



CATALYST

Growing Funds for Parkinson's Research

Your Support at Work

The Parkinson Alliance has always been committed to raising funds for the most promising Parkinson's disease research. Our goal is to not only help find a cure but to improve the quality of life in the Parkinson's community.

It is your contributions that make our work possible. With this new format of The Catalyst, we will highlight where your research dollars are going. We hope you will enjoy reading about new research initiatives and promising findings.

One of the most exciting research findings in the past year is that exercise has neuroprotective effects, which means it slows down the progression of the disease. Many of you know John Ball who is our co-chair of Team Parkinson. John has had PD for over 25 years and just ran his 14th marathon in under 5 hours! This is living proof of this concept! Your donations to Team Parkinson have helped to fund research at University of California at Los Angeles (USC) for the past several years. This year we are purchasing a Kodak Digital Imaging System to support ongoing studies in imaging changes in the brain, especially in the context of exercise.

The Parkinson Alliance awarded a grant to the University of Florida Movement Disorders Center to aid in Developing a Computerized Screening Tool for Parkinson's disease patients interested in DBS.

The purpose of this grant is to test COMPRESS (the comprehensive surgical screener for Parkinson's disease) as a one-stop, easy-to-use method of quickly but thoroughly assessing a Parkinson patient's readiness for DBS surgery.

Although appropriate patient selection is widely recognized as the first and most important step of successful DBS therapy in Parkinson's disease, there is no standardized assessment tool to accomplish this task. As a consequence, there may be confusion about referral criteria for DBS among general neurologists and other healthcare practitioners. These providers bring the majority of routine care to Parkinsonian patients. Tools are needed to help practitioners screen appropriate candidates for DBS.

For more information on research, our fundraising events, and related

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information, please visit our web site at www.parkinsonalliance.org. You can take pride knowing that 100% of your donation will go directly to Parkinson's research. ☺

"The Patient Perspective on Deep Brain Stimulation" Neural Interfaces Workshop

In August 2006, The Parkinson Alliance attended the Neural Interfaces Workshop in Bethesda, Maryland, which was sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). A significant portion of this conference was dedicated to presenting updates on and introducing recent research endeavors that help facilitate the understanding and enhancement of treatment for Parkinson's disease, as it relates to Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) therapy. Specifically, topics that were presented related to (1) understanding the mechanisms behind DBS, (2) optimizing deep brain stimulation implantation and targeting, (3) enhancing computer imagery and analyses in DBS therapy, and (4) improving DBS management.

Additionally, there was a presentation entitled "The Patient Perspective on Deep Brain Stimulation" which The Parkinson Alliance assisted in facilitating. Mrs. Margaret Tuchman, the President of The Parkinson Alliance and an individual with bilateral DBS-STN, spoke to the panel and said, "Frankly, what we need to do for patients is to give them far more information about how the different aspects of the surgery will fall into place and what each precise piece of knowledge will mean to them." Dr. David Heydrick, a neurologist with bilateral DBS-STN, also presented during this panel discussion.

Please visit our website www.DBS-STN.org to read Margaret's & David's speeches and for a summary of the conference.

Fund the Research—Find a Cure Parkinson's Unity Walk Community and Education Day

On Saturday, April 29th the Parkinson's disease community came together to instill spirit and optimism in those affected by the disease at the 12th Parkinson's Unity Walk.

Thousands of fundraisers from all over the country and the world raised over \$1.4 million dollars for Parkinson's research! Over 300 teams, including USA PD-PALS, who made their debut this year, helped to make this possible. Team Captains, Ann Marie Konopka of New Jersey and Judy Hensley of Tennessee had over 30 family and friends walk that day and collected over \$10,000 dollars. "We love the Unity Walk, it gives us a catalyst for hope," said Annie.



Action Network, both gave passionate speeches interrupted several times by applause. The Alan Bonander Humanitarian Award was presented to Bob Benjamin for his exceptional work in the Parkinson's community. Michelle Charlesworth, ABC-TV news media anchorwoman and master of ceremonies, then introduced actor Michael J. Fox. The crowd reacted with thunderous applause as he passionately spoke about Parkinson's and the importance of the Unity Walk.

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Founder and Chair of The Congressional Working Group on Parkinson's disease, and Amy Comstock, Chief Executive Officer of the Parkinson's

"It is incredible to see the strength and reach of the Walk increase each year. The Parkinson's Unity Walk gives people living with the disease hope, and impassions the community to help find a cure for this debilitating condition," commented Martin Tuchman, chairman of the Parkinson's Unity Walk. ☺



*Seated from left to right: Martin Tuchman, Janet Reno, Margot Zobel, Tamra Cantore;
standing from left to right: Marlene Kaban, May May Ali*



Team USA PD-PALS

Start Your Fundraising Now!

