
Alcor News Bulletin Number 40: July 22, 2005

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Facility Upgrade Project

Demolition for the Facility Expansion Project has shown considerable progress. Most walls that need to be moved have been torn down, doorways have been stripped or re-cut, framing for the new armor plating is done, one new air conditioning unit has been installed and ductwork is being run.

Overall, the project is gaining momentum. Workers are on site almost daily at this point. Obtaining the final construction permit was unexpectedly delayed until July 7th due to additional safety requirements from the zoning office for handling liquid nitrogen. Now we finally have all of the permits necessary to complete the project. The 45-day buildout will officially take us to the third week of August.

Making predictions for completing construction projects is more guesswork than science. Even when we think things are set to go something unexpected can always upset the apple cart (like the city getting nervous about the amount of liquid nitrogen we store). However, our new air conditioning units have been installed and most of the ductwork is done. Plumbing for the new scrub room and ADAcompliant restroom is completed. Almost all demolition work is done. Things are beginning to move along quite nicely. [JW]

New Cryoprotectant Implementation

The perfusion circuit has been constructed and is awaiting sterilization. We'll have two sterile circuits, but we won't be building more until we have fully tested the design in an operational setting. Once it's been fieldtested, we'll complete enough circuits to meet the inventory requirements for readiness.

Hugh Hixon and Steve Van Sickle completed an extensive spreadsheet on the components needed to meet our readiness needs; and it was decided to prepare for a slightly expanded inventory, because of the lead time necessary for the custom synthesis of one of the components. We will be prepared for four whole-body cases and five neuros once we have the authorization to make purchases. [TJ]

Transport Vehicle Development

Since the last report, a great deal of work has been done toward completing the transport vehicle. The electrical system is installed and is fully functional. We've tested the generator, inverter and batteries; and everything works as planned. We've acquired and installed all of the safety equipment mounts for the personal protective equipment, including sharps containers, biohazardous and regular waste containers, eyewear and glove boxes, respirator dispenser, a fire alarm and carbon monoxide detector. To the sink, we added an eyewash station. Two fire extinguishers have been mounted in the back of the vehicle, and an HEPA/UV air filter has been mounted in the ceiling, as has our surgical light. Our centrifuge has arrived, and Diane Creemens made the privacy curtain for the cab. We have an external hose port for the water supply and plugs for connecting to external power.

If we had to use it today, we'd need about three hours to prepare the vehicle for deployment, because none of the stabilization supplies have been ordered; but the vehicle could be used almost immediately nonetheless. All elements of the original project plan have been completed, with the exception of building a center mount for performing surgery on patients in the MRC and completing the necessary paperwork. We need to finish assembling the binder of manuals for the equipment, develop a regular maintenance schedule, build a lockout/tagout program (an OSHA requirement), and develop the inventory of what we intend to maintain in the vehicle immediately (with an eye to expansion when the vehicle will be parked inside). We'll also be building a padded headrest to protect team members traveling in the back of the vehicle with a patient, because the seat frame we constructed is tall. This was a necessary part of securely mounting the frame to the studs in the walls, and was not something we could avoid.

As the plan has been executed, we had a few surprises; but these were not significant, and there was little deviation from the original design. We have spent slightly more than the budget, but expect to be within 3% of the allocated amount when everything is complete. [TJ]

Regional Cryofeasts

Do you know who your fellow Alcor members are in your neck of the woods? Come out and meet and greet nearby Alcor members at one of our officially sponsored CryoFeast gatherings! We've learned that referrals from existing Alcor members account for about 38 percent of Alcor's growth, so we plan to ask each member attending the event to bring a non-member guest. Any member who brings a guest who submits an application will be given a free quarter of membership dues. Everyone attending will receive a complementary gift from Alcor. Joe Waynick and/or Tanya Jones will attend each gathering to do presentations and support the organization's outreach efforts. You'll have a great time so be sure to watch for upcoming announcements for dates, times, and locations - and don't forget to bring a friend! [JC]

Regulatory Update

Since we've been doing significant development in both the construction project and in the transport vehicle, I invited Alcor's neighborhood OSHA consultant (on-staff with ADP) to visit, in an attempt to anticipate any safety hazards that might have been overlooked in our planning processes. The ADP representative was pleased with the development that has already been done on our OSHA policies and documentation, and perhaps her most significant recommendation was that we implement formal testing in our transport training. This will be done, beginning with our two August training classes (Florida and northern California).

I've also looked into HIPAA compliance this past month, though it is by no means required for a research organization. It is my hope that if we can assure hospitals and medical administrations that we are HIPAA-compliant, this will smooth our access to medical information in an emergency. In an attempt to determine how close we are to being compliant, I contacted Silkthread Information Assurance, LLC (http://www.silkthreadllc.com) for a consultation.

