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Alcor News Bulletin

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New Staff Changes

Our new Transport Coordinator, William Voice, formally joined the staff this past Monday. Already, he's becoming familiar with cryonics operations and is enthusiastically diving into the development of upgraded training materials and standard operating procedures. Bill has been involved with emergency services (EMS system and fire department) since starting his career as a Michigan paramedic in 1986. He has experience as a Clinical Associate, assisting with the preparation and collection of biological samples. Bill also has more than ten years' experience as an instructor, having taught both adults and high school students about first aid and CPR, advanced cardiac life support, anatomy and physiology, medical terminology and more. We are very pleased to have him as a member of the staff. Welcome, Bill!

We are also extremely pleased to announce the addition of Stephen Van Sickle to the staff as our Technical Development

Leader. Steve served on the Alcor Board of Directors for five years, prior to stepping down in late November. Though Steve is no longer on the Board, he stepped up to the plate to accept this role and will be moving to Arizona within the next month. As a long-time cryonicist and member of Alcor's Research Committee and lately as a biochemistry student, Steve is well-versed in the development of our procedures and is strongly committed to helping us improve the various technologies at our disposal. We're very much looking forward to his arrival in the middle of February. Welcome, Steve! [TJ]

Fiscal Policy

Preliminary 2004 financial figures indicate that we have ended the year with a \$150,000 surplus after deducting \$950,000 in cash reserves set aside from general revenues in an Endowment Fund. The surplus also includes \$300,000 in cash reserves set aside from general revenues in a Research Fund, plus approximately \$7,000 in earned interest. We were able to achieve this surplus in part because we recognized improperly recorded revenue in the Patient Care Trust Fund and further belt-tightening on the expense side of operations.

Some additional factors to keep in mind that contributed to the overall bottom line included our unexpected legal expenses. Defending our most recent patient (A-1099) has involved legal expenses of nearly \$100,000, incurred in just a couple of months. [JW]

Alcor in the News

The worldwide attention on Alcor has been amazing. Over the last few months we've fielded more than a dozen requests from TV and print reporters and producers from around the globe: Germany (2), United Kingdom (3), Japan, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain, Brazil, Russia, and Bosnia/Herzegovina.

German TV is producing a documentary that will air to 6 million viewers in Germany and France. Arte, the French public television channel, taped a board meeting and interviews in December to include in a documentary. A student from the Denmark School of Broadcasting spent a day at Alcor and is creating a web site for his final project. Among those who requested information and b-roll were producers from Japan, Madrid public TV, French public television, the UK's Sky One and Chameleon TV and the Netherlands.

This is in addition to numerous requests from the US. KJZZ, the Phoenix National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate produced a story that aired locally and nationally. Web-based CBS MarketWatch included Alcor in a story. "Tactical to Practical" from the History Channel taped this fall, but unfortunately they changed the direction of the segment and didn't use Alcor's footage (however, we are staying in touch in hopes they will do a piece on Alcor in the future). We've

also hosted a number of crews and reporters who are currently working on pieces that will air or be printed in 2005. MTV2 will air two pieces in February as they re-launch the channel--"This is What I Do" with Joe and "High Tech Theater" with Tanya. Planet Grande Films, which produces for Country Music Television, is planning on at least one story about Alcor this spring.

ABC's Prime Time Live, Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post Magazine gathered information and are pitching story ideas to their editorial boards. A reporter from the New York Times stopped by for a casual visit and he says he's now working on a story.

We will continue to update you on media attention. Watch this column in upcoming Newsletters for the latest. [CW]

Neuro-Vitrification with Whole-Body
Cryoprotection Development

The acrylic enclosure for the new whole-body cryoprotection system has been built and delivered, including both the patient and the mechanical sections. Preliminary testing of the new chiller has been done, and the design of the new tubing circuit is nearly complete. By the end of next week, the cutting diagrams and assembly instructions for manufacturing the new circuits will be done (by Hugh Hixon), and he will have the necessary diagrams completed for cutting the mechanical section to accommodate passing the circuit between the patient and mechanical sections and for the nitrogen vapor ports. Once the holes have been cut for the tubing and a circuit completed from the instructions, we will be in position to begin full testing of the new prototype.

