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April 2019

From the MRD Desk

by **Chris Divver**



The powers of your Power of Attorney

I hope this installment of my monthly newsletter finds each of you in good health and enjoying the (finally for some) warm weather. I wanted to write to you about the importance of notification, however, I believe a more imperative matter has developed.

In recent weeks there has been an unfortunate yet seemingly recurring issue that I feel needs addressing. Alcor requests of its membership several important forms necessary to document a member's desire for cryopreservation. One of the most vital documents is a Power of Attorney (PoA).

Healthcare Power of Attorney

The health care power of attorney is a document in which you designate someone to be your representative, or agent, in the event you are unable to make or communicate decisions about all aspects of your health care. In the most basic form, a health care power of attorney merely says, "I want this person to make decisions about my health care if I am unable to do so."

A healthcare agent is a person whom you are trusting to make medical decisions on your behalf if you can't make them for yourself. Choosing your agent is an important decision, and you should think carefully about who you want to assume this responsibility. This person may one day be deciding whether or not life support measures will be in your best interests or determining exactly how your personal and religious values would impact other treatments. A legal document that appoints a healthcare agent is sometimes called a "healthcare power of attorney."

A health care power of attorney goes farther than a living will. The big restriction with a living will is that it only applies if you are terminally ill or permanently unconscious or another similar condition as defined by state law. If you are only temporarily unconscious or otherwise unable to communicate, but are not terminally ill, in a permanent vegetative state, or other end-stage condition, a living will is

of no use. You need a health care power of attorney to cover such a situation.

The power your Power of Attorney has over you in times of medical crisis simply cannot be overstated. It behooves each of you to not only assign a person you trust to be your PoA but to also ensure they are firm believers in cryonics and will do everything within their power to ensure your wishes are carried out.

A month or so ago, a young lady in Kentucky who was a cryonicist and signed up with another cryonics company, was cremated despite her desires because her family did not agree with cryonics. While she was not an Alcor member, the abject disregard of her wishes is troubling and reprehensible to me.

Another more recent event has the potential to be equally as troubling. I was notified not long ago, of a member who was in declining health due to age and disease processes that had stopped responding to medicine. The member was disoriented, lethargic, and hospitalized. A friend of the member notified me and was with the member at his bedside. As part of my responsibility at Alcor, I kept in constant contact with the member's friend at the bedside and with his healthcare power of attorney who was not at the bedside. Over the course of four days I texted, called, and emailed both individuals for status updates on the member's health. On the fourth day I was told my constant communication attempts were "intrusive and too overwhelming" for them and they would "call me with any updates." I was essentially told "not to call them, they would call me." It's worth noting this member has no family, no wife or children, and has only his friends to care for him. While this situation resolved itself with the member being discharged to home, it will occur again in the not-too-distant future.

The power your Power of Attorney has over you cannot be over emphasized. Each of you has invested large amounts of time, effort, energy, and money to become cryonicists and to maintain your membership with Alcor. I beg of you to ensure your Power of Attorney understands the role they play in the most critical of time periods for you and if they do not understand it or are not willing to carry out the demand of the obligation, please find someone who will, preferably a fellow cryonicist.

Each of you deserves a voice that will resonate your wishes in the event you can no longer voice those wishes yourself. Right now you have the power to assign this responsibility to a loved one or a most trusted friend. Please choose wisely.

On a lighter note, several members have expressed interest in forming local groups in their geographic area. We have a local group in NYC, northern and southern California, and one in the beginning stages in Minnesota. If you would like to form a local group or have an interest in joining your local group, please email us at inquiry@alcor.org.

Until next month,

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WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY

Working group on Vital Signs Monitoring and Alert Devices



Vital signs monitoring-and-warning devices could improve the chances of cryonicists getting cryopreserved promptly and under good conditions. From baby monitors to wearable devices, many options exist and new ones appear almost daily. We encourage members to investigate the various platforms themselves. At the same time, Alcor wants to bring together a working group to test the pros, cons, and costs of the most promising options.

