

Alcor News

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MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

A new position called the Member Communications Director has opened at Alcor.

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You may email any questions or comments to membership@alcor.org. Please do not reply to this message. Contents are copyright 2011 by the Alcor Foundation.

• CEO UPDATE

By [Max More](#)

Max photo

Perfection. The greatest seduction. And the enemy of progress in cryonics.

For the dullest among us, perfection may take the form of a simple vision: perhaps an other-worldly realm where there is no struggle, no suffering, no conflict, only immaculate submission to a perfect higher power. (In a variation of the same vision, this might include the provision of numerous virgins, apparently without will or rights of their own.) Or perhaps it takes the form of a different kind of higher power: a worldly power-whether an embodiment of the people's will (as classically exemplified in Hegel's and Marx's view of the State) or of the "pure race" or some other seductive fantasy. For the more intellectually sophisticated, it frequently takes the form of certainty in our own knowledge of what is right and correct and proper and rational, accompanied by a sure belief that everyone else is obviously a moron, or a dupe, or evil.

Perfectionist thinking of this kind entails rejecting tradeoffs. It involves fixating on a vision (sometimes arbitrary or ungrounded) of how things ideally ought to

The Member Communications Director's job will be to communicate with Alcor's members by email, by telephone, and in person for multiple purposes.

For detailed information on the position requirements and job description please click on the link below.

[Qualifications/Compensation](#)

HOW TO BECOME 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 INSTRUCTIONS

Alcor Life Extension Foundation is on Facebook. If you would like to connect with Alcor members and supporters then visit: [Official Alcor Facebook](#)

Become a fan and encourage interested friends, family members, and colleagues to support us too!

To find out about: Alcor Training Sessions; Regional Cryonics Meetings as well as Non-Alcor Events in your area, please visit: the [UPCOMING EVENTS](#) page on our website.

be while ignoring the costs of attempting to reach that ideal. Outside of pure mathematics and logic, perfection is not attainable in the real world. Even the flawless achievement of one goal means giving up another goal of inferior but substantial value (the economists' concept of "opportunity cost"). And achieving some aspects of a desired goal will mean giving up others. You may want a car that gets excellent gas mileage, but that will probably mean giving up the level of performance you hoped for. You may want to delay having children until you've accumulated more wealth and experience, but your fertility level may decline.

Tradeoffs clearly exist in cryonics, although you wouldn't know it by listening to most critics. We would all like cryonics to be perfect, but we know that gains come at a cost. We would like the costs of membership dues and cryopreservation charges to be lower. We would like the quality of cryopreservations to be higher. We would like everything to be run by medical professionals at low cost and with total commitment. We would like to be certain that a new employee of a cryonic organization will not lie and steal and betray us.

Continue reading "[CEO UPDATE](#)"

• CRYONICS MAGAZINE 2ND QUARTER 2011 NOW ONLINE

Alcor is pleased to announce that the 2nd Quarter 2011 [Cryonics Magazine](#) is now available for viewing, purchasing and downloading.

2nd Quarter Cryonics Cover

Just because we no longer mail out physical copies of Cryonics magazine (except by individual subscription - see below) you shouldn't miss on what's going on at Alcor and in cryonics. In the 2nd Quarter 2011 issue, the CEO Update discusses the dangers of flawed perfectionism, then describes recent upgrades and advances at Alcor, member privacy, documentation, talks, building improvements, and boosting growth through communication.

In his recent talk at the Suspended Animation conference, Alcor director Brian Wowk surveyed the alternatives for achieving solid state suspended animation. Apart from the currently preferred method of vitrification, these include freezing, high pressures to alter how freezing proceeds, freezing in the presence of electromagnetic fields, using clathrates (a strange kind of ice) and chemopreservation. The last of these options is explored in this issue by Alcor member Kenneth Hayworth, Ph.D., who writes about the Brain Preservation Foundation and the Brain Preservation

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Technology Prize. The Prize aims to encourage researchers to develop chemical or cryobiological methods to preserve the precise pattern of synaptic connectivity in the brain. Alcor staff member Michael Perry, Ph.D., expresses Alcor's support for this project and also outlines Alcor's own perspective.