After spending some time on the phone with them completing a survey about the state of our policies and procedures for protecting private member information, they provided a report on what gaps exist in our policies. We have some gaps in risk assessment and compliance; but the evaluation was deemed "above average" compared to the other companies that contact them for assistance. I hope to work with this company in the coming months to implement a comprehensive information security solution, one that will satisfy medical personnel that we are protecting information well enough to allay their fears during an emergency. [TJ]

Media and Advertising Update

In June, Alcor participated in the following media events:

* CBC/Newsworld Today, aired live in Canada: This was a live interview with Simon Smith, Editor-in Chief of Betterhumans. We provided the CBC with B-roll footage and advised Simon of the main points to discuss pertaining to cryonics. The CBC chose to interview Simon for their weeklong "Staying Alive" series because he is a transhumanist residing in Canada

* TalkSport Radio, aired live in the UK and worldwide via the Internet: This was a live interview with Joe Waynick for a show called "The Unexplained with Howard Hughes" which is an Art Bell-style program.

On our advertising efforts:

* We are seeking a new graphic designer for the ad for Life Extension Foundation magazine.

* The article for The Director has been placed on hold until a later issue.

* We are in negotiations with the editors of Betterhumans website (www.Betterhumans.com) regarding an exchange of website ads. The Betterhumans website is dedicated to helping people understand and create a better future by establishing a community of informed forward thinkers. The site runs regular articles about anti-aging, longevity, genetics, transhumanism, and a host of other topics pertaining to life extension. They are actively seeking to establish reciprocal advertising partnerships with likeminded companies, such as A4M, Life Enhancement Products, Singularity Institute, and Longevity Meme, among others. They want to include Alcor in this campaign. An advertising exchange will drive targeted traffic to our website. We are working with the Website Working Group on this.

* In addition to ads via Google, Alcor now has a variety of ads that appear when certain keywords are entered using a number of search engines, such as Yahoo, MSN, CNN, InfoSpace, AltaVista, and Excite.

* Alcor has also received written permission to distribute

reprints of the New York Academy of Sciences paper as authored by Dr. Jerry Lemler, Dr. Steve Harris, Charles Platt and Todd Huffman. Reprints will be included in the info pack and on the website. [JC]

Personnel Update

I'm happy to report that we have brought a new bookkeeper aboard. Her name is Aleetha Castro, and she has done an amazing job of getting familiar with our books after Tim Reeves left. Aleetha has a very strong accounting background and she's quite proficient with our QuickBooks software program.

The Board of Directors voted at the July meeting to approve the hiring of Aleetha and also D'Bora Tarrant, as permanent employees. Welcome aboard! [JW]

Database Enhancements

Several significant enhancements have been implemented that will improve the accuracy and integrity of our central database. First, an interface was created with Alcor's website to allow data entered into an online form for info pack and tour requests to be downloaded daily directly into our database. In addition, mailing labels for the info pack requests are now automatically generated on a weekly basis. Finally, a duplicate record routine was created to purge existing duplicated records from the database. [JW]

Fundraising Efforts

To date we have received \$32,500 in pledges toward our \$1 million goal. That's an increase of \$22,500 since last month. More emphasis will be consistently placed on fundraising in the coming months.

In the May/June issue of Cryonics magazine you'll find a pledge form for making donations to the Endowment Fund. You can help Alcor by pledging towards our goal. Fill out the form and fax it to Alcor TODAY and help fund some of the most important research on the planet. [JW]

Membership Statistics

On June 30, 2005, Alcor had 757 members on its Emergency Responsibility List. Seven memberships were approved during this month, no memberships were cancelled, none were reinstated, and no members were cryopreserved. Overall, there was a net gain of seven members this month. We have an average net gain of 7.3 members per month, which compares favorably to the average net gain of 4.3 members per month last year. At the end of this month, Alcor had 78 applicants for membership. There was a net loss of four applicants with seven membership approvals, five incoming applicants, and two people withdrawing from the application process.

During the month of June, 133 information packs were distributed. Of those, 122 were mailed, and 11 were handed to facility tour participants. Our average for 2005 has grown to 101 per month, compared to 50 in 2004. We also had 708 subscribers to Alcor News, as of the June issue release date. [DC]

Employment Opportunities

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]

You Can Help!

Alcor's research and development does not have the benefit of large government grants, private foundations, or a huge fundraising organization to raise the millions of dollars necessary to develop much-needed technology and protocol enhancements. What we do have are loyal, dedicated members like you who have a personal interest in the success of cryonics.

Alcor has a long and proud tradition of innovation and technical excellence in the field of cryonics. This will continue to be our overriding mission in the years ahead. Yet, the organization is only as great as its people, starting with its supporters. Membership dues and cryopreservation cases cover just 60% of our annual budget. The remainder must come from generous individuals within our small community.

You can help achieve that success with your tax-deductible contribution to the Alcor Life Extension Foundation. We have many projects that would benefit from your generosity. You can also make a credit card donation TODAY by calling Alcor at (877)462-5267 ext. 101. Or you can mail your check to: Alcor Life Extension Foundation, 7895 E. Acoma Drive, Suite 110, Scottsdale, AZ 85260.

Your generous gift will help create a more secure Alcor, so we can be there for your future, as well as the future of your friends and family who also belong to our small community of cryonicists. [JW] -----

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 6, 2004 at 11:00 AM (MST).

Board meetings are typically 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 #40 dated July 22, 2005. Distribution: 748 subscribers.

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