



Thinking Ahead

support education research awareness

A PUBLICATION OF THE BRAIN ANEURYSM FOUNDATION

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Together

we comfort and support

we teach and learn

we fund research
that saves lives

we are
**The Brain Aneurysm
Foundation**

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Exciting News: Senate Resolution Making September National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month Passes, Still More Work to Do

We are extremely excited to announce that the Senate Resolution S.Res.248 recognizing September as “National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month” has passed in the Senate. We are grateful to Senator John Kerry for sponsoring the resolution and to Senator Scott Brown and Senator Olympia Snowe for co-sponsoring this resolution.

If you are one of the over 3,500 people who went online and signed the petition and have sent out over 7,000 letters to Congressional representatives, we thank you for

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

YOU Raise the Foundation Up

By: Christine Buckley

It is amazing how quickly time passes and how certain events mark the passage of time through the year. I cannot believe another September – Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month -has come and gone and that another fruitful year at The Brain Aneurysm Foundation is coming to a close.

It was so very exciting to finally have the Senate pass a resolution to establish September as National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month. This has been a four year long initiative to have some recognition on a national level from our legislators. I was extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to meet with both Senator Kerry and Senator Brown of Massachusetts while in Washington D.C. to thank them both in person for their support of brain aneurysm awareness and for their understanding of the importance of a nationally unified effort to bring the attention that is needed to this deadly disease in order to save more lives in the future.

The only reason that I was able to stand in our nation's capitol representing each of you is because YOU made it possible. When the foundation decided to embark on the Rally Congress initiative to make Congress hear the voices of those affected by brain aneurysms, we asked for your support, and YOU answered the call and made a difference. To date approximately 10,000 letters of support to make September National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month have been sent to the Congress and our Vice President, who is a brain aneurysm survivor. Letters have been sent from all 50 states!

I am going to assume many of you have heard Josh Groban sing, "I am strong, when I am on your shoulders" in his ever popular rendition of You Raise Me Up, this sentiment from this line of the song is evident in the strength of the foundation as a result of YOUR support and it certainly conveys how I felt on Capitol Hill meeting my state's U.S. Senators who indeed did respond to your letters. So, I thank all of you who participated in this initiative and "raised me up" to a place I would not have been without your dedication to the foundation and your desire to make lives better for people affected by brain aneurysms today and in the future.

As another year comes to a close, I thank you again for the many ways you have supported the foundation and given us the strength and ability to continually make an impact. I wish all of you a wonderful new year ahead filled with good health and happiness.

Take care-



Christine

Senate Resolution *continued from page 1*

helping us to make this happen! We couldn't have done it without you.

However, the House Resolution H.Res. 341 has still not been passed, so please sign the online petition at <http://bafound.rallycongress.com/>, to send a message to your representatives in the House and to Vice President Joe Biden, a two time aneurysm survivor.

We hope to get Vice President Biden's support of The Brain Aneurysm Foundation. So far, over 1000 letters have been faxed to him. We need to get more letters sent to him at <http://bafound.rallycongress.com/4997/urge-vice-president->

[joe-biden-to-publicly-support-brain-aneurysm/](http://bafound.org/joe-biden-to-publicly-support-brain-aneurysm/) We don't know how many more letters we'll need, but we do know that your letter **WILL MATTER**.

1 in 50 people will develop a brain aneurysm. If a brain aneurysm is diagnosed early with proper screening, it can be treated before it ruptures. Lives can be saved if people know the risks, the signs, and when to get help.

It is critical that you help raise awareness of brain aneurysms, including methods of early detection and treatment.

We need you to **TAKE ACTION** and sign the online petition today.



Tell Congress:
Put Brain Aneurysm Awareness On The Map
You Can Help Declare September as National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month

TAKE ACTION **SIGN THE ONLINE PETITION AT:**
<http://zmb.me/BAFPetition>

1
 Select "Take Action" to send a message to your Congressional Representatives

2
 Select "Urge Vice President Joe Biden to Publicly Support Brain Aneurysm Resolutions" Vice President Biden is a two time brain aneurysm survivor.

