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Alcor Life Extension Foundation Newsletter

Your source for insider's info

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Alcor Buliding

Subscribe/unsubscribe information is at the end of this newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENT

CRYO VS. CHEMO DISCUSSION AT HUMANITY+ CONFERENCE, SAN FRANCISCO

Humanity+ will be holding a conference in San Francisco, December 1-2, 2012. Max More will be speaking on "Archiving the Brain's Writing: Cryo or Chemo?" Among other Alcor members speaking are Aubrey de Grey, Natasha Vita-More, Todd Huffman, Christine Peterson, and Ben Goertzel. These and many more speakers will discuss aspects of "[Writing the Future.](#)"

WHAT'S NEW AT ALCOR

**ASSOCIATE
MEMBERSHIP
[Introducing a new class of
Alcor member](#)**

You may email any questions or comments to membership@alcor.org. Please do not reply to this message. Contents are copyright 2012 by the Alcor Foundation.

ALCOR-40 CONFERENCE

Alcor-40 conference

Conference Group Photo

Based on the feedback, both verbal and written, the conference was a success by all important measures (except perhaps that of profitability). 203 people registered but actual attendance was higher since some spouses and others attended without registering. Overall, attendees gave strongly positive feedback on the quality of the talks. Although there was considerable variation in those mentioned as favorite speakers, much more agreement was evident in the least-liked speakers - a fact that gives me some useful feedback for the future. Everyone seemed to enjoy the mixture of research reports, legal and financial discussions, practical advice, and updates on cryonics capabilities.

The encouraging response will not lead me to plan another conference for next year. Paid attendance dropped by 50% between the 2006 and 2007 conferences. Apart from the effort involved in putting on an event, a longer gap leaves people hungrier for the next one. For those who want to re-experience talks - and for the perhaps regretful individuals who missed our first conference in five years - we will be making the video of most sessions available online.

Membership growth

The conference may have given us a small jump in membership. The challenge is to maintain and build on that (7% annualized) growth rate

Supporters of Alcor who are not yet ready to make cryopreservation arrangements can now become an Associate Member by paying \$10/month. Associate members are members of the Alcor Life Extension Foundation who have not made cryonics arrangements but financially support the organization.

We will encourage members who are having to drop their arrangements temporarily due to reduced income to remain as **Associate Members**.

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 or visit the link below.

ALCOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND ENROLLMENT INSTRUCTIONS

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.

ALCOR 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!

rather than dropping back to 2%. One growth initiative I've mentioned before is a series of YouTube videos addressing common misconceptions about cryonics and answering specific and common questions while motivating viewers to get involved. Following a productive conversation with an overseas member, I'm thinking more about how to do this more effectively. I am studying highly successful YouTube videos to glean approaches, styles, and formats that might work for us. The result may well require me to adjust my presentation style for this format.

As part of this effort, I want to use social media far more than Alcor has done in the past to build awareness of our existence and what we do and to spur interest in getting people involved. We have several members with known expertise in social media. If I can gather and structure their input, we should be able to develop an effective plan. (If you have skills in this area and want to help, please contact me.)

Growth depends not only on contacting new people and getting them interested. It also depends both on getting them started on the sign-up process and ensuring they complete it. Signing up with Alcor is easier now that when I joined in 1986, but there may be room for improvement without giving up crucial requirements. We may be able to borrow from the marketers' bag of tricks (which is backed up by studies in psychology) in creating a "funnel" for sign-up. The idea is to avoid the appearance of a huge, monolithic effort being needed to become a member, replacing this with a funnel with a wide entrance.

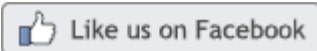
Getting people started is crucial (and Associate Membership is one element of this approach), followed by a clear progression of steps, each of which is minimally difficult and discouraging. We might use a progress bar (such as found, for instance, on LinkedIn which encourages users to complete their profiles) with reminders to take the next step and an estimate of how doing so would improve the person's probability of being successfully cryopreserved. (Such probabilities would be approximations but can be based on available data.) We could also reinvigorate the old practice (at least in California) of sign-up parties, or else devise other means of social support or peer pressure to encourage applicants to complete the process. Conference Screen Letters

Retaining members

As recent membership reports have made painfully clear, we may not grow substantially if we lose almost as many existing members as we add new ones. We have just introduced a discount for members of 20 years standing. I would like to add to this by introducing additional discounts (levels to be discussed) for members of 25 years and 30 years (cumulative, not necessarily uninterrupted). I want it to be clear that loyalty and persistence will be rewarded. And that members reaching retirement age will not be faced with inexorably increasing dues. Younger individuals would be more likely to sign up rather than waiting, and intermediate age members would be more likely to maintain their arrangements rather than dropping them "until later".

