance.

Transport to Creekside Preserve will be via shuttle-bus services that operate direct from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. These services run approximately every hour. Alcor will reimburse you for the cost of the service. The only cost to you is your air fare to Phoenix and the per-day rate at Creekside Preserve. If you complete all six days of training successfully, your subsequent membership dues discounts will substantially offset the cost of attending the course.

This announcement will be circulated by mail to the whole Alcor membership in the near future. Subscribers to Alcor News are receiving notification before anyone else. Please take advantage of this information and register for the training session as soon as possible.

How to register:

1. Reserve space by emailing Paula Lemler)
or by calling her at Alcor: 480 905 1906 extension 101.
Specify which kind of room you want, and the the number of people. If you are a single person who would like to share

a two-bed room with another guest, we can try to arrange this for you. Reservations will be held until February 14th.

2. Before February 14th, you must confirm your reservation with a \$200 deposit (or equivalent amount in foreign currency). This deposit will be refunded to you in full as soon as you arrive for the training. We request a deposit only because we need to be sure that each student definitely intends to be at the training sessions. If you do not show up for training, your deposit will not be refunded. Send your deposit to Alcor Foundation, Attention Paula Lemler, at 7895 East Acoma Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85260.

After you have made your initial reservation, you will receive additional materials giving full details of the training and the location.

Alcor is augmenting its standby team with professionally qualified medical staff, but we will still depend on people like you in an emergency. You can help other Alcor members, and encourage them to help you, by taking this training course. Please call Paula today to make your reservation.

Alcor Realigns Southern California Rescue Team

from Dr. Jerry Lemler

Following a series of meetings on Friday, January 17th, 2003 in Torrance, California, Alcor management has decided to realign its Southern California Project FutureBound Rescue Unit.

Alcor Board Advisor and Ombudsman, Dr. Robert Newport, chaired the deliberations, and participants included President/CEO Dr. Jerry Lemler, Chairman of the Board Dr. Michael Riskin, Board Member Hugh Hixon, and Southern California team members Russell Cheney and Todd Huffman.

The changes will take place immediately, as Bobby June and Todd Huffman have accepted the role of Co-Coordiators for the unit. Additionally, Alcor Southern California rescue equipment has been relocated to Todd Huffman's secure residence. This shift of responsibilities will allow Russell Cheney to move into the role of Southern California Team Training Officer.

It was reaffirmed that all Southern California personnel will report directly to Director of Suspension Services, Charles Platt.

The process of streamlining the collecting, transporting, refurbishing, restocking, and redistributing equipment for the Southern California Unit following a Standby Operation was also discussed, and, in the future, Alcor Central pledges to facilitate and implement a more expeditious system.

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