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) #74342 Update

By Sheryl Baker

My husband and I presented information on Brain Aneurysm Awareness at two Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) events this weekend. We had the opportunity to distribute brochures and bracelets to the runners at the 5K in Bremerton, WA and to the employees at the Keyport Naval Facility's annual Chili Cookoff.

The CFC is the only authorized charitable fundraising campaign for federal employees, both civilian and military. The official campaign runs from mid-September through mid December each year. The Brain Aneurysm Foundation is a participating organization that government employees can donate to. The BAF's CFC number is **74342**. I would like to encourage everyone to get involved in their local CFC events.



Sheryl Baker representing the BAF 74342 at a local CFC event

Fifth Annual Research Grant Symposium

The Brain Aneurysm Foundation had a wonderful evening overlooking Central Park on September 22, 2011 at the New York Athletic club for their 5th Annual Research Grant Symposium.



Dr. David Langer, Dr. David Chalif, Dr. Philip Steig

The Foundation awarded \$160,000 in grants to eight individuals conducting scientific research directed at early detection, improved treatment modalities, and technological advances that will ultimately improve outcomes for patients with brain aneurysms.



Lauren Sherwin, Dr. William Ashley, and Christine Buckley

The evening was hosted by the North Shore LIJ Brain Aneurysm Center and the Cushing Neuroscience Institute and the guest presenter was Dr. L. Nelson Hopkins, Professor and Chairman of Neurosurgery, Professor of Radiology and Director of the Toshiba Stroke Research Center at the University of Buffalo.



North Shore LIJ Support Group Members

The evening was a time for a spectrum of people somehow affected or involved in the field of brain aneurysms to come together. There were physicians, nurses, and other

medical professionals. There were survivors and their families, as well as the families and friends of those that have lost someone.

There were corporate supporters whose companies make devices for the treatment of aneurysms. This was an emotional evening as survivors were reveling in their recovery while at the same time others were still mourning their loss. But in the end, everyone could leave with the sense that there is hope for future patients and that research is being done today to help save the lives of others tomorrow.



Ginny Tocci, Nancy Jarecki

Congratulations to our 2011 Research Grant Recipients

The 2011 Award Recipients

Carol W. Harvey Memorial Chair of Research - \$25,000

William J. Mack, M.D., Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. "MRI Perfusion and Permeability and Matrix Metalloproteinase 9 levels: Association with Cerebral Vasospasm Following Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Hemorrhage"

North Shore University Hospital, Brain Aneurysm Center Chair of Research - \$25,000

Jinglu Ai, Ph.D, M.D., Research Associate, St. Michael's Hospital, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON. "Molecular Mechanisms of Memory Loss Following Subarachnoid Hemorrhage"

Shirley Dudek Demmer Chair of Research - \$25,000

Tomoki Hashimoto, M.D., Associate Professor, University of California, San Francisco, CA. "Pharmacological Prevention of the Rupture of Intracranial Aneurysm"

Annie's Chair of Research - \$20,000

Koji Hosaka, Ph.D, Instructor, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. "Aneurysm Healing and Vascular Repair: Modulating Inflammatory Process via MIP-1 α and MIP-2"

Cynthia Lynn Sherwin Chair of Research - \$20,000

William Ashley, Jr., Ph.D., M.D., MBA, Assistant Professor, University of Texas at Houston, Houston, TX. "Neuroproteomic Analysis of CSF-derived Microparticles in Cerebral Vasospasm Following Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Hemorrhage"

Timothy P. Susco Chair of Research - \$20,000

David K. Kung, M.D., Resident, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA. "The Role of Aspirin in Cerebral Aneurysm Formation and Rupture"

Robert Simon Chair of Research - \$15,000

L. Fernando Gonzalez, M.D., Assistant Professor, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA. "The Effect of Sequential Flow Diversion Stenting, with Pipeline Embolization Device on the Aneurysm Pressure"