Alcor is helping to bring together a working wearable device group. If you are interested in contributing to this group through either your knowledge of the technology, your research into devices, or interest in finding the best wearable technology for your own needs please send an email to inquiry@alcor.org.

CEO UPDATE

by Max More

Earth Day +49: Still Getting Better



Why would anyone want to be cryopreserved or extend their lives by other means? After all, the future is going to be terrible! Overpopulated. Polluted. Poor. Hot. Lacking in resources. We hear this all the time and have heard it for years and decades. Must be true, right? On the 49th Earth Day (April 22), let's take a quick look.

Forecasts of doom have proved consistently wrong since - and well before! - the first Earth Day in 1970. I'll pull just a few of 18 spectacularly wrong predictions made around the time of the first Earth Day from the accounting by Mark Perry at AEIdeas.

Harvard biologist George Wald estimated that "civilization will end within 15 or 30 years unless immediate action is taken against problems facing mankind."

Paul Ehrlich has continued to make dire predictions despite having been persistently wrong. "Population will inevitably and completely outstrip whatever small increases in food supplies we make," Ehrlich declared in the April 1970 *Mademoiselle*. "The death rate will increase until at least 100-200 million people per year will be starving to death during the next ten years."

In his 1969 piece, "Eco-Catastrophe!", he asserted that "by... [1975] some experts feel that food shortages will have escalated the present level of world hunger and starvation into famines of unbelievable proportions. Other experts, more optimistic, think the ultimate food-population collision will not occur until the decade of the 1980s." For the 1970 Earth Day issue of *The Progressive*, Ehrlich told readers that between 1980 and 1989, some 4 billion people, including 65 million Americans, would perish in the "Great Die-Off."

Peter Gunter, a North Texas State University professor, wrote in 1970, "By the year 2000, or conceivably sooner, South and Central America will exist under famine conditions....By the year 2000, thirty years from now, the entire world, except for Western Europe, North America, and Australia, will be in famine."

In January 1970, *Life* reported, "Scientists have solid experimental and theoretical evidence to support...the following predictions: In a decade, urban dwellers will have to wear gas masks to survive air pollution...by 1985 air pollution will have reduced the amount of sunlight reaching earth by one half...." Ehrlich (again) Ehrlich outlined a scenario in which 200,000 Americans would die in 1973 during "smog disasters" in New York and Los Angeles.

A chart by Harrison Brown, a scientist at the National Academy of Sciences, estimated that humanity would totally run out of copper shortly after 2000. Lead, zinc, tin, gold, and silver would be gone before 1990. Ecologist Kenneth Watt declared, "By the year 2000, if present trends continue, we will be using up crude oil at such a rate...that there won't be any more crude oil."

As Ron Bailey notes in this April 22, 2019 *Reason* article, "5 Environmental and Human Trends Worth Celebrating This Earth Day", global population is expected to peak and then fall before the end of this century. It will probably never reach 10 billion and may not reach 9 billion. (Currently, it's around 7.7 billion.) The year of peak population and its level depend on multiple factors. The year will be sooner and the level lower the more we advance economic growth, technology, and the levels of educational attainment for both sexes. These factors all reduce fertility.

According to a September 2018 study in *Nature*, Global tree canopy cover increased by 2.24 million square kilometers (865,000 square miles) between 1982 and 2016 as losses in the tropics are more than offset by gains in the temperate, subtropical, and boreal climatic zones. Tree canopy in Europe has increased by 35 percent, and in the U.S. and China has increased by 34 and 15 percent respectively.

