

September 2019

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MRD - Now Hiring

Alcor Life Extension Foundation is seeking a Medical Response Director (MRD) to join our high-functioning team. The MRD is responsible for the postmortem stabilization and transport of Alcor patients to Scottsdale, Arizona. The MRD will coordinate with Alcor staff and contractors to enhance existing Standby, Stabilization, and Transport (SST) processes. If you are interested in applying for the position please send your resume and cover letter to Marji Klima at marji@alcor.org.



Interview with Alcor Member - Bruce Cohen

by Diane Cremeens



Question: Why have you remained a member of Alcor for so many years when there may be cheaper alternatives?

Bruce: In the early 1990's I was with TransTime and they lacked the capabilities to take care of me. Fred and Linda Chamberlain brought me out to work on improving the transport and cryopreservation capabilities. Alcor has since advanced to the point I feel most comfortable with them.

Question: As an Alcor member do you feel like a customer, or do you feel like you are part of a community?

Bruce: I am part of the cryonic community. Alcor is my family.

Question: Tell me about your vision of our future cryonic community.

Bruce: I want to have more critical mass of people living out here and buying homes to be close to Alcor. Several Members have already moved out to Arizona and we go out to dinner every Thursday evening. It's good, it keeps people connected to each other.

Question: You have met some of the newer members of Alcor's team. What type of interactions have you had with our new team members and what are your thoughts about them?

Bruce: I have met Sarah Kelly and found her to be very compassionate and competent. She came to the hospital and took care of everything. The new COO, Patrick Harris, is very reasonable and I get a good feeling of his competency.

Question: Do you feel like its beneficial to live near Alcor?

Bruce: Of course, that's why I moved here. I want to be put into cryopreservation as quickly as possible.

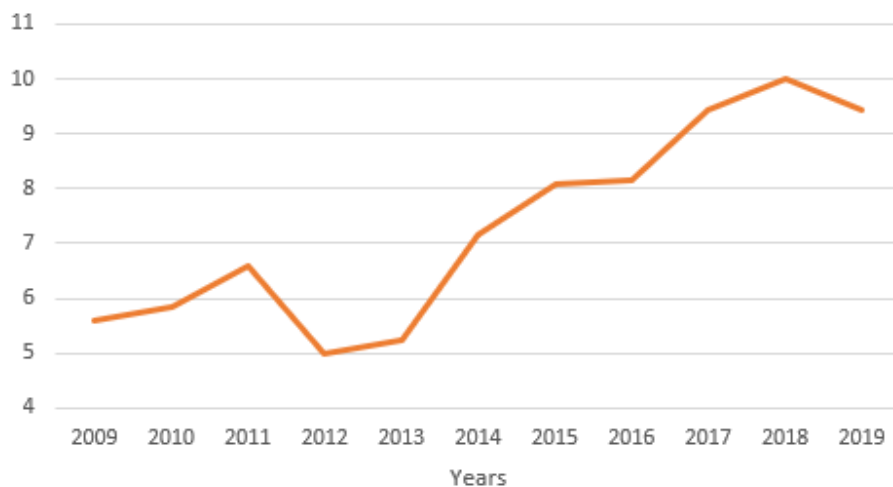
Question: When you need standby services, would you prefer the Alcor team or another provider?

Bruce: I would prefer to use Alcor's team. I know them and I trust them.