Danielle Elizabeth Bledy Chair of Research - \$10,000

Dharam Persaud, B.Sc., M.S.B.E., Ph.D., Student, Biomedical Engineering, Florida International University, Miami, FL. "Novel Biodegradable Alloys Designed for the Treatment of Cerebral Aneurysms"

Thank you to our new Chairs of Research established in 2011

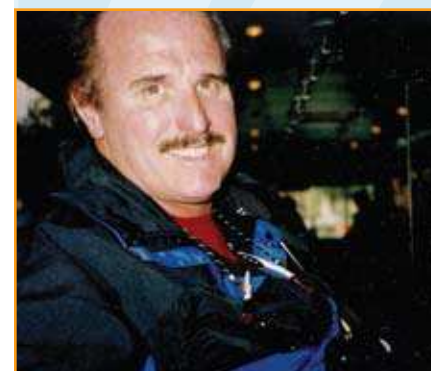
Annie's Chair of Research

In August 2010, Annie Curtin passed away as the result of a ruptured brain aneurysm; she was just 6 years old. Annie was a sweet and vivacious child who packed a lot of life into those six years. She left behind wonderful memories and stories and a family and friends who miss her dearly - she will live forever in our hearts. One of her favorite activities was Irish Step Dancing and Annie's friends and family - led by Kathleen Keady and the Pender-Keady Irish Step Dance Academy - raised \$20,000 to establish Annie's Chair to further research in the area of brain aneurysms.



Robert Simon Chair of Research

In March 23, 2011, Robert Simon lost his life at the age of 60, the result of a ruptured brain aneurysm. To honor his memory, Pelican Athletic Club Charity Foundation donated the proceeds from its annual fundraising tournament, Aces Against



Aneurysms, to the Brain Aneurysm Foundation. The Aces Against Aneurysms organization helps to raise awareness in the Gulf South region about the potentially deadly condition. Rebecca Winchell, a survivor of a ruptured brain aneurysm, established the tournament

in 2010 as well as a website (www.brainsupportnola.com) and support group in the New Orleans area.

Robert Simon was a loving husband, father of two children and an avid tennis player. The tournament is now dedicating its funds in his memory so that research and efforts to reduce the number of deadly aneurysms may continue. "

Danielle Bledy Chair of Research

Danielle was a unique, special girl with beautiful hazel eyes and a huge, beaming smile. She was a joy to us - a loving daughter who enjoyed spending time with her family. She loved to snuggle on the sofa, watching movies. Every night she liked to be tucked into bed and given a good night kiss.

She touched more people in her thirteen short years of life than most people do in a lifetime. Danielle never had an unkind word or deed for anyone. She was true to herself and refused to conform just to fit in. She loved wearing jeans and T-shirts and her Chuck Taylor's. It was rare that she wore a dress, but when she did she looked beautiful. She loved playing the guitar, and we can still hear the opening chords of "Smoke on the Water."



Animals were her passion, and Danielle planned to become a vet. She also loved basketball, and played daily with her friends on the block. I can't listen to the sound of the basketball bouncing outside without seeing her playing in my mind.

We are looking to support Danielle's passions through charity, as well as raise funds to donate to research brain aneurysms, the silent killer that took her life.

Carol W. Harvey Chair of Research

Carol W. Harvey suffered a brain aneurysm on July 17, 2002. She passed away on July 30, 2002 due to complication from vasospasm. She was 52 years old. She lived in Buffalo, NY and was the wife of Jeffrey Harvey and mother of Jeffrey Harvey II and Karen Harvey.

A Visit to Our Nation's Capitol

The foundation was an exhibitor at the Congress of Neurological Surgeons in Washington D.C. the first week of October. As always, the conference allows the foundation the visibility to be amongst many of the top neurosurgeons from around the world for three days and allows us the opportunity to share with them our resources for their patients.

