
Alcor News

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February, #79

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Alcor's former Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, Jennifer Chapman, has been made Executive Director of Alcor. Tanya Jones has decided to pursue other opportunities, but agreed to serve as Special Projects Director until the end of February. The board and staff thank Tanya for her many years of service going back to the 1990s, and wish Jennifer well in her new role.

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Nationally certified paramedic Aaron Drake has joined the staff of Alcor as Transport Coordinator. Aaron brings with him years of experience as a firefighter, paramedic, cardiac technician, and FEMA disaster response worker. He is an enthusiastic addition to the Alcor team.

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- [Case Summary: A-1407](#)

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On September 8, 2008, Alcor member A-1407 suffered cardiac arrest while snorkeling in Barbados and was subsequently pronounced legally dead. He was traveling with a companion who knew to contact Alcor immediately. Because of the circumstances and the local legal requirements, an autopsy was unavoidable. After some negotiation, the coroner limited the investigation to the minimum necessary to determine the cause of death (heart attack), and he did not touch the brain.

Becoming an

Alcor Member

Becoming an Alcor member is easy and surprisingly affordable, if you are in good health and eligible for life insurance, which will pay for your cryopreservation. (If you are not insurable, other financial arrangements can be made. Please ask us for details.)

[ALCOR MEMBERSHIP
INFORMATION
AND ENROLLMENT
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Alcor received good cooperation from a funeral director, who had once attended a seminar on cryonics. The decision was made to cool the patient to dry ice temperature in Barbados because cryoprotection would not be possible at Alcor due to the long time period of clinical death, and starting deep cooling sooner would stop further damage that time at warmer temperatures would otherwise cause. The paperwork required to transport the patient was extensive, and necessitated the police conclude their investigation. Alcor involved the local US embassy to expedite the process, and the Deputy Consul in particular was quite helpful.

The patient was air shipped via Miami, where he was removed from the plane in order to replenish the supply of dry ice. Flight schedules being what they were, the patient then spent the next night in Atlanta before finally reaching Phoenix. All told, it took nearly five days to receive the patient.

Unfortunately little dry ice remained upon arrival at Alcor, and the patient's temperature was near 0 degrees Celsius rather than the -79 degree temperature of dry ice. The patient was cooled back down toward liquid nitrogen temperature for long-term storage. A-1407 became Alcor's 84th patient.

This case led to extensive discussion and review within Alcor of procedures for shipping patients on dry ice, especially overseas, with a view toward preventing the problems of this case from recurring in the future.

- [How is the Alcor Patient Care Trust weathering the economic downturn?](#)

The Alcor Patient Care Trust (PCT) was under the active management of Morgan Stanley advisors and was protected from some of the market drop. The SP500 lost approximately 38% of its value in 2008 while the Alcor PCT lost approximately 23% of its value in 2008. Despite this clear over-performance in 2008, the PCT Board was not satisfied with the absolute drop in the PCT. Therefore, we have taken the following steps for 2009: (a) added a new PCT Board member, with extensive investing experience, to help set up a long term management program for the PCT; (b) significantly reduced our market exposure while still expecting reasonable returns in the future; (c) made the decision to regularly publish information about the PCT performance on the Alcor web site as soon as our volunteers complete the reporting.

- [Research and Development](#)

Semi-Annual IACUC Meeting

Our semi-annual IACUC meeting was held in December,

:: membership@alcor.org

:: <http://www.alcor.org>

:: 877-462-5267 ext 101

with its regular review of the animal protocols and facility inspection. The committee requested a few modifications to safety protocols and the development of standardizing forms for some activities. Everything else was in order.

Whole-body Vitrification System

We have begun the large task of documenting the whole-body vitrification software, and work continues to refine the enclosure.

- **Alcor's Scientific Advisory Board**

[Alcor's Scientific Advisory Board](#) held its first meeting in Florida during December. A topic of discussion was the ongoing projects at Alcor and management's plans for continuing development. Ralph Merkle and Robert Freitas also presented their plans for developing the medical nanotechnology that may be necessary to revive patients cryopreserved using current methods.

The point of the meeting was to establish how the advisory board could become more active in promoting cryonics and how the credibility of the field could be improved. Overall, it was an excellent meeting. The medical nanotechnology aspects of the meeting will be discussed in an upcoming issue of Cryonics magazine, and the advisory board intends to discuss other issues in more depth.

- **Membership Statistics**

For the month of December 2008, Alcor had 875 members on its Emergency Responsibility List. 2 memberships were approved; no memberships were reinstated; 1 membership was cancelled; and no members were cryopreserved. Overall, there was a net gain of 1 member.

2008 Membership Statistics

Finalized -- 72

Reinstated -- 3

Cancelled -- 32

Cryopreserved -- 6

Net Gain -- 37

TOTAL MEMBERS -- 875

ANNUAL GROWTH -- 3.1%

For the month of January 2009, Alcor had 876 members on its Emergency Responsibility List. 3 memberships were approved; 1 membership were reinstated; 3 memberships were cancelled; and no members were cryopreserved. Overall, there was a net gain of 1 member.

- **Applicant Statistics**

For the month of December 2008, Alcor had 62 applicants for membership. Eight new applicants were added; 2 applicants were converted to members; no applicants were cancelled. Overall, there was a net gain of 6 applicants.

2008 - Number of Applicants

January -- 55
February -- 64
March -- 68
April -- 67
May -- 66
June -- 68
July -- 67
August -- 62
September -- 62
October -- 61
November -- 61
December -- 62

For the month of January 2009, Alcor had 65 applicants for membership. Seven new applicants were added; 3 applicants were converted to members; 1 applicant was cancelled. Overall, there was a net gain of 3 applicants.

- Information Packet Statistics

For the month of December 2008, Alcor received 147 information packet requests; 7 were handed out during facility tours or from special request. 173 was the average total number of information packets sent per month in 2008 as compared to 129 in 2007.

2008 Information Packet Statistics

January -- 275
February -- 225
March -- 169
April -- 316
May -- 274
June -- 87*
July -- 136*
August -- 130*
September -- 95*
October -- 130
November -- 88*
December -- 147

*due to computer issues this number is lower than usual.

TOTAL SENT -- 2076

For the month of January 2009, Alcor received 148 information packet requests; 14 were handed out during facility tours or from special request. 148 was the average total number of information packets sent per month in 2009 as compared to 173 in 2008.

- Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2009, at the Alcor facility (7895 East Acoma Drive in Scottsdale, AZ) at 11:00 AM (MST). Members and the public are encouraged to attend.

- Donations Accepted on Alcor Website

Now our valued supporters can [make a charitable donation](#) anytime just by clicking the "Donate" button on the Alcor website.

Alcor has a long, proud tradition of innovation and technical excellence in the field of cryonics. Your gift will make a difference in our quest for better cryopreservations.

Your decision to [DONATE](#) is sincerely appreciated. Remember donations are tax deductible.

- 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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