Other items

I have had some stimulating and in-depth discussions with several members lately. One of these is with one of our longest-term members. He wants us to do more to fulfill the revival and rehabilitation aspect of Alcor's mission. We discussed how we might go about developing a buddy system to help revived members re-enter their lives. True, this is not the most urgent part of Alcor's mission, but it is still part of it. It's also of immediate relevance because one very clear source of resistance to cryonics is the fear of waking up in a future world where one is alone and obsolete. Anything we can do to address this with more than reassuring words and hopeful scenarios could help spread acceptance



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 AMAZON WISH LIST

You can also **DONATE** an item directly to Alcor from our Amazon wish list.

ALCOR NEWS BLOG

Don't forget! You don't have to wait for this monthly newsletter to learn more about happenings at Alcor.

For the most up-to-date information throughout the month. Check the [Alcor News Blog](#)

of cryonics and build our membership over time.

We also discussed ways in which Alcor could do more to store members' personal information so that they can "take it with them". Our current offering is minimal and perhaps a little outdated, although the underground vaults could remain an option. This member will research existing digital storage options (especially those that are cloud-based) for their cost, reliability, and robustness. I suggested he investigate whether the old Lifepact idea led to anything actionable, and that he might learn something useful from the Quantified Self groups.

On the international front, we are working on deploying a kit in Canada to minimize delays, cooperating with cryonicists in Australia, and preparing for a likely near- to medium-term response in Portugal - one that may be a test of the remote cryoprotection protocol, but as applied to a whole body patient.

Finally, as you saw at the conference, cryopreservation faces the possibility of a competitor in the form of chemical preservation. At the conference, Sebastian Seung graciously welcomed suggested corrections to the text of his book, which is coming out in paperback. Several of us have made suggestions for corrections. I will speak on chemical brain preservation compared to cryopreservation in San Francisco in on December 1, at the Humanity+ conference.

Max More
President and Chief Executive Officer

23-YEAR OLD WITH TERMINAL BRAIN CANCER HOPES TO BE CRYOPRESERVED

Kim Suozzi, 23, has terminal brain cancer. The cancer is highly aggressive and growing rapidly in a location that makes surgery impossible. Her final wish is to be cryopreserved.

Alcor Life Extension Foundation has offered to cryopreserve Kim at a reduced cost, with the staff donating their time for her cryopreservation. "I learned about cryonics several years ago, while doing reading for a science class, says Kim. "I had always planned on establishing cryopreservation arrangements through life insurance, but I was caught off guard when I was suddenly diagnosed during my last month and a half of college. The only thing that I can think of that might let me live out my full life and make me feel a little more at ease with my death is to secure cryopreservation plans in the belief that they figure out how to revive people in the future."

Ms. Suozzi of Columbia, Missouri wants to relocate to Scottsdale - as soon as possible - which will further reduce the \$80,000 cost of cryopreservation. However, she lacks the funds. Hundreds of donors have reached out to help Kim, but time is short. Donations of any amount are welcome. Send your tax deductible donation to the Alcor Life Extension Foundation, 7895 E. Acoma Drive, Suite 110, Scottsdale, AZ 85260, or call 480.905.1906 x114. With help, it is hoped that Kim can someday resume a full life.

Although walking with a leg brace, Ms. Suozzi attended the Alcor 40th Anniversary conference to shared her story. For photos and more of Kim's story please read the September-October issue of the *Cryonics* magazine now [online](#).

ALCOR'S 113TH PATIENT

John Monts, A-1646, a neuro member of Alcor, was declared clinically dead as of October 31, 2012 at age 68.