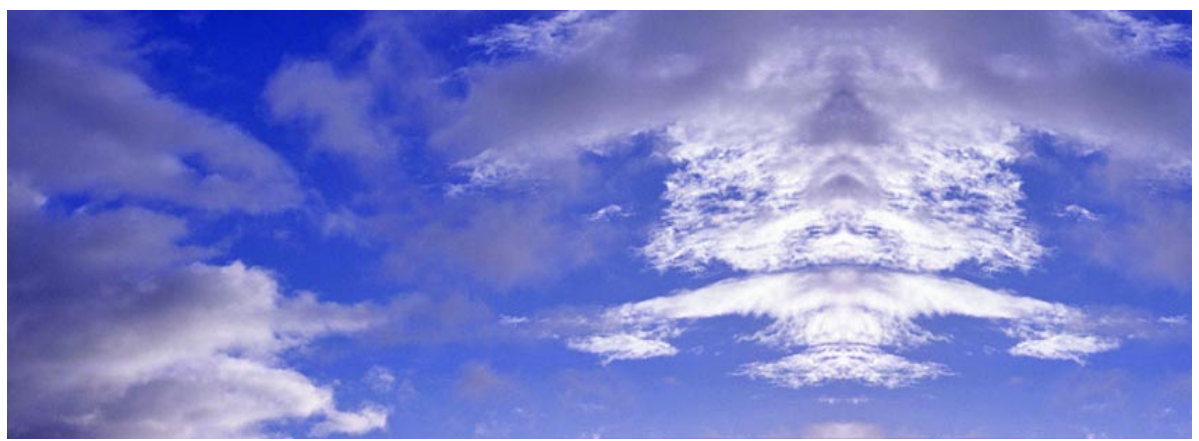
Average New Applicants / Month



Average Members Approved / Month



2019	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Members	1237	1241	1246	1256	1251	1252	1263	1269				
Patients	165	165	167	168	170	170	170	171				
Associate	296	285	287	284	281	282	281	291				
Total	1698	1691	1700	1708	1697	1704	1714	1731				



Alcor 2029

Imagine ten years from now. September 2029. What will Alcor be like then? Consider this as a modestly aspirational scenario. If things go well - although not as well as we might easily imagine - this is the situation we could find ourselves in. These are the resources we could have and the challenges we could face.

[Read more here](#)

Technical Coordinator Annual Report - excerpt

by Steve Graber



I made significant progress in patient storage development this year. SD#1 is now operational. In August 2019 we placed our first WB patient into SD storage using the podless backboard storage device. We currently have a second WB patient nearing the end of cooldown who will be our second SD patient. In order to put the SuperDewar into service a lot of things had to happen. I performed multiple tests of the podless patient storage system throughout the year. This included insertion/removal testing for snagging issues, as well as testing the function of the new pod insertion tool, flotation tests designed to keep the podless backboards upright, and a new ID tag system was

implemented to more easily identify and (in the future) retrieve patients. Due to the smaller and deeper cork neck making visibility somewhat more difficult inside the Dewar this new ID tag just makes it totally foolproof to identify the correct patient and to move them into the center of the SD for removal. The fog extraction device was modified as well. The existing BigFoot fill shutoff switch would not work for SD, so a totally new SuperDewar fill shutoff system had to be designed, tested and placed into service. So far it has been working very well.

CRYONICS SYMPOSIUM INTERNATIONAL - PART II



Highlights Cryonics Symposium International by R. Michael Perry, PhD

Continued from August newsletter

This article is also to appear in Charles Tandy, ed., *Death and Anti-Death*, vol. 17

Interested readers may view the full presentation at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtUQ7Ut4XCM>

Luguan "Jeremy" Yan:

With Mr. Yan's presentation the Cryonics Symposium truly became "International" inasmuch as a Chinese film of the first cryopreservation in China was shown. English subtitles and narration in English by Aaron Drake kept the American audience informed, and overall the technical expertise seemed impressive. A point made was that China in some ways is more favorable for cryonics than the US inasmuch as religious prejudice is less. In brief, Mrs. Zhan (Wenlian Zhan, lung cancer patient) sensed the end was near and wanted to donate her body to science via cryopreservation, with the hope of eventual revival. The cryopreservation was carried out starting May 8, 2017 (4:01 a.m. local time) by the Shandong Yinfeng Life Sciences Institute in Jinan, with supervision by Alcor consultant Aaron Drake. Near the end Mr. Zhan offered an emotional tribute: "I am very pleased to help you with your dream."

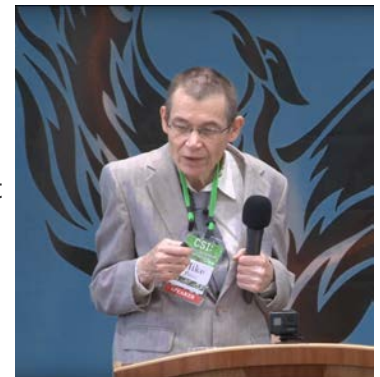




From the film: Mrs. Zhang; start of procedure following pronouncement; respectful bow after procedure is complete.

Mike Perry, Ph.D.