While in D.C, some of the foundation representatives also had the chance to meet with both Senator Kerry and Senator Brown

to thank them for sponsoring and co-sponsoring the Senate resolution 248 which was passed, thereby proclaiming September as National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month. Both Senators were very gracious and happy to support the work of the foundation.

We are grateful to these Massachusetts Senators as well as Senator Olympia Snowe of Maine for supporting this important legislation which will give a voice to all those impacted by a brain aneurysm at the same time each year.



Dr. Robert Rosenwasser, Joy Fischer, Kathy Redelman, Senator Scott Brown, Christine Buckley, Josh Truitt



Christine Buckley, Senator John Kerry, and Joy Fischer

TEAMCINDY Was Strong in 2011

TeamCindy had another successful year raising approximately \$60,000 from four events; Lake Placid Ironman, Escape from Alcatraz, The London Tri, and the Coeur D'Alene Ironman with the participation of 10 athletes.



Lake Placid participants in the back row (Frank Eeckman, Joann Chitko, Megan Gardiner, Dan Belmonte, and Dave Bracket) with family and friends.

TeamCindy honors the life of Cynthia Lynn Sherwin and promotes widespread public awareness of the dangers of a ruptured brain aneurysm – the sudden and silent killer that took her life and the lives of thousands of others each year. Cindy was a dedicated athlete, marathoner and triathlete. She was struck down at the young

age of 33 while training for her first Ironman, Lake Placid 2007.

TeamCindy enables and encourages athletes to participate in elite endurance events in Cindy's name and to raise awareness and money to continue the fight against this deadly disease through The Brain Aneurysm Foundation.

TeamCindy was founded in 2008 when one athlete participated in the Ford Tempe Ironman in Cindy's honor. Every year since, a growing number of TeamCindy athletes have participated in key endurance events throughout country.

Please visit www.teamcindy.org to see where TeamCindy will be in 2012!

Annual Boston Area Awareness Event

The Brain Aneurysm Foundation is grateful to Codman Neurovascular for hosting our local awareness event entitled "What you Want to Know about Brain Aneurysm Treatment and Recovery" at the Depuy Institute in Raynham, MA.

We were fortunate to have Dr. Christopher Ogilvy of Massachusetts General Hospital and Dr. Ken Snyder of University



Dr. Ken Snyder and Dr. Chris Ogilvy

at Buffalo Neurosurgery as our guest presenters. They were able to have an interactive forum with about 100 guests. The evening started with a heartfelt welcome from Tyisha Fernandes of Fox 25 News in Boston who shared her experiences of the recent loss of her mother to a brain aneurysm and her willingness to be an advocate for brain aneurysm awareness. We were very honored to have Tyisha as part of our program.

Lastly, the night ended with brain aneurysm survivor and BAF Board Member Joe Rooney sharing his journey of recovery from a brain aneurysm. Joe's uplifting spirit and message of love each day you have and love those around you touched the hearts of all and he truly was an inspiration to all as well as a source of hope for all the survivors in the crowd. Thank you Joe!



Joe Rooney and Mrs. Peg Rooney



Tyisha Fernandes and Mr. Fernandes



Kelly Leadem and Adrienne Ordway

We look forward to our newly designed and revised educational booklets being available before the year's end. We are going from three booklets to two, with all treatment options in one book and recovery in another. We are very thankful to Codman Neurovascular for providing the funding for a year's worth of booklets to be distributed to individuals as well as hospitals worldwide.



Webinars Reaching Across the Seas

The foundation is very grateful to Dr. Aaron Cohen-Gadol of Goodman Campbell Brain and Spine, Indiana University Department of Neurological Surgery for providing the forum for support group webinars.

Participants are able to submit questions to the guest presenter by typing them in. The guest presenter whether a physician, nurse, or therapist will try to answer as many questions as possible. The webinars will last about 45-60 minutes. We have had people on the webinars from as far as Argentina, England, and Australia.

