
Alcor News

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September, #76

In This issue

[CEO and Transport
Coordinator Positions](#)

[ATP and Whole-Body
Vitrification System--
Alpha Tests](#)

[TECHNICAL UPDATES](#)

[NEW EQUIPMENT](#)

[ADMINISTRATIVE
STATISTICS](#)

[Next Board Meeting](#)

[NSU Welcomes Ralph
Merkle, Ph.D.](#)

[Media](#)

[Alcor News Blog](#)

CEO and Transport Coordinator Positions

A mailing to Alcor members announcing the CEO and Transport Coordinator positions was

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- [ATP and Whole-Body Vitrification System--Alpha Tests](#)

We held our alpha test of the new ATP and the whole-body vitrification system this month using a swine as test subject.

Given that this was our first large animal operation in many years, we had something of a learning curve with regard to animal handling and the specific surgical procedures necessary for performing bypass. We chose to cannulate the carotid artery and internal jugular vein for the procedure. I performed the cannulation and Regina Pancake assisted, and the surgery went quite smoothly. We had the animal on bypass in 45 minutes, which our observing veterinarian considered quite successful. We began our equipment testing with the new transport perfusion system.

We needed a mere five minutes to prepare and prime the system prior to cannulation, but this figure was artificially high because the two people preparing the system had to refresh their memories about how to hang the perfusate bag. A time of less than two minutes to prepare the system is the benchmark for our next test. All of the new elements worked well, and we had no problems at all with the new ATP. We did not test it fully on a closed circuit, only for open flush of the swine, in order to start testing the whole body system.

Our whole body system consists of two parts that we tested: the patient enclosure and the computer- controlled

sent on August 1, 2008, and the positions were announced in our monthly newsletter, Alcor News, which was emailed to both subscribers and members. An announcement will also be featured in our next Cryonics magazine due out shortly.

We are happy to report that several applications and informal inquiries for the CEO position were received this month. We are continuing to accept applications for both positions. For details on how to apply for the CEO and Transport Coordinator positions please click on the links below.

ALCOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: [Qualifications, Salary and Benefits](#)

TRANSPORT COORDINATOR: [Job Descriptions and Responsibilities](#)

perfusion. The patient enclosure involves an operating stage that cools the patient using liquid nitrogen injected into a plenum underneath the patient, fans to circulate nitrogen around the patient, a transparent - but internally lighted - cover for the patient, and enough seals to keep the nitrogen - both vapor and liquid - precisely where they should be.

The cooling stage cooled quite rapidly to the set temperature. We added controllers for that only recently, because we were still modifying the enclosure based on previous test results. The temperature controllers need to be adjusted slightly by modifying how the cooling curve is handled, but it took less than ten minutes to cool the stage to three degrees C. We were quite pleased with the even nature of the temperature, and Randal Fry is to be commended for his efforts to adjust the nitrogen spray to accomplish this result. The table itself is also at a more comfortable height for performing surgeries.

Continue reading "[ATP and Whole-Body Vitrification System -- Alpha Tests](#)"

- TECHNICAL UPDATES

- Research and Development

- The development of the whole-body system progresses with some changes to the user interface which will make the system easier to use and yet also provide more clarity on the data being generated at any given moment. We have also expanded significantly the note-taking capability of the system. We are at the point of final engineering testing for the ramp generation portion of the system and have yet to verify our 3-point calibration.

- NEW EQUIPMENT

- Cart Caddy

- We have recently purchased a necessary piece of equipment called a Cart Caddy for our patient care bay. Whenever there is a need to fill new dewar(s) with liquid nitrogen or to transfer patients from a cool down unit into a permanent dewar, the dewar must be moved into position. This used to take a minimum of four strong people to manually push the dewar. With the Cart Caddy, it is now a two-person job (one to operate the

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machine, the other to supervise). It is also a much safer and easier approach to the moving a dewar that weighs 5500 lbs. We have adapted this unit so that the crescent shape hugs the dewar firmly and allows us to maneuver it with little effort.

As our patient population grows, this small piece of equipment will become an important asset to our patient care bay.

- **ADMINISTRATIVE STATISTICS**

- Membership

- On August 31, 2008, Alcor had 857 members on its Emergency Responsibility List. Two 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 six members this month. Seven members were cancelled due to insufficient funding and one cancellation was due to member request. This month Alcor's membership agreements were revised to change the word "suspension" to "cryopreservation", the preferred term for describing Alcor's procedure. These documents are available at our website in the [Alcor Library](#) section.

- Applicants

- At the end of September Alcor had 62 applicants for membership. Two new applicants were added, and two applicants were converted to members.

- Information Packets

- 130 info packs were requested in September, and eight were handed out during facility tours or from special request. The average total of 202 info packs sent per month in 2008 is compared to 129 in 2007.

- **Next Board Meeting**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 4, 2008, at the Alcor facility (7895 East Acoma Drive in Scottsdale, AZ) at 11:00 AM (PDT). Members and the public are encouraged to attend.

- **NSU Welcomes Ralph Merkle, Ph.D.**

The Division of Math, Science, and Technology in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences is proud to welcome Ralph Merkle, Ph.D., to Nova Southeastern University as part of the college's Distinguished Speakers Series. Dr. Merkle will discuss "Life, Death, and Cryonics" on Thursday, October 2, 2008, from 7:00-8:30 p.m., in the Miniaci Performing Arts Center. Admission is free.

NOVA Southeastern University (NSU) is located in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Their web page on the talk is at:

http://www.undergrad.nova.edu/articles/dss/r_alphmerkle/

- Media

Tanya Jones and a local member were interviewed at Alcor for a documentary about ways people are attempting to live longer. It includes interviews with Aubrey de Grey and Ray Kurzweil.

- Alcor News Blog

Don't forget that you don't have to wait for this monthly newsletter to learn more about happenings at Alcor. Check the Alcor News Blog throughout the month for the most up-to-date information.

[Alcor News Blog](#)

End of Alcor
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