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Alcor News Bulletin-----
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Emergency Response System (ERS) Changes

We implemented a change to our Emergency Response System. Some time ago, Charles Platt investigated answering services to take over the handling of emergency phone calls. Joe Waynick investigated the options, and selected Focus Telecommunications, Inc. to handle our emergency lines.

Implementation of the new ERS has required that our protocols change slightly, as all calls from each of our toll-free emergency numbers now forward to Focus. Focus has been given a script to follow for those calls and contact lists that include notifying first, the essential transport personnel and second, the facility staff of a pending case.

During the past month of testing, we have received 20 emergency call notifications; the majority were not actual emergencies, though a few were. (One such notification was for a member [A-2024] who'd had a stroke-like event that evening; another launched a last-minute case query.) In most of the calls, the caller immediately admits the situation is not an emergency, at which point they're instructed to contact Alcor on its normal business line during the hours of 9am to 6pm.

In the beginning, the call service was not collecting all the information we requested and was also sending out duplicate notifications of an emergency. In the latter case, this required re-configuration of their software, something that was completed a couple weeks ago. In the former, I spoke with their trainers, having offered to visit and provide training on the script. They declined my offer, and trained their personnel internally. Though we still have some minor communication issues to resolve, the system does seem to be working. [TJ]

Medic-Alert ID Phone Numbers

In the past, emergency and other phone numbers at Alcor have changed and old numbers have become inactive. It is important to keep the emergency numbers current on Medic Alert ID tags (bracelets and necktags)--a quick phone call to Alcor Central may one day be crucial. Accordingly, it has been Alcor's longstanding policy to replace old ID tags with new ones when phone numbers are updated. We have made diligent efforts to see that all members have updated tags; unfortunately, we are occasionally notified that an emergency number on an ID tag doesn't work. Our current emergency numbers are 800-367-2228 and (note area code) 480-922-9013. If the number(s) on your tag(s) do not match these, we apologize and you are encouraged to let us know about the problem immediately so we can replace your ID tag(s). Contact D'Bora Tarrant at Alcor: 480-905-1906 x 101 or email her at [MP]

Standby Initiated for A-2024

We received a call just after midnight on March 21 that one of our members had suffered an acute stroke and was admitted to the hospital for testing and observation. We'd been aware that the member was suffering from cancer and all treatment had been stopped, and we'd been keeping in contact with the family on his condition. We felt it necessary to launch a standby, once our Transport Coordinator arrived on scene to assess the patient. This was the first standby initiated under the new Comprehensive Member Standby (CMS) policy.

Four team members were sent: one of the Florida paramedics, an EMT from Nevada (as part of our commitment to spreading the transport experience among the regions), and Bill Voice and I traveled from Alcor. Bill was there for five days and the rest of us for four before the standby stood down. The patient is currently in stable condition, and we are in more

than daily contact with the family and medical professionals on-site.

While we were on location, we prepared all the transport equipment, negotiated closely with the local funeral home, consulted with the nursing personnel, and discussed all aspects of the case with the patient and his family. Everyone we met was supportive of the patient's wishes. By the time we left, all logistical arrangements that could be done in advance were done. Equipment remains on site to facilitate a rapid deployment in the near future. [TJ]

Transport Team Matters

Hara Ra and Andrea Van De Loo have resigned as northern California Regional Coordinators. We regret the loss of these team members, but intend to ensure that northern California retains its transport capabilities and continues to benefit from the improved training we are now providing. It is my impression that communication and collaboration are on the rise among Alcor and the regions, and that the changes in protocol thus far have begun to improve standardization in field procedures. Though no new northern California Regional Coordinator has been selected, we have identified a member willing to hold the kit until such time as a new coordinator is selected.

Our next training session will still be held in northern California and is scheduled for Saturday, April 23.