The foundation is proud to have presented four webinars this year since we started in August. The webinars are all available after the fact online. The topics covered so far have been:

- **"Rehabilitation After A Subarachnoid Hemorrhage: How We Can Accelerate Recovery"** Presented by Aaron Cohen-Gadol, MD, Erin Palmer, RN, Susan Buchanan, PT, Sharon Murphy, OT, and Theresa Arness, ST.
- **"Brain Aneurysms and Subarachnoid Hemorrhage: What**

Caregivers Need to Know" with Neurosurgeon Dr. Aaron Cohen-Gadol of Goodman Campbell Brain and Spine and Indiana University Department of Neurological Surgery, Erin Palmer, RN and Sandy Bailey, RN.

- **"Cerebral Aneurysms and Subarachnoid Hemorrhage: An Open Forum of Questions and Answers"** with Neurosurgeons Dr. Christopher Ogilvy of Massachusetts General Hospital and Dr. Aaron Cohen-Gadol at Goodman Campbell Brain and Spine and Indiana University Department of Neurological Surgery.
- **"The Care of Cerebral Aneurysms: What the patient needs to know for improved recovery"** presented by Dr. Aaron Cohen-Gadol.

To view any of these informative webinars go to <http://www.bafound.org/webinars>

We will continue to have webinars generally every other month if not every month on a variety of topics. This has proven to be a great opportunity for those who are not able to attend Brain Aneurysm Support Group meetings in person.

Online Brain Aneurysm Support Group Reaches 2,000 Members

By Ginny Tocci

Early in 2010, Ben Munoz, AVM survivor and creator of the Ben's Friends network of patient communities, introduced me to the AVM Survivors Support Community. We immediately recognized the value of an online support community that had much more functionality than previous chat board forums and asked Ben to help us create The Brain Aneurysm Forum Support Community. Our support community is a dedicated patient-to-patient support community for families affected by brain aneurysms. Ben did this on a pro bono basis for The Brain Aneurysm Foundation.

We are proud to say in the past year and a half, our community, which is free to all members, has grown to 2,000 members. With deep gratitude, we want to thank Ben for his vision, which has allowed the creation of many other support communities for those affected by rare conditions. Learn more at bensfriends.org.

So many of those affected by brain aneurysms have found a home, a place to share their joys and concerns, with new friends facing the same issues.

Comments from Brain Aneurysm Foundation Support Community Members:

Linda:

"I have posted many times what the BAF Support group has meant to me. To sum it up, despite having a wonderful family and friend support group around me, I consider my BAF Support family to have gotten me through the most difficult time I've ever experienced in my short 50 years of life. I just wanted to thank everyone here for opening up, making me feel comforted and not alone in this journey and sharing the stories, the emotions, the ups and the downs that have become an important part of my healing process. We are so blessed to have found each other and I thank you all for coming into my life."

Karen:

"I want to thank you for your personal support and encouragement in the short time that I have been a member of this family. You have responded and supported my concerns and made me feel better and not so scared. The after Annie life is different, but, the support you have given me means so much to my

healing! Thank you again for your support and being in my life."

Princess Warrior:

"I thank God every day for you guys, don't know what I would have done.. No one gets "it" like you all do on here... Even though they try.. And we love them for being there for us."

Coleen:

"Ben, Thank you from the "bottom of my heart" for making this site possible. I do not know what I would have done when I first found out about my Annie's...being able to share my fears with the group and knowing they understood and knew what I was going through...and continue to go through. Now it is important to me to "pay it forward" by helping others along this journey. Being a "moderator" is an important job to me. When it all comes down to it, supporting others and being supported is what it is all about. Thank you for giving me and others this place. You are often in my thoughts."

Linda:

"Ben, thank you for everything you have done to develop and grow my beloved BAF family of support. Your insight has been an inspiration to all of us who have taken to the idea of having an online support group who definitely feel like family. I have said many times that BAF support has saved my life, that although my family and friends are the best support group anyone could ask for. My BAF family "gets me"!!! Thank you just doesn't seem enough."