Join the
Parkinson's Unity Walk
Community &
Education Day
in April 2007

For more information,
please visit our web site at
www.unitywalk.org
or call
1-866-PUW-WALK
(1-866-789-9255)

Your Research Dollars at Work!

Genetic Determinants of Early-Onset Parkinson's disease

By unraveling the genetic defects causing rare forms of PD, the researchers expect to understand better and faster the mechanisms underlying the common, non-hereditary forms of the disease. The researchers aim to analyze the DNA (genetic code) from many patients with PD and their relatives in order to identify novel genes defective in this disease. They believe that this strategy will ultimately open novel avenues for curing and preventing PD. ☺

The M.O.S.T. Study: Mood and DBS

Unilateral and bilateral DBS have become a common treatment for medication refractory PD patients. Following DBS, practitioners have documented worrisome mood and behavioral side effects. The purpose of the study is to characterize these mood and behavioral changes and to improve and document the effective treatment strategies for patients experiencing these effects.

Read more about these and other projects funded by the Unity Walk by visiting our Grants and Funding page at www.unitywalk.org. ☺

Team Parkinson Runs for the Cause at the San Francisco Marathon Top Charity Two Years in a Row!

On July 30, 2006 Team Parkinson made its second appearance at the San Francisco Marathon and for the second year we were the top charity for the event as part of their "Cause to Run" program. We also had the most participants at 80, and most team money raised — over \$37,000 on race day and counting!

"I feel we are establishing good roots in San Francisco now, as we had quite a few participants from past years join us, and even more interest from new registrants that joined us for the first time this year," said Jen Bugnatto, Volunteer Chair for San Francisco. ☺



Our Special Thanks to Jen Bugnatto for her fourth year as Volunteer Chair in San Francisco!



"Every event needs a dedicated coordinator and we are so fortunate to have Jen."

— Team Parkinson Co-chairs, John & Edna Ball

1st Annual Team Parkinson Golf Classic

Approximately 64 golfers from all over Southern California participated in the event at Friendly Hills Country Club on May 15th.

After the tournament there was a raffle, a silent auction and a live auction featuring NBC 4's Fritz Coleman. Fritz did an outstanding job of entertaining the crowd with some hilarious comedy and then helped to raise over \$4,000 from a lively group of bidders.

The top fundraising item was a pair of gloves signed by The Greatest himself, none other than Muhammad Ali. The gloves were generously donated by Ali's daughter, May May Ali, and went for \$1,500! The tournament helped Team Parkinson cross the \$200,000 mark for funds raised in 2006. A very big thank you to Andrew Bunnin and Donna Tetreault, the entire Tetreault family and all the volunteers for all their hard work in making this event a success. ☺



Get Involved!



TEAM PARKINSON

You may participate in one of our established events, or use an upcoming event in your area to help Team Parkinson expand its fund raising efforts.

For more information call toll free 866-822-CURE or visit our website at www.team-parkinson.org.

Upcoming Events — 2007

Team Parkinson

Sunday, March 4th Los Angeles Marathon
Monday, July 16th 2nd Annual Team Parkinson Golf Classic
Sunday, July 29th San Francisco Marathon

Parkinson's Unity Walk — April 2007

Come and join thousands in Manhattan's beautiful Central Park for an event-filled day at the 13th Parkinson's Unity Walk. Please check the website (www.unitywalk.org) in November for the confirmed date.

Carnegie Center Fun Run and 5K

The weather conditions were absolutely perfect for the record number of runners and walkers who participated in the 7th Annual Carnegie Center 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run for The Parkinson Alliance held on Saturday, September 30th. The Parkinson Alliance raised close to \$40,000!

This year's event was once again supported by a number of corporate sponsors including Interpool, Inc., Boston Properties, GE Healthcare, Kyowa Pharmaceuticals, The Residence Inn at Carnegie Center, Tyco, Washington Group International, Yardville National Bank, NRG Energy, Inc., The Ruderman Family, Akros Pharma, Lawrence Shopping Center, NAI Fennelly and The Hyatt Regency Princeton.

During our post race party, participants of the 5K and Fun Run enjoyed delicious food generously donated by Newport Foods/Compass Group and had an opportunity to win one of more than 30 door prizes that were donated by local businesses and sports teams.

Mr. Jay Destribats, Chairman of Yardville National Bank, was presented the King Award, named after Joseph G. Fennelly, in recognition of YNB's dedication and humanitarian efforts to the community and their continued support of The Parkinson Alliance.

The Parkinson Alliance wishes to thank all of the corporate sponsors, runners, walkers and volunteers who helped to make this year's event a tremendous success!

Please visit our web site at www.parkinsonalliance.org for a list of race winners. ☺



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100% of net proceeds from all events goes directly to Parkinson's research.

For the latest news on upcoming events,
please visit our Web site at www.parkinsonalliance.org