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Alcor News Bulletin

Number 25: April 13 2004

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Credits

Tanya Jones is the principal author of unattributed articles; the issue was edited and sent to subscribers by Mike Perry.

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Legislative Update

As you've probably already heard, the legislative matters have mostly been laid to rest for this session. Representative Stump withdrew his bill after an intense series of stakeholder meetings left some critical issues without consensus. Though we intend to remain vigilant for the rest of the session, watching for another striker bill, we expect this matter is concluded for now.

Regulation now seems inevitable--despite the complexity of associated issues being so strong a factor in the withdrawal of this bill. We need to be prepared for the next time regulation efforts begin, especially since we are likely to be invited to the table early. We need to ensure that we are both legislatively and administratively prepared for the next bill process.

We have already made significant headway in establishing the kind of protection we both want and need. Adapting this language into ideal statutes for introduction next year shouldn't be too difficult. Forging the necessary relationships to see such legislation adopted is already underway. Working on the wording of future legislation, rules requirements for certification as a cryonics establishment, and fee schedules will continue through November, which is when the bill may be introduced for the next legislative session. We intend to continue improving our relationship with the Funeral Board and will attempt to resolve our differences with the Funeral Association.

Whole-Body Vitrification Development

Internal meetings have begun on the development of a whole-body vitrification capability. A preliminary plan is being drafted for changes to the operating table and perfusion parameters to meet the need of lower-temperature perfusion. Over the course of the next month, we'll be developing the drawings and materials schedule, not to mention the project proposal, needed to construct the prototype operating theater.

Technical staff members will continue to meet on this topic at regular intervals, moving this development forward; but since reconciliation of the design requirements took relatively little time, there is little impeding our progress.

Balanced Budget

With all the distractions of late, we're a little behind on the completion of the 2004 budget. During the budget development process, we determined that a major overhaul was needed of our accounting system to be able to extract the data needed to forecast revenue and expenses. These changes have been made, and the budget is now complete.

For the first time in at least a very long time, we will be working from a balanced budget. Though the budget allows little room for research and development other than the projects already in the works, we're hoping that our pessimistic revenue estimates will be exceeded, allowing for the addition of more research later in the year.

Included in the budget are: finalization of the new Alcor transport vehicle, Todd Huffman's insect memory project, intermediate temperature storage (ITS) development, an expansion of remote capability by a complete stabilization kit, and a training class later in the year. Various marketing projects will also be developed this year, since the funds for those items are from specific, directed donations. Cryopreservation estimates were based on the assumption of six patients being added this year, including four neuro and two whole-body patients.

Declaration of Intent Form Added to Website

A minor note, given the recent dramatic state of operations here, but Mike Perry's Declaration of Intent to be Cryopreserved has been added to the Alcor website (<http://alcor.org/Library/pdfs/DeclarationOfIntent.pdf>). Though not intended to substitute for any other paperwork, this document provides a quick and easy way for anyone to declare a desire to be cryopreserved without requiring any other decisions be made, including the critical choice of cryonics provider, whole body or neuro, etc.

We're hoping that this document will reduce the number of last minute cases we have to reject for lack of informed consent.

Staff Position Available

Our beloved bookkeeper, Lucy Rosas-Cornejo, has decided to leave, taking a position nearer to her new home in Surprise, Arizona. Though she has only been here a short time, we've all come to appreciate Lucy's intelligence, attention to detail, and positive outlook. She will be sorely missed.

Alcor will be hiring someone to fill this critical role immediately, since we have no desire to impede the retirement of Joe Hovey at the end of this month. If you know anyone in the Phoenix area (preferably within a 20-minute drive) who might be qualified and interested in filling this vacancy, please have them forward a resume to Jennifer Chapman at

Fundraising Appeal

Alcor continues to expand and improve; this is an ongoing, never-ending process.

Last October a fundraising appeal was sent to all members, detailing the items that were and are part of our facility expansion. Some of those projects have been completed; some are still far from complete. The most immediate need is for donations to help offset the costs of completing our new Operating Room, which will enable Alcor for the first time to perform two suspensions simultaneously. Some of the items required are: two new operating tables; a patient hoist; one set of operating room lights; a new heater/cooler for cryoprotective perfusion; and new surgical trays. The new heater/cooler and surgical tray alone will cost us over \$40,000!

We are appealing to our membership once again to step up to the plate and help us out. Don't forget, depending on your individual tax status, a large part or your entire donation to this project may be tax-deductible.

Watch this space for continuing updates. [Joe Hovey]

Foresight Gathering Discount for Alcor Members

Foresight Institute is offering a \$200 discount on their upcoming Senior Associates Gathering, to all Alcor members and subscribers. In real financial terms, this makes the annual Senior Associate membership nearly free, for all Alcor folks who take advantage of this offer.

If you're interested in attending and are already a Foresight Senior Associate, register for the gathering using the "Super Early" rate. Don't worry about the long-dated expiration of the offer, and put "Alcor" in the comments field. Alcor folks will pay \$295 instead of the post-April-3 rate of \$495.

For more information on the Gathering, visit <http://www.foresight.org/SrAssoc/spring2004>

For more information on the Senior Associate program, visit <http://www.foresight.org/SrAssoc/index.html>

Board Meeting Schedule

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2004 at 11:00 AM (PST), also 11:00 AM local Arizona time.

Board meetings are held on the first Saturday of the month at the Alcor facility (7895 East Acoma Drive in Scottsdale, AZ). Members are encouraged to attend.

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End of Alcor News bulletin #25 dated April 13, 2004.
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