We have begun receiving the transport team member contracts in the mail. Given the extensive negotiations that went on during the drafting of these contracts, many members have been content to sign and return them quickly. We've heard some concerns about signing the contracts from members in the United Kingdom, due to the exclusivity clause. Team members in the UK are hoping that we will be able to complete cooperative agreements with other organizations so that they may participate in any cases that arise in their region. We will keep everyone posted as these agreements with other organizations develop. [TJ]

Pet Cryopreservation, P-029

During this past week, we completed the cryoprotection and preservation of a member's cat. This was the first companion animal cryoprotection that Alcor has done in some time, and we felt it necessary to pull together capability in the new operating room, so as not to compromise the state of readiness needed in case of sudden death for one of our members. The cryoprotection went well, and 101% of the target concentration was achieved. Cooldown was completed on a slightly faster curve.

We discussed collecting fracture data on the cat, but had no drill small enough to make burr holes for crackphone monitoring. In the end, we inserted the probe under the scalp, just to see if it would register any fractures. No fracture events were detected, but this data itself is

inconclusive. [TJ]

Facility Upgrade Project

We have delayed pulling the demolition permit because of requests for additional electrical load calculations from the city. In addition, the bidders needed those calculations to give us estimates. New load calculations have been completed and all bidders are expected to have their bids in by Tuesday. A selection will be made Wednesday or Thursday, the demolition permit will be pulled Thursday or Friday and demolition can begin the following week. This delay is not expected to impact our June 30th completion date. [JW]

Database Enhancements

Over the past three months there have been over 135,000 field updates to standard data entries in critical fields of the central database. This effort has already alerted us to several interesting membership recruiting patterns we intend to pursue that we believe will help us increase our member growth rate on a long-term basis. We are now focusing our efforts on updating the financial and medical information for all members. [JW]

Website Update

We've recently added online forms that will transfer data directly into Alcor's database. The two forms currently being developed are an info pack request form and a tour request form.

In March, a major research article on brain cryopreservation with high concentration glycerol (1990s cryonics technology) was reproduced on the site with kind permission of Mike Darwin:

<http://www.alcor.org/Library/html/braincryopreservation1.html>

This is accessible via the Cryobiology subsection of the Scientific Basis section of the Library.

The article, reproduced from 1995 CryoCare Report, is an unprecedentedly rigorous and detailed examination of cryopreservation with glycerol, with stunning micrographs. Already this week I observed this URL used to radically change the cryonics opinion of a scoffing neuroscientist in a blog debate. Keep this URL handy for any cryonics defense! You can also jump more directly to the micrographs with:
<http://www.alcor.org/Library/html/braincryopreservation1.html#micrographs>

The Thomas Donaldson right-to-die case web page was also expanded to include much more background, including the text of the final court decision:

<http://www.alcor.org/Library/html/Donaldson-VanDeKampAbstract.html>

As always, a real-time list of new things on the site is available at <http://www.alcor.org/whatsnew.html>. [WWG]

Membership Statistics

On March 31, 2005, Alcor had 730 members on its Emergency Responsibility List. Seven memberships were approved during this month, no memberships were reinstated, eight memberships were cancelled, and no members were cryopreserved. Overall, there was a net loss of one member this month.

The large number of cancellations included the departure of four individuals who had been approved as minors. Despite repeated attempts, they would not sign the membership agreements since becoming adults. The main obstacle was apathy, not an objection to retaining the membership. The remaining cancellations were due to member request.

At the end of this month, Alcor had 106 applicants for membership. A large number of applicants (35) who had been non-responsive for an extensive period of time were cancelled and three others entered the application process.

The growth outlook for April is more optimistic; 20-30 approvals are expected this month due to the rate increase deadline.

During the month of March, 118 information packs were distributed. Of those, 103 were mailed, and 15 were handed to facility tour participants. Our average for 2005 is currently 81 per month, compared to 50 in 2004. [DC]

Conference Postponed until 2006

The Alcor conference scheduled for August 2005 has been postponed until 2006. Dates and details will be released when conference planning resumes.

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 Team. 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]

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 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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End of Alcor News bulletin #37 dated April 8, 2005.
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