
Alcor News

Your source for insider's info

July, #82

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- [Case Summaries](#)

- [A-2061](#)

- Colorado Springs, CO - One of our members, A-2061 suffered cardiac arrest at his home in Colorado Springs, CO. The gentleman had suffered from Parkinson's disease for many years and had 24-hour home health care. At the request of the member and the cooperation of the home health care program, Alcor had pre-positioned a mini-medical support kit with instructions for medical professionals, to administer after pronouncement. In the event of a sudden and unexpected clinical death, these important initial medications could be administered, while simultaneously cooling the body with ice. This would accomplish a key first step in the stabilization process that would provide Alcor additional time to respond to the scene while maintaining the hope for a quality cryopreservation. Since this was the exact scenario that played out, our early efforts paid off.

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

The home health providers witnessed the member's arrest and acted quickly. Local paramedics were unable to resuscitate the patient and terminated efforts on scene. The Sheriff's office was able to assist in expediting the process of pronouncement which allowed the medical assistants and family members to begin Alcor's initial stabilization protocols. Aaron Drake took an immediate flight to Colorado with the remainder of the needed stabilization equipment. Upon arrival, he met with the

pay for your cryopreservation. (If you are not insurable, other financial arrangements can be made. Please ask us for details.)

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funeral home where the patient was being kept in a 34 degree Fahrenheit environment. After completing the remainder of the stabilization in the middle of the night, the patient was packaged and prepped for airline shipment back to Phoenix, which occurred later that same day.

The surgical team was standing by when the patient arrived at Alcor. Although greater than 24 hours had passed since pronouncement had occurred, there were visible clinical signs that the early intervention was successful in eliminating blood clots which would typically create a less than optimal situation. A complete neuropreservation was performed and member A-2061 became our 86th patient.

A-2420

St. Louis, MO - Alcor received notice from an extended care facility that one of our members was experiencing a significant decline in health and therefore the family was in the process of changing the patient to hospice care. Alcor's deployment committee was actively involved in monitoring the situation when it was decided to have an Alcor representative at the patient's bedside to better determine when to initiate a full team response. Aaron Drake traveled to St. Louis to interact with the patient, family and medical staff.

Throughout the course of the seven days on location, we continually ramped up the level of readiness as the patient's condition worsened. Initially, the full team supply kit was shipped and pre-positioned. Then, two Suspended Animation, Inc. (SA) team members drove the SA response vehicle from Florida to St. Louis. And finally, we requested a deployment from Catherine Baldwin for the full SA team including perfusionist and surgeon to provide support as clinical death was imminent. The timing was excellent as the patient experienced clinical death within 12 hours of the SA team's arrival. The patient was subsequently flown to Scottsdale where a neuropreservation was performed. Member A-2420 is now our 87th patient.

- **Research and Development**

Emergency Response Vehicle

Regarding the planned renovations to Alcor's emergency response vehicle, we have completed an intensive design and development phase. This consisted of several meetings between Steve Graber and the technical staff, with discussion of parts, vendors and viewing of product samples. Great care has been taken to select modular, off-the-shelf parts, although some custom-designed pieces will be required. Demolition began on the vehicle's interior this past week and the approved design pieces are being acquired.

Remote Perfusion

Alcor is currently striving to further develop its remote

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

perfusion capability. Before launching an initiative to train its emergency response staff, however, the appropriate equipment needs to be selected.

:: 877-462-5267 ext 101

There has been constructive debate on the R&D list regarding this topic, and a side-by-side comparison of the available equipment options seems warranted. One of the options, Alcor's redesigned ATP, requires some modification before it will be ready for such a comparison. It was recently tested to assess its durability during airline shipping. Hugh Hixon reports that the shipping test demonstrated the internal partitions would not adequately support the weight of the perfusate. Separation of the perfusate to a second case seems warranted. A quick-replacement carrier plate for the sterile parts of the system, and the modified system will be ready for a field test shortly.

- **New Statistics (as of July)**

Membership

Alcor currently has 892 members on its Emergency Responsibility List. Three memberships were approved, no memberships were reinstated, no memberships were cancelled and one member was cryopreserved. Overall, there was a net gain of two members this month.

Applicant

Alcor had 61 applicants for membership. Seven new applicants were added, three applicants were converted to members and three applicants were cancelled resulting in net gain of one applicant for this month.

Info Pack

There were 204 information packet requests. Nine were handed out during facility tours or from special requests. The average total of 160 information packets sent per month in 2009 is compared to 173 in 2008.

Site Access

The number of distinct computers that accessed the Alcor website in each of the past thirteen months are:

30,845 June
23,794 July
23,087 August
23,083 September
24,261 October
23,218 November
35,020 December
35,741 January
31,625 February
28,479 March
29,313 April
27,819 May
26,770 June

- [Member Watch](#)

There were 6 Alcor members who had surgery in the month of June and 2 additional members who are considered to be in fragile condition for a total of 8 people we are actively monitoring. We are very pleased with the advanced notice that we have either received or discovered through communication with members who have upcoming surgical procedures. We hope to continue to promote this membership benefit so that all members will think to keep Alcor in their medical information loop.

- [Team Training](#)

Alcor provided a three-day training course for a team sponsored by Terasem Movement, Inc. (a 501c3 not-for-profit organization). The team, consisting of five personnel who are paramedics/firefighters from Brevard County Fire Department, traveled to the Alcor facility in Scottsdale to tour and learn the field procedures. At the conclusion of their training, they participated in a multi-hour dry run scenario for the team to better understand the flow of the skills they had learned and for Alcor to evaluate the effectiveness of its newly designed training program.

- [Outreach](#)

Several outreach initiatives are underway. It has been established that a primary source of membership growth is referral by existing Alcor members, so several board directors have begun proactively contacting prospective members. These communications have the side benefit of offering constructive feedback that will help improve the organization. For instance, one of the individuals informed us that the subscription process for Alcor News was not functioning properly. The malfunction has now been resolved.

Another outreach initiative is the formation of a Communications Committee, also composed largely of board directors. Among other endeavors, committee members will participate in screening or soliciting media opportunities and live speaking engagements, identifying appropriate speakers, developing talking points and encouraging media training.

- [Annual Board Summit Meeting](#)

The Annual Board Summit meeting is scheduled for September 12, 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! 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.

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End of Alcor
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