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Alcor News Bulletin

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Comprehensive Member Standby Reminder

As of January 1, 2005, U.S. and Canadian members are no longer required to fund emergency-based standby coverage via credit card authorization or prepayment (does not include elective standby). Instead, each member contributes \$10 per month to a pooled Standby Fund that will cover standby costs for any member in a near-death situation. The CMS Fund already has over \$100,000 available. CMS charges apply to all members, including Life Members; but members under age 18 and full-time students under age 25 will have CMS charges waived.

Additional benefits of this program include: No more worrying about credit card balances and expiration dates. Credit cards are no longer required to fund this critical

aspect of your cryopreservation arrangements! For just \$10 per month Members receive Standby coverage that can total \$35,000 or more. No additional funding for Standby and Transport is required at the time of need. Members will be billed at the same frequency as Membership Dues (Life Members will receive annual invoices). Terminal Members with a prognosis of 90 days or less who relocate to a care facility near Alcor receive up to \$5000 for relocation assistance. For faster Transport, Members may secure charter aircraft for an additional \$500 per year (contact us for enrollment instructions). CMS participation is mandatory to maintain membership status. Members are automatically signed up for the Standby coverage offered under CMS. [JC]

Staff Changes

There have been a number of personnel developments in January that will be highly beneficial to Alcor and its membership. The first is that former Alcor board member Steve Van Sickle will be joining Alcor on February 14th as its new Technical Development Leader. Steve's primary responsibilities will be to lead engineering projects for the organization. He will be a welcome addition. Second, we are very close to being able to hire a new full-time researcher to regain momentum in our research program. And, as you already know from last month's issue, our new Transport Coordinator, Bill Voice, started on January 4th.

In addition, the functional organization typography that was started last year with the re-titling and rewriting of employee job descriptions was continued in January with the addition of two new staff members and a realignment of existing job titles and job functions. As part of that realignment, Jennifer Chapman has accepted a new position as Alcor's Marketing Director. Her primary responsibilities will be to direct all programs related to Marketing, Public Relations, and Fundraising. Reporting departments include Membership Services and a new, yet to be staffed Fundraising department. Jennifer will also be responsible for managing the WalshCOMM relationship. Diane Cremeens, our Membership Services Coordinator has stepped into Jennifer's prior role.

And finally, we have separated the development responsibilities from the operational responsibilities and Tanya Jones has assumed the role of Technical Services Leader. Tanya's primary responsibilities will be to direct all activities related to delivering suspension services, regulatory compliance, training of ACT field personnel, and protocol improvements. Bill Voice will continue reporting to Tanya. [JW]

Transport Vehicle Development

The development of this vehicle is still a top priority for Alcor. With it, we would re-establish our local capability to the highest quality. Work is progressing nicely and according to schedule, and we fully expect to have completed this project by the end of the first quarter. In the past

month, we accepted delivery of the seat belts, glass mat batteries, temperature sensor and inverter. An order was placed and received for the personnel bench framing. I met with our contract cabinet maker to inspect the locking mechanisms for the swinging and flip-up doors and to choose the laminate for the counter tops. We will be taking the transport vehicle to their location on February 14 for cabinet installation. The sink, faucet, and refrigerators will be left there to facilitate the proper placement of holes for drainage and power connections.

Installation of the ice machine is complete, and by the time we take the vehicle in for cabinet work, I hope to have the water tank and personnel bench installed, complete with seat belts and side-mounted water pumps. Bruce Cohen and Hugh Hixon have been instrumental in the secure mounting of the ice machine to the frame of the vehicle, and the vehicle would have to be in a really serious accident before the ice machine would budge even a fraction of an inch. [TJ]

Neuro-Vitrification with Whole-Body Cryoprotection Development

A prototype tubing pack for the whole-body enclosure was diagrammed, cut and tested with water. The perfusion system itself is operating well, except for one height issue that caused air to be introduced unnecessarily to the system through a filter. When the clamping apparatus that holds this filter was lowered, the problem was eliminated.