Also in this issue: rejuvenation advocate Aubrey de Grey, Ph.D., responds to Ben Best's critical assessment of SENS (published in the 1st Quarter issue); Mike Perry reviews Global Catastrophic Risks; and there's a member profile of long-serving staff member Hugh Hixon.

Cryonics magazine is also available as a paper magazine. Individual issues cost \$9.95 plus shipping. They can be ordered at [MagCloud](#). A subscription to the paper edition of Cryonics magazine is also available. If you live in the United States, a subscription for one year costs \$39, two years \$69, three years \$99 (including shipping). If you live in another country, a subscription for one year costs \$99, two years \$179, three years \$239 (including shipping). Start your [subscriptions to the paper edition](#) TODAY!

- **READINESS AND TRANSPORT REPORT**

Team Training

Aaron Training Photo

The Pacific Northwest team, based in Portland Oregon, hosted a two day training session at the home of former Alcor head Carlos Mondragon.

Team leader, Aschwin de Wolf and Alcor Medical Response Director, [Aaron Drake](#) instructed the twelve people who attended. The first day consisted of classroom and practical training on the equipment, supplies and medications. On the second day, everyone reviewed the objectives and then participated in a scenario based exercise on a mannequin, in a real-time, to put the newly acquired skills to test. Up until now, the team has only had a partial kit with zero training and would have been unable to provide much support if called upon. Now that a full response kit is in place and there are multiple people who have been through Alcor's training, they feel comfortable and willing to assist in an emergency.

Recent Standbys

Alcor participated in two separate standbys within two weeks. The first standby was for a member in northern Tampa, Florida. Alcor was in attendance at the hospital for three days with this member who was listed as critical. His medical providers anticipated that he may

stop breathing. When the member stabilized, he was transferred to a long term care facility. Alcor ended the standby with the intent to continue to monitor the patient's condition remotely. A last minute decision was made for the member to return home. Therefore, it became necessary for Alcor to activate Suspended Animation for a full response. On the afternoon of the fourth day of the standby the member was pronounced. He was stabilized and cooled on-site, followed by a field washout. The next morning the patient was transported via a commercial airline to Alcor where a prepared surgical team waited for the arrival of Alcor's 105th patient. A detailed case report will be posted shortly.

The second standby, which was occurring concurrently with the Florida case, was a local member who was also critically ill and not expected to survive. The initial standby lasted six days before the member's condition improved enough for the team to stand down. While continuing to monitor the individual's health, through a very supportive hospice organization, the attending physician determined that it was time to restart the standby two weeks later. On the second day of the standby, despite relatively strong vital signs, the member's breathing became weaker until he finally ceased to take a breath. Alcor now has 106 patients. This case report will also be posted shortly.

Alcor received a call from a hospital in Tennessee that a third Alcor member was on life-support in their facility. This member is currently receiving long term care and we are carefully monitoring the situation remotely.

- **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT (As of May 31, 2011)**

- Membership Statistics

- Alcor had 945 members on its Emergency Responsibility List. Four memberships were approved during this month, two memberships were reinstated, three memberships were cancelled and one member was cryopreserved. Overall, there was a net gain of two members in May.

- Applicant Statistics

- Alcor had 48 applicants for membership. Six new applicants were added, four applicants were converted to members and no applicants were cancelled resulting in net a gain of two applicants in May.

- Information Packet Statistics

- Alcor received 83 info pack requests in May. Nine were handed out during facility tours or from special request. The average total of 118 info packs sent per month in 2011 compares to 199 in 2010.

- **THE NEXT ALCOR BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING**

The next Alcor [Board of Directors](#) meeting is scheduled for FRIDAY, July 1, 2011, at the Alcor facility (7895 East Acoma Drive in Scottsdale, AZ) at 11:00 A.M. (PDT). 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.

[Alcor News Blog](#)

End of Alcor
News June
bulletin #103
dated June 29,
2011

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