On the afternoon of Thursday November 1, 2012, several personnel at Alcor received a Telemed emergency call and text concerning member John Monts. (Mr. Monts requested privacy prior to cryopreservation, but said his arrangements were public afterward.) Apparently Mr. Monts traveled from his home in North Carolina for dental work in his previous neighborhood in South Carolina. Sometime on the evening of October 31, he was robbed. Sometime the following morning, he was found clinically dead in his hotel room. Time of death was estimated at around 11pm by the pathologist. Whether there was any connection between the robbery and his clinical death is not known to us, but the circumstances made this a coroner's case.

The first we knew of any of this was at 2:08 pm on November 1. Max More immediately contacted one of Alcor's attorneys who has assisted in the past when we faced a coroner's case. While we pressed to limit the autopsy we also made arrangements for cooling to dry ice temperature and discussed options for transporting the patient back to Arizona intact or alternatively doing the neuro-separation on site. Aaron Drake spent considerable time talking to various people and departments at the Medical University of South Carolina - Charleston. Initially they seemed very willing to cooperate with limiting autopsy and allowing quick cooling to dry ice temperature, but a change of personnel led to complications. With our legal input, the coroner agreed to conduct a toxicology panel and external head examination while refraining from opening the skull and sectioning the brain. Mr Monts was then released to us on the condition that we conduct a CT scan of his brain and send the results to the coroner.

Aaron flew out to Charleston on November 4 to collect Mr Monts, who was now at dry ice temperature, buying us time. Aaron conducted the neuro-separation then, that evening, topped off the neuro shipper box with dry ice ready for shipment to Alcor the following morning. A medical emergency delayed the flight's arrival, as it was diverted to El Paso. The patient arrived in Phoenix on November 7 and reached Alcor at 6:30 am. Cooldown to liquid nitrogen temperature began shortly after. It was noted that, on November 9, the dry ice neuro shipper still had some dry ice inside, confirming our previous tests.

MEDICAL RESPONSE DIRECTOR REPORT

Watch List

The month of October was very busy for the deployment committee. There were numerous members with severe illnesses that required very careful monitoring. At one point, we had three individuals who were in the emergency department or intensive care units at hospitals.

A two-day standby was initiated for one local member in the Scottsdale area while he

Aaron and Ice Bath

underwent a quintuple coronary artery bypass graph. His extensive health history suggested the possibility for higher than usual post-operative complications. Aaron Drake and Steve Graber interacted with the hospital administration prior to the surgery and stayed on-site throughout the procedure and post-op. The standby was reduced to remote monitoring when the member was successfully removed from the ventilator and was able to maintain good oxygen saturation for at least six hours.

Public Education / Media

Over the past month, we have conducted 15 tours with a total of 171 attendees. In addition to the tours provided for conference attendees, we hosted a group of students from Glendale Community College's Death and Dying course, a tour for Barry Aarons who brought a local city councilman and his wife, and a preliminary tour for a Discovery Channel program development agent.

Conference

At the Alcor-40 conference, Aaron Drake had the opportunity to moderate a panel discussion on physiological monitoring devices with Martine Rothblatt of the Terasem Foundation and Ben Best, the former director of the Cryonics Institute. They discussed the benefits of these devices as they pertain to cryonics members, the technological advancements that have been made in the industry and a variety of potential business models that could be implemented to benefit both Alcor and our members.

TECHNICAL & READINESS COORDINATOR REPORT

Alcor Neuro CT Scanning Project

Last year the research and development team CT scanned several Alcor patient neuros. This information was covered in a prior board report. To recap, The first CT scanning was initially done for the sole purpose of determining the precise location of the crackphone elements within the skull. The results from that effort proved quite valuable to us and it led to a redesign of the crackphone insertion protocol. As Steve Graber was attempting to image the metallic content of the crackphone wiring and elements he also noticed that he was able to resolve quite a bit of additional information contained within the CT scans. Information that looked a lot like perfusion.