The system was also tested with the automated nitrogen cooling, which was designed to regulate the environmental temperature in the patient enclosure and the mechanical section. Temperatures were dropped to -43 degrees Celsius before the testing was stopped, and they system performed as expected. Minus 43 degrees is significantly lower than the -22 degrees that will be required for M22 perfusion, so we expect no problems when that protocol is eventually implemented. Because it took some time to initially cool the enclosures, future operating procedures must include a pre-cooling of the system prior to the introduction of a patient.

Work is continuing on the sampling system, with the location of sample ports being tentatively integrated into the refractometry system. This would be advantageous, because then the cryoprotectant uptake data would correlate fairly well with the analysis of samples performed by Sonora Labs. Sampling systems will be mounted in such a way as to eliminate the need for personnel to open the enclosure to obtain samples, as must currently be done with the cephalon enclosure.

The chiller has proved unexpectedly noisy. We intend to investigate possibilities for a baffling device, so that communication in the operating room is not compromised.

Making the enclosure completely of transparent plastic has made troubleshooting easier in this developmental stage, and it's only once the enclosure is cooled to the more extreme

range of tested temperatures that visibility becomes an issue. This issue is still minor. As a separate--and later--project, it would be a good idea to create an integrated control panel for all components, a panel that is separate from the LabView system we expect to implement. This would make managing the perfusion a much simpler task. [TJ]

Transport Team Matters

In accordance with the preliminary schedule, transport training was held in northern California. Two primary topics were covered: the first was safety precautions and personal protective equipment, all of which is part of our hazard communication protocol for transport team members; the second topic was airway management, and included general considerations and the theory and practice behind use of a "Combi-tube". This is a simplified airway introduced by Bill Voice, and is an item that will be deployed to all field personnel for inclusion in their kits. Ten people attended the training. All were tested on course material retention, and all performed well on the tests.

Our next training session is in southern Nevada, and will include at a minimum surface cooling, medication administration, airway management and safety protocols. Southern California training will be held in late February. Powerpoint lectures have been created for nearly 75% of transport-related topics, most of which were seeded by traditional emergency medical system lectures and modified for cryonics purposes. The remaining lectures will be complete by the end of the month, at which time we will turn out attention to the more extensive revisions to the transport manual and standard operating procedures.

The development of a new contract for Alcor's transport team members and Regional Coordinators is nearing completion. This contract will formalize the relationship between those team members and Alcor central, providing clear instruction on the scope of responsibilities for each side and ensuring legal protection for participants in standby and transport operations, as long as the care provided to our patients meets the requirements of Alcor's established protocols. Discussion has been primarily limited to the southern and northern California Regional Coordinators, though all of their team members and the Florida team have been given an opportunity to comment on the drafts.

Once complete, execution of this contract will be a required for participants. In exchange for their participation in cryopreservation procedures, team members will receive membership discounts of up to 75% of the standard membership fees. Regional Coordinators will also receive monthly stipends of \$250.

This contract also creates an appointed role for quality control purposes called "Field Representative." The Field Representative will be an Alcor member assigned to each case who is independent of the regional team. He or she will be responsible for scribing the activities of the case, collecting case data, and for evaluating adherence to Alcor

protocols by field team members. [TJ]

Magazine Update

Jennifer Chapman recently reviewed the market research performed by WalshCOMM and found many helpful tips for improving the magazine. She has assumed responsibility for the development of Cryonics magazine, and will be implementing changes to the magazine that are intended to:

- * Enable our members to feel like they are a valued part of the organization
- * Enable our members to understand the state of things and where we are heading
- * Build confidence in the organization
- * Enable our members (and other readers) to feel like they can "pass it on"
- * Appeal to a wider audience beyond the cryonics industry

The magazine is often our members' main or only link to Alcor. The market research report indicates our members want to see more member profiles and the "human side" of cryonics, more open discussions, more honesty about our strengths and weaknesses as an organization and how we are addressing our weaknesses, more about the state of research pertaining to cryopreservation, reanimation, complementary sciences, and more about our mission and how we can succeed.