An additional difficulty to introducing neuro-vitrification with whole-body cryoprotection is that the whole-body cryoprotection protocol in development cannot be done with the current cryoprotectants. (The solutions are known to be flawed for whole-body preservation.) Though recommendations to change solutions have yet not been made, we began researching the procurement of some known components.

One of those components (1-0-methyl-rac-glycerol) was found to be prohibitively expensive, with a price ranging from \$18-60 per gram. Each whole-body case will require 4000 grams (50g/liter, 80 liters per case) when implemented. With some effort, we found an alternate supplier that was willing to provide it to us for a fraction of the price; but when we contacted them about a large order, we found that item had been discontinued.

Left with the option of paying significantly higher prices than we can afford, we began investigating custom synthesis of the component. This search was ultimately successful, and we found a manufacturer in Japan who initially quoted us a price of \$0.45 a gram. After further negotiation, we've settled on a price of \$0.35 for bulk custom synthesis. We will be placing an order next week for a 200-liter supply of 1-0-methyl-rac-glycerol, which will have an anticipated

delivery date in April. [TJ]

Bigfoot Performance Report

Preliminary boiloff testing of the new Bigfoot dewar (#9) was completed in late December. Though testing continues, data from an eight-day baseline indicated level reductions of 9.1 liters/day. (Net boiloff was 3.7" in 8 days 3 hrs 33 min. or 8.1479 days = .454 inches/day or 9.08 liters/day at 20.0 liters/inch - Mike Perry) On whole, this represents an improvement of more than 20% over Bigfoot #8, which boils off at about 12.4 liters/day.

According to the manufacturer, the added efficiency is the result of refinements to the wrapping process, in which the dewar shell is placed on a spindle and spun with layers of paper and aluminum foil, with about 70 layers being required for each shell. What this reduction in boiloff means is a cost savings of more than \$60,000 over the expected lifetime of the dewar (50 years, using current nitrogen costs).

Bigfoot #10 is still in production, and the recent spate of nasty weather has slowed the process. It awaits a dry spell before the wrapping can be done, and the dewar may not be delivered until some time in February. [TJ]

Transport Team Training for 2005

A proposed training schedule for 2005 has been sent to the Regional Coordinators. It includes three sessions each for northern and southern California; one session in Laughlin, Nevada; one in Florida; and three cadaver training sessions in Scottsdale. This schedule represents an ambitious commitment to Alcor's transport team network. I believe this schedule can be met and the quality of our regional teams improved significantly in this calendar year. The first training session will be in northern California on January 29th, and will cover safety protocols; the washout system set-up, operation and monitoring; sample taking; and data collection.

With the introduction of Bill Voice and his extensive training materials, we have begun adapting his paramedic courses for Alcor members, and expect this process to continue during the coming months. Though there are some significant differences between a standard Emergency Medical System protocol and ours (e.g. blood washouts, sample collection, oxygen therapy parameters, and cooling requirements), we expect this adaptation to proceed quickly.

This training schedule will be distributed more widely once the Regional Coordinators have completed their review. Anyone wishing a copy should contact Tanya Jones). [TJ]

2005 Conference Update

As a reminder, Alcor will host its 2005 conference at the Arizona Science Center during the weekend of August 12th - 15th, 2005. Attendees will have the opportunity to tour the Alcor facility on Friday, August 12, before the conference formally begins. Four speakers have committed to the conference, including: Robert Freitas, Greg Fahy, Aubrey de Grey, and Terry Grossman. Mark the dates on your calendar, and plan to join us for what is shaping up to be an excellent opportunity to learn more about advancing medical technologies. [TJ]

Membership Statistics

On December 31, 2004 Alcor had 713 members on its Emergency Responsibility List. Eighteen memberships were approved during this month, no memberships were reinstated, two memberships were cancelled for insufficient funding, and no members were cryopreserved. Overall, there was a net gain of sixteen members this month.

At the end of this month, Alcor had 164 applicants for membership. There was a net gain of 57 applicants with 18 approvals, 75 incoming applicants and none choosing to exit the application process.

The overall membership growth rate for 2004 was 7.9%. Seventy-three memberships were approved, which is on par with 2002 (79) and 2003 (76). The net gain for the year was 52 members. [JC]

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 5, 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.

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