The World Bank and the IMF collected data for 50 foundational commodities covering energy, food, materials, and metals between 1980 and 2017. On average, the real price of 50 commodities fell by 36.3%. The inflation-adjusted price of 86% of these commodities fell. During the same period, the inflation-adjusted global hourly income per

person grew by 80.1%. To buy the same commodities in 2017 as in 1980, you had to work only about one-third as long. Improving technology and smarter economic policies pushed claims of impending widespread starvation far into the zone of falsehood. Bailey notes that "Global food prices have remained constant even as the global population has increased by 110% since 1970."

But it must be more polluted, surely, since US GDP grew 165% between 1980 and 2017, while vehicle miles traveled increased 110% and U.S. population grew by 44%? Not so much. Total emissions of the six principal air pollutants dropped by 67% (with lead down by 99% and sulfur dioxide by 89%).

But, with greenhouse gas emissions rising, weather is getting frighteningly bad right? Only in the movies. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the number and intensity of tornadoes is either flat or declining since 1954. Cyclone numbers and intensities have been flat or declining since the early 1970s. There has been no trend in the US wildfire data since 1985. Flooding is uncorrelated with increasing GHG concentrations.

If you are revived from cryopreservation, it is *possible* that the machines will be hunting and killing us. It's *possible* that we will be poor, hungry, sick, and polluted. It's unlikely because humans have tended to create pollution as they grow in wealth but only up to a point. As we become satisfied with enough food, shelter, and other goods, we start to see a healthy and pleasant environment as a good that we are willing to pay for. Humans are good at creating problems but also excel at solving them.

None of this means we don't need to act. It does mean there is no reason for despair and good reason for careful actions that are not excessively costly or that have bad side effects.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CRYONICS SYMPOSIUM

July 27, 2019

This is a new event which will be chaired by Neal VanDeRee, open to all cryonicists, antiagers, skeptics, prospects, scoffers.

Guest presenters include:

Alcor CEO & President, Max More

Alcor co-founder, Linda Chamberlain

Cryonics Institute director, Joe Kowalsky

World's leading cryonics insurance agent and author, Rudi Hoffman

**Venue Location:
Church of Perpetual Life**

**1855 McKinley Street
Hollywood, FL 33021**

**The event is free and special rates at the
Hollywood hotel have been arranged.**

LOCAL CRYONICS GATHERINGS IN 2020

Local Cryonics Community Leaders Wanted



Alcor management and staff are pleased to announce a provisional series of three local cryonics group gatherings to take place in 2020. The current plan is to have one in California, one in the New York area, and one in Florida. The dates will be determined. Each event will be low-cost or no-cost and will include both live speakers and participants on video.

Alcor is looking for members in these locations to be the point person to work with Alcor staff to make these events fun, informative and community-building events. Even if you don't live in these areas but realize the importance of community and communication you can still respond. These gatherings may be held in a local hotel venue or a local cryonicist's home or place of business.

We are not asking for a major time commitment. Alcor will help promote the event, cover any costs and provide one or more "Headliners" to help get people interested in attending the gathering. The events will be open to all, including Alcor members, non-members, friends and family and cryonics skeptics. The purpose is to promote harmony, communication, and community in the cryonics "family".

Whether you want to lead or help, if you feel this would be a good fit for you, and you have great ideas to share please contact [Ashley Bettini](#) at Alcor. We will provide updates through the newsletter as these events begin to take shape.

RUN THE RUNWAY



The staff at Alcor participated in the 7th annual "Run The Runway" at the Scottsdale Airpark in the beginning of April. We are proud to announce that R. Michael Perry, PhD won 4th place for his age group in the 5K run.

CRYONICS MAGAZINE

Printed version of *Cryonics* magazine

Sorry for the delay - if you signed up for the printed version of *Cryonics* magazine it should be arriving in your mailbox shortly. If you signed up for the digital version you should have received that last month. It is a quarterly magazine starting this year. If you have any questions or subscription changes please email marji@alcor.org.



2019	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Members	1,237	1,241	1,246									
Patients	165	165	167									
Associate	296	285	287									
Total	1,698	1,691	1,700									



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