Of course, our readers also want the magazine to be timely and provide up-to-date information. Alcor is continuing with a bi-monthly schedule for Cryonics magazine through 2005, a good pace for keeping our Members informed. Unfortunately, we are on a short deadline for the first few issues. Our plans for mailing the first three issues of 2005 are: Jan/Feb issue by the end of February; Mar/Apr issue by the end of March; and May/Jun issue by the end of April.

Adjustments may be necessary as Jennifer becomes acquainted with the production process. As we get back on a regular schedule, we will start refining the look and content to better meet the needs of our target audience. Suggestions are always welcome. [JC]

Regular Team Training Available in Florida or Scottsdale

Members of our transport teams do not need to wait until Alcor comes to their regions to provide training. Anyone traveling to Scottsdale or to Florida might wish to stop by our offices or those of our Florida Coordinator, Todd Soard. Bill Voice is available to provide personal instruction to anyone in Scottsdale, and Todd will teach in Florida. Available topics include: cardiopulmonary support, airway management, surface cooling techniques, bloodborne pathogens and safety protocols, and more. [TJ]

Facility Expansion Project

Our architect, Dave Ross, was at the facility this week to assist with interviewing our first General Contractor, and to discuss minor adjustments to the building plans. We intend to interview at least two more contractors before making a final selection. By February 25th we will submit our drawings to the city zoning office to pull permits for the Phase I tenant upgrades. We must then wait for the plan check review from the city of Scottsdale. Once the first review is done we can apply for a demolition permit; which should be by March 21st. At the same time we will obtain the redline comments from the city. Most of the activity at this point is on the part of the city of Scottsdale.

If this schedule can be maintained we should be able to obtain the final construction permit by April 7th. It typically takes two or three submissions before receiving city approval, but work can usually begin upon applying for the demolition permit which is prior to the final permit being issued.

At this time, our planned completion date for the new Patient Care Bay and Operating Room is June 30th. [JW]

Employment Opportunity for Medical Professionals

Have you ever thought about joining the Alcor team? We have immediate needs for licensed Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians, Registered Nurses, Lab Technicians and more to join our nationwide Transport Teams. Participation would be on a contractual basis.

You'll be given cryonics training that will enable you to participate in our patient rescue and transport cases. Licensed professionals do not have to be Alcor members to work with us. We welcome your expertise and interest. If you're interested, send your resume to:
[JW]

Media and Community Involvement

In January, Alcor participated in an interview conducted by Harald Biskup who writes for Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger in Cologne, Germany. He interviewed Joe Waynick and Tanya Jones as Alcor's representatives, as well as some local Alcor Members.

One key way Alcor will be expanding its profile in the state of Arizona during the first quarter is to distribute Cryonics magazine to public libraries. We have obtained a mailing list of 251 new libraries and are establishing complimentary subscriptions for each of them. The same will be done for appropriate Arizona legislators with the guidance of Alcor's lobbyist, Barry Aarons. Joe Waynick also spoke at a rotary club meeting this month.

Editing for an Alcor documentary has been completed and will be ready for replication as soon as the graphic artwork for the DVD case insert is finished. The DVD has been reviewed by several people at Alcor, by 21st Century Medicine, and Critical Care Research. Our distribution plans include showing the 10-minute version at the beginning of each tour, marketing the 30-minute version on the website, in the magazine, in Alcor News, on PBS, and selected cable stations in urban markets.

Additionally, be on the lookout for a feature article about Alcor on the front page of the business section of this Sunday's New York Times (that would be February 13th). It is an article about the marketing of cryonics. We do not know if it will have a positive or negative spin, but apparently it is a big deal for the NY Times folks. Let's all hope they portray Alcor in a fair and balanced manner. [JC/JW]

Membership Statistics

On January 31, 2005, Alcor had 721 members on its Emergency Responsibility List. Ten 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 eight members this month.

At the end of this month, Alcor had 156 applicants for membership. There was a net loss of 8 applicants with 10 approvals, 3 incoming applicants and one person chose to exit the application process. [DC]

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 2005 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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 End of Alcor News bulletin #35 dated February 9, 2005.
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