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Alcor News Bulletin-----
Number 32: November 13, 2004
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Two Patients in October

The first patient we received in October (A-1321) died an unattended death. When the patient's mail started piling up in front of his house, his neighbors contacted the police. After entering the home soon after the call, officers found the member dead on the floor. He had apparently been there for five or six days prior to being found.

Alcor was contacted by the local Coroner's Office, because the patient was still wearing his medic-alert bracelet. After some discussion, they agreed to waive the autopsy and to release the body to a local funeral home for shipment to Arizona. This patient was straight-frozen.

Our second patient received in October was also straight-frozen. Patient A-1099 died in Florida several weeks ago, but his delivery to Alcor for cryopreservation was held up

by legal challenges stemming from family members' attempts to revoke the anatomical gift.

This patient died suddenly on a Sunday, and Alcor was not notified. By the time we found out about the case and located the patient at the funeral home, he had been embalmed and was scheduled for a rapid cremation. We managed to convince the funeral home to place a friendly hold on the cremation order while the legal aspects of this gift were resolved, and then things got complicated.

After a few weeks of legal wrangling (during which the patient was packed in dry ice), the patient was released to Alcor personnel, packed in more dry ice and shipped to Alcor for cryopreservation. This brings the total number of patients to 67. [TJ]

Whole-Body Enclosure Progress

A prototype enclosure for the new whole-body cryoprotection system has been designed. Over the next couple of weeks, Hugh Hixon will be building a full-scale model of this enclosure so that we can work out any problems prior to sending the project out for fabrication. We anticipate this enclosure to be completed by the end of the year.

With the chiller for lower-temperature perfusion also on order, the two primary elements needed to engineer "neurovitrification with whole-body cryoprotection" will be ready. We're awaiting recommendations on changing our cryoprotectants to solutions more compatible with whole-body cryoprotection. Once the new solutions are available, we should be able to implement the new procedure and eliminate the "combination" procedure from the roster of options. [TJ]

Website Working Group (WWG) Report

The number of distinct computers that accessed the Alcor Website in each of the past five months:

13,635	June
10,662	July
11,880	August
14,627	September
16,655	October

There were access spikes on October 13 and October 18. The Oct. 13 spike was associated with the national newswire story that Alcor had been ordered to release the Williams documents. The Oct. 18 spike was apparently related to articles about Alcor in the Phoenix Business Journal and/or Gainesville Times that appeared on October 17. There was a discernible increase in traffic associated with the CBS MarketWatch story of October 22.

Changes this past month included:

- * The addition of a "What's New" item on the main menu (<http://www.alcor.org/whatsnew.html>)
- * Addition of a "What is Vitrification?" slide

presentation to the Library (<http://www.alcor.org/Library/html/vitrification.html>) This is an illustrated primer, ideal for students or general public that want to get the basic idea without getting technical.

* Expanded "News Media" main menu item (formerly "Press Room") that includes an "Alcor in the News" page (<http://www.alcor.org/press/newsstories.html>) and features links to favorable news stories about Alcor.

* New Library section on the "Ethical Basis for Cryonics" (<http://www.alcor.org/Library/index.html#ethics>), containing two new articles: "The Ends of Life?" by Rand Simberg and "The Terminus of the Self" by Max More.

* Updates to membership documents, and announcements of Comprehensive Standby and new funding requirements for 2005. [WWG]

Transport Team Recruitment and Training

The northern California transport team recruiting meeting was held as planned. It was not as well-attended as the southern California meeting, but still provided a valuable opportunity for local members to meet our CEO. We still hope that some new volunteers will step forward to participate in transport activities.

Prior to the event, we held the first of what will be monthly transport team management meetings. Northern California's capability was upgraded as the result of this management meeting, and we've added field washout equipment to the remote kit.

These transport team management meetings are intended to resolve some of the communication issues that have been a problem in previous years, and will typically be held monthly immediately following Board meetings. All regional coordinators will be expected to attend, providing input on the quality of any cases carried out in their regions and on improvements that Alcor might make to local capabilities. [TJ]

Membership Billing and Information Update

During our 4th quarterly billing, every invoiced member received a "Membership Billing and Information Update" form. To date, more than 200 members have returned this form. It allowed members to choose their billing cycle, and the option to have their invoice emailed instead of mailed; a cost-saving strategy for Alcor. Emailed invoices obviously save mailing supplies, postage, and the time and effort to print and stuff envelopes. To date, more than 50 members have chosen this method. During our 10/26/04 billing, all invoices received a notice informing them that by choosing to have invoices emailed, they save Alcor cost, and members have the option to pay their invoice by credit card online as well. Contact Tim Reeves) if you wish to change your billing method. [TR]

Personnel Notes

We have advertised job openings for a Transport Coordinator to organize and coordinate Standby and Transport teams as well as a Technical Development Leader position with the requirement for a degree in biomedical engineering and fabrication. We have quite a few qualified candidates and we expect to have both position filled by the end of the year.

Diane Cremeens has continued working full-time on growth-related tasks and is receiving regular training on a variety of issues handled by the Membership Department. Paula Lemler continues to work part-time designing an email campaign using Constant Contact. A variety of messages were sent to members, applicants, and info pack recipients announcing Comprehensive Member Standby (CMS) and the upcoming rate increases. Nikki Knowlton continues to assist the department part-time. [JW/JC]

Membership Statistics

On October 31, 2004 Alcor had 689 members on its Emergency Responsibility List. Five memberships were approved during this month, no memberships were reinstated, one membership was cancelled for insufficient funding and two members were cryopreserved. Overall, there was a net gain of two members this month.

At the end of this month, Alcor had 115 applicants for membership. There was a net loss of one applicant with five approvals, six incoming applicants and two exiting the application process on their own request. [JC]

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 4, 2004 at 11:00 AM (MST).

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

End of Alcor News bulletin #32 dated November 13, 2004.
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