
Alcor News Bulletin Number 41: August 15, 2005

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In this issue:

- * Facility Upgrade Project
- * New Cryoprotectant Implementation
- * Research and Development Proposals
- * Readiness Drills
- * Regional CryoFeasts
- * Promotional DVD
- * Media Update
- * Personnel Update
- * Fundraising Efforts
- Membership Statistics
- * Employment Opportunities
- * You Can Help!
- Next Board Meeting

Facility Upgrade Project

Rapid progress continues to be made with the facility expansion. The metal security sheeting for the common wall between the Patient Care Bay and a neighboring rental unit has been installed and dry-walled. The concrete footing for the bulk fill tank has been poured and most of the air conditioning system has been installed. A new door has been cut between the workshop area and the preparation room access space. In the new operating room and hallway, the scrub sink area, storage room, and ADA-compliant restroom have been framed. The shower fixture is in place and plumbed.

One of the challenges with the project has been the heavy

rains we've experienced the past week or two. With the installation of the air-conditioning system, there was leakage around the unit where it penetrated the roof. This required recalling the roofing and air conditioning contractors to expedite the necessary roof repairs.

We also submitted several change-work orders to the contractors when Hugh Hixon discovered a better location for the roof hatch and spiral staircase for patient transfers. Hugh also made sure the contractors understood the armor specifications for the plating to be used to seal off the roll-up door and exterior standard-access door.

We seem to be on schedule for 90 percent completion of the project by the third week of August. [JW]

New Cryoprotectant Implementation

All components for one whole-body M22 perfusion are in house, solid components are weighed out, and we will have 120 liters of pre-mixed concentrate by the middle of this week. [SVS]

Research and Development Proposals

Two research and development proposals have been presented to the R&D committee and are under their consideration. The first is a proposal for continuing Intermediate Temperature Storage Neuropod testing, in particular data-collection equipment needed for long-term use. The second is a proposal for studying annealing in cryoprotectant mixtures. [SVS]

Readiness Drills

Readiness drills for transport and cryopreservation teams are in development. These drills will be developed, tested and refined, until we are capable of evaluating the readiness in all areas of technical operations.

For this first month's readiness drill, I selected a city at the far edge of our new transport vehicle's deployment range (San Antonio, Texas) as our transport team "destination." All four Regional Coordinators were contacted (southern and northern California, Florida, Nevada) and told they needed to provide team members, flight times, and a bulk count of their remote kits.

Performance items tracked included:

* Time to get the coordinator on the phone. All of the Coordinators were immediately reachable with the first phone call.

* Time to confirm team members. An average of 7.5 minutes was required to confirm team member availability, with the

range being 3-13 minutes. A total of seven team members were immediately deployable, not counting the Alcor staff.

* Time to complete the bulk count of the kit, and whether all kits were available. All kits were available in the three regions where a count was provided; the time to kit count varied widely. In two cases (southern California and Nevada), the coordinator was able to confirm the equipment readiness in 5 and 22 minutes, respectively. In northern California, the count took 196 minutes, because the Coordinator was at work and knew this was a drill. The Florida Coordinator did not provide a count.

* Time to arrange travel. Simulated flight information was readily available, given our access to online schedules and booking. Average time to flight "purchase" was 5.25 minutes (range 2-9 minutes).

* Time to reach patient. This was perhaps the most interesting element in the drill. Because the time chosen for the drill was near the close of business, there were few flights available for anyone heading to San Antonio. The average arrival time required 16.9 hours, with the range being 14.5-18.5 hours.

Airlines are and will continue to be a major factor in patient care, both for applying stabilization procedures in a timely fashion and for delivering patients to Alcor for cryoprotection. This test highlights once more that we need a broader network of team members to handle cases that come up with little or no advance notice. [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 complimentary 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!

Save the date:

Northern California: August 28th Florida: September 17th Southern California: September 25th

Jennifer Chapman, Marketing Director ALCOR FOUNDATION (877)462-5267 or (480)905-1906 ext. 113 [JC]

Promotional DVD

All member households were sent a copy of Alcor's new 30minute, high definition documentary. Additional complimentary copies are available for your family and friends. Have them send their requests for additional copies of the documentary to: If you want to send us your comments about the DVD you can send them to the same email address. Alcor thanks Joe Waynick, Tanya Jones, WalshCOMM, and all of the individuals who agreed to be interviewed for the documentary. We think it will be a wonderful promotional tool for Alcor and cryonics. [JC]

Media Update

In July, Alcor participated in the following media events:

* St. Petersburg Times: This article will feature Alcor members in the Florida area and around the world.

* Teen America: This documentary about teens, including teen members of Alcor, will air in the UK. Joe Waynick gave the teens a guided tour of the facility.

* Miami Herald: This article is believed to be the initial source of the recent media blitz about Suspended Animation.

* Chicago Tribune: This article will feature Alcor members around the world. The reporter became interested in writing the article because of the recent media blitz about the opening of Suspended Animation's new facility. [JC]

Personnel Update

It is with deep regret that we inform you that Mathew Sullivan has resigned his position as Suspension Readiness Coordinator at Alcor, effective September 1. Mathew has been a loyal and dedicated employee for nine years and we all wish him much success and happiness in his future endeavors. He wishes the best for the members, employees, and patients of the organization.

Alcor has hired Sergey Sheleg, MD, PhD to head our research department. Dr. Sheleg will be working on a variety of projects in support of our efforts to improve our field capabilities as well as our cryoprotection procedures.

We also extend our congratulations to Bill Voice, Alcor's Transport Coordinator, for passing his National Paramedic Registry exams. Good job! [JW]

4 of 6

Fundraising Efforts

To date we have received \$43,000 in pledges toward our \$1 million goal. That's an increase of \$10,500 since last month. More emphasis will be consistently placed on fundraising in the coming months.

In your current 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 July 31, 2005, Alcor had 763 members on its Emergency Responsibility List. Eight memberships were approved during this month, zero memberships were reinstated, two memberships were cancelled and no members were cryopreserved. We have an average net gain of 7.1 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 71 applicants for membership. There was a net loss of seven applicants with eight membership approvals, four incoming applicants, and three people withdrawing from the application process.

During the month of July, 116 information packs were distributed. Of those, 99 were mailed, and 17 were handed to facility tour participants. Our average for 2005 has grown to 105 per month, compared to 50 in 2004. We also had 748 subscribers to Alcor News, as of the July 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, September 10, 2005 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 #41 dated August 15, 2005. Distribution: 763 subscribers.

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