Laurie:

"Ben, thank you so much for doing such a wonderful thing, it has helped me learn a lot about the new me."

Karen:

"Thank you for the creation of this community! It is most encouraging and full of positive energy! God Bless these friends and support, it is a true blessing."

If you would like to become part of The Brain Aneurysm Foundation Support Community family, you can join by going to www.bafsupport.org

Research Project Update

By David Frakes, M.D.

The long-term goal of our work at the Arizona State University Image Processing Applications Laboratory is to develop improved endovascular treatments for cerebral aneurysms through experimentation and simulation. Over the past year, funding from the Brain Aneurysm Foundation has enabled us to make significant progress toward that goal.

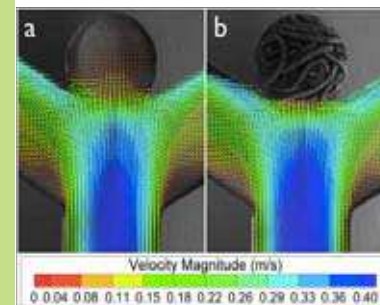


Figure 1. Results from coiling experiment.

Specifically, experiments were performed on a range of idealized and anatomical aneurysm models that were treated with embolic coils. An example of the results from one experiment is shown below in Figure 1. The results of our experiments enabled us to develop new, more realistic computer models of embolic coils that can be used in simulations. Now that we have those improved computer models, we can apply them to simulate and optimize treatments

for specific patients before actual procedures are performed. In addition to embolic coils, we have also developed computer models of other endovascular devices to be used in the same way. For example, a computer of a new low-porosity stent design is shown below in Figure 2. All of the models are currently being tested in additional validation studies to ensure that they perform accurately before any clinical use. We are hopeful that the new techniques we have developed will soon be used to help patients directly. As a result of the research that the Brain Aneurysm Foundation has supported in our lab, grant funding has been acquired from several other sources. The American Heart Association awarded our lab \$132,000 to continue developing treatment planning for cerebral aneurysms and the Arizona Biomedical Research Commission awarded us \$130,000 to perform a related project that calls for the simulation of transitional arterial flows.

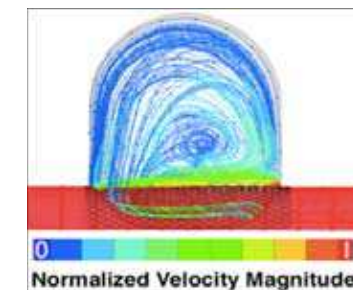


Figure 2. Simulation of new stent design.



Another Reason to Like Us on Facebook - New Facebook Memorial and Survivor Photo Walls

You may have noticed on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bafound that there is a new tab on the left called BAFound Photos. When you click on it, you have the option of uploading photos in memory of a loved one or in honor of a survivor of a brain aneurysm. Share your loved one's photo on The Memorial Wall or post your own photo and tell your story on our Survivor Wall.



Events

Jones Beach Walk Raises \$67,000 for Brain Aneurysm Foundation

Despite overcast skies, more than 600 participants, including brain aneurysm survivors and their family and friends, took part in North Shore-LIJ's Third Annual Brain Aneurysm Awareness Walk at Jones Beach State Park in Wantagh on October 1, 2011.

The event was co-sponsored by the Brain Aneurysm Center of the North Shore-LIJ Health System's Cushing Neuroscience Institute, along with The Brain Aneurysm Foundation (BAF). Approximately \$67,000 raised from the walk was donated to the BAF to support essential research that may directly benefit those affected and help to reduce the incidence of ruptured aneurysms. Many doctors, nurses and staff members from Brain Aneurysm Center at North Shore University Hospital (NSUH) in Manhasset came to the event to show their support of the many patients they have treated over the years. Among the physicians present were Dr. David Chalif and Dr. Avi Setton, co-directors of NSUH's Brain Aneurysm Center.

"One of the goals of this event is to increase awareness about the warning signs of a brain aneurysm," said Dr. Chalif. "The symptoms can include severe headache, nausea, blurred or double vision, stiff neck or neck pain, pain above or behind the eye, and loss of sensation."

Also present was Ginny Tocci, Director of Development and Administration, for The Brain Aneurysm Foundation. At the event, she thanked the many teams and fundraisers present who had set up fundraising web pages resulting in the tremendous level of donations raised, including almost \$15,000 raised by Kristine Calzadilla of Liberty Travel, who set up a cruise raffle.

Many thanks to Dr. Chalif, Dr. Setton, Nicole Salant and Jenn Laffey for all their help in organizing this event. Part of the proceeds from the walk will fund the North Shore University Hospital, Brain Aneurysm Center Chair of Research.



1st Step for Hope a Tremendous Success

It was only a short time ago that two brain aneurysm survivors were linked together by fate and joined forces to make a difference. Both young ladies were diagnosed with brain aneurysms at the age of 23 and 25. After going through surgery (Lauren's clipped

and Roopa's coiled and stented), the two girls met and felt the need to do something about a disease too many know too little about. Lauren Melnick, 25 and Roopa Desai, 28 set out on a mission to raise

awareness, provide education to help increase early detection and to support individuals and families who have been affected by a brain aneurysm. As a result, Step for Hope was created.

On September 24, 2011, the First Annual Brain Aneurysm Step for Hope 5K Run and 1 Mile Walk made its impact in the Midwest. The event was held in Carol Stream, Illinois and over 200 brain aneurysm awareness supporters gathered to participate in the run/walk. Survivors and their family members, families and friends of those lost to a brain aneurysm, and awareness advocates all



KAT-Walk 4 Brain Aneurysm Awareness: Portland, Maine

The 3rd annual KAT-Walk 4 Brain Aneurysm Awareness was held on September 10, 2011. The ocean side Back Cove Boulevard in Portland, Maine was the perfect backdrop for this event that hosted over 200 walkers, a successful silent auction and 50/50 raffle. The KAT-Walk was originally organized in the memory of Kimberly Ann Tudor who died of a sudden brain aneurysm rupture in 2008, at the age of 32.

This year, new families and friends joined in the walk and we had the opportunity to show our support by welcoming them to the brain aneurysm community here in Maine. Our heartfelt thanks

Wilson Walk Starts Fundraising For Next Year

On September 15, 2011, The Wilson Walk held its first 'Awareness in September Happy Hour', along with the help of Catherine Rooney's Irish Pub & Restaurant. The happy hour not only brought local supporters together once again, but also gave us all a chance to celebrate the recent passing of September as Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month in Delaware. After a few hours of catching up, enjoying a few drinks with friends, and purchasing raffle tickets, we gave away some very generous gifts to local salons, hardware stores, gift shops and more.

We were proud, as always, to donate a large amount of money to The Brain Aneurysm Foundation & have already started planning the next Wilson Walk event. Thank you to all of you for your continued support and keep an eye out for our 2nd Annual 5K & 1 Mile Walk taking place on April 22, 2012 at The Wilmington Riverfront.

came together on this sunny day to send a powerful message of hope. With the help of sponsors, fundraisers and volunteers, the event was a huge success and \$21,000 was raised for The Brain Aneurysm Foundation. A new Chair of Research, The Step for Hope Chair of Research will be established in 2012 with the proceeds from this walk. In the many years to follow, Step for Hope will continue its mission for raising brain aneurysm awareness and research and bringing noise to this silent killer.

Lauren and Roopa feel extremely fortunate to have been in the company of such amazing supporters and to support others. They made strong, lasting bonds with incredible people on the event day and in the planning process. They look forward to the Second Annual Step for Hope event and hope to make it bigger and better. To learn more about upcoming events, stay tuned at www.bafound.org, www.diagnosedtooyoung.com, and www.stepforhope.com prior to next year's event!



2nd Annual Survivor in the City Party in