Mike has worked at Alcor for more than 30 years as a patient caretaker, is a cofounder and ordained minister of the Society for Venturism, and is a cryonics historian, among other activities. Today his talk was about cryonics history in relation to building a cryonics community. Cryonics was mainly started by two people, Robert Ettinger and Evan Cooper. Ettinger is the better known of the two, but it was Cooper who largely started cryonics as a movement, through his Life Extension Society. LES published a newsletter, organized conferences, and established chapters across the U.S. and abroad. Though it did not do actual freezings, it helped or inspired organizations that did. By the early 1970s more than fifteen people had been frozen for possible revival. Unfortunately, nearly all these cases terminated within a few years. A new, stronger cryonics movement then emerged with a much greater success rate, yet a need was felt for a caring community that could help the less fortunate who wanted this expensive process. The pro-cryonics Society for Venturism was started in 1986. It has helped raise funding so terminally ill people with limited means could be cryopreserved. It also issues no-autopsy cards to help avert this damaging procedure in cryonics cases.



Charlie Kam:

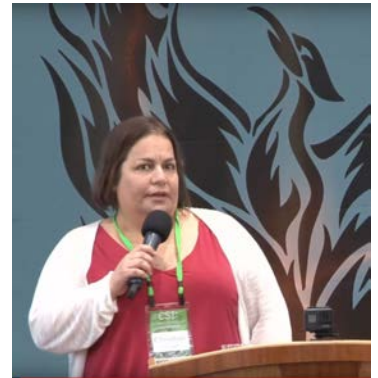
Charlie has been involved in cryonics for more than fifteen years now. He hosted a TransVision conference on futuristic themes in Chicago in 2007 and plans another such conference next year in Los Angeles. He has created films, music videos, and songs about cryonics "as a way to spread the word." His short music video presented here, titled *The Death of Death*, is based on a 1958 Ingmar Bergman film, *The Seventh Seal*. There a 12th century knight plays chess with the Reaper, hoping a victory might extend his time on Earth, though victory proves elusive. In Kam's remaking the Reaper is finally outpointed through cryonics.



Scene from *The Death of Death* by Charlie Kam

Christine Gaspar:

President of the Cryonics Society of Canada, Christine has a background in emergency, trauma and tele/triage nursing. She served in the Canadian Armed Forces and was also a licensed private investigator. As for her role in cryonics: "I'm the cryocritic. I'm the person who tells everybody that they're doing everything wrong and [I] try to make things better and try to help." Her talk mainly centered around a contract she has been offered by the Biomedical Research and Longevity Society (BRLS, formerly Life Extension Foundation) which supports Suspended Animation, Inc. Christine will be operating SA's Boynton Beach, FL facility to help improve readiness and capabilities for Florida and the East Coast. "By working as a contractor for BRLS, I'm going to have a bit of latitude in terms of being able to bring ideas in. I wouldn't necessarily be representing SA. I would be bringing my own thoughts into the process, and hopefully improving responsiveness, improving our ability to provide good standby, stabilization and transport for patients."





Ben Best



Jordan Sparks
(*not in attendance*)

Ben has been a cryonics activist since the 1980s when he helped incorporate the Cryonics Society of Canada. He was President of the Cryonics Institute for nine years and is currently Director of BRLS, the leading source of funds for cryonics-related research. Ben presented on Oregon Cryonics (OC), despite not being affiliated with that organization, noting some salient features: (1) three paid employees plus one unpaid employer, (2) privately funded by the employer, (3) no current membership program (but cryopreservation agreement), (4) no patient funding with life insurance, (5) no plans for a standby program, (6) no whole body patients accepted (heads and brains only). If these seem somewhat negative, the organization's employer is Dr. Jordan Sparks, D.M.D., who also heads Open Dental Software, which has about 200 employees and a nationwide clientele, and is used as a funding source. OC offers a low-cost chemical (aldehyde) preservation alternative to their brain cryopreservation (currently also aldehyde-stabilized). They have done extensive research with cadaver brains to better assess and refine their techniques, using in-house CT scanning. Ben's talk also covered assisted suicide laws such as are found in Oregon and some countries such as Switzerland, and might be used at OC, and newly-opened funding sources or prospective sources for cryonics research.

[Stay tuned for Part III in Alcor News October edition](#)

CRYONICS MAGAZINE

Printed version of *Cryonics magazine*

Cryonics magazine is back on schedule as a quarterly magazine at this time. If you have any questions about your subscription or want to make changes to your email or mailing address please email marji@alcor.org.



Scholar Profile: J Storrs Hall
page 10



Renewed Interest in Liquid Ventilation | Cryonics, Immortality, and Philosophy
page 3 page 12



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