This past month the Alcor Neuro CT scanning project experienced a breakthrough. The team recently CT scanned in high resolution a variety of specific chemical compounds which are common in M22x1.25 cryopreservative. They created a package of 5 cryogenic vials individually containing water, ethylene glycol, formamide, M22x1.25 and a last one containing dimethyl sulfoxide. In simple terms, once these 'marker' scans were brought back to Alcor Steve was able to isolate and enhance the absorption and scattering properties for the contents of the five individual nunc tubes in my CT Visualization software. Steve then created a 'Lookup Map' and saved it to disk. Finally, he loaded each of our 3 patient CT scans into the software and applied the new 'Lookup Map' and hoped for a good result.

Initial results from this additional analysis effort are actually proving quite extraordinary! The CT Scan findings were displayed on a looping video projection during breaks at the Alcor 40th conference. Inside of each patient's scan file is revealed a great wealth of information which the team sees as being able to potentially determine success or failure or some combination thereof of the perfusion procedure. They believe they have the ability to analyze the scans and visualize perfusion. They can

then compare this against a number of external variables including, but not limited to; hours of warm or cold ischemia, travel time, effects of various post mortem medications, etc. Is perfusability adversely affected over long transport times, etc... The research and development team are in the very early stages of research with this technique but it holds a lot of promise.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Member and Patient Demographics

Regarding Alcor patients: there are currently 70 neuros, 37 whole bodies, 4 open options and 1 neuro with whole body; the youngest patient is 21 and the oldest was 6 week away from her 102nd birthday. The average age of our patients is 71; there are 71 males and 37 females cryopreserved.

As for Alcor members, there are currently 425 neuros, 493 whole bodies, 21 open options and 36 neuros with whole body. The youngest member will turn 1 year old at the end of the month; there 45 members under the age 18; and the oldest member are 99. The average age of our members is 47; there are 762 males and 213 females.

Membership Statistics

Alcor had a total of 982 members on its Emergency Responsibility List. Seven memberships were approved during the month of October, one membership was reinstated, no members were transferred to associate member, one membership were cancelled. There were no members cryopreserved. Overall, there was a net gain of seven members in October.

Applicant Statistics

Alcor had a total of 44 applicants for membership. Thirteen new applicants were added, seven applicants were converted to members and no applicants were cancelled resulting in a net gain of six applicants in October.

Associate Members

Alcor had a total of 24 associate members in October.

Information Packet Statistics

Alcor received 58 info pack requests in October. Twelve were handed out during facility tours or from special requests. The average total of 76 info packs sent per month in 2012 compares to 104 in 2011. The full [Information Packet](#) is now available online.

MEMBERS - 982

PATIENTS - 112

ASSOCIATES - 24

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 1108

MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR REPORT

Annual Giving Program

The second mailing for the Annual Giving Program has just gone out via bulk mail. We anticipate increased participation as members look to take advantage of year-end tax deductions.

Alcor's Website Donation Page

The donations area of Alcor's website has been improved and expanded. There are now separate pages for planned giving, and research donations. Improved links to these pages will appear on the

front page of the site very soon. To donate please see the left sidebar of this newsletters.

New Vehicle Fundraising Campaign

The Chevy Suburban Alcor currently used as a backup ambulance and company vehicle for picking up prepec is nearing the end of its lifespan, and a fundraising campaign to replace it is in progress.

For more information on Alcor's fundraising and donation projects, please contact Lisa Shock at 480.905.1906 ext 115.

ALCOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Alcor Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Saturday December 8, 2012, at 11:00 AM (MST) at the Alcor facility, 7895 East Acoma Drive in Scottsdale, AZ. The public part of the meeting will be short, to allow in-depth board discussions. Members and the public may attend the public portion in which announcements will be made and questions taken from members and the public. Full public meetings in 2013 will those in January, March, May, July, September, and November.

The next full public Alcor Board of Directors meeting, to which members and the public are encouraged to attend, is scheduled for **Saturday, January 5, 2013**, at 11:00 AM (MST) at the Alcor facility, 7895 East Acoma Drive in Scottsdale, AZ.

THE ALCOR TEAM

The Alcor Team

FRONT ROW:

Diane Cremeens

D'Bora Tarrant

Bonnie Magee

Lisa Shock

BACK ROW:

Aaron Drake, NREMT-P, CCT

R. Michael Perry, Ph.D.

Max More, Ph.D.

Steve Graber

Hugh Hixon, Jr.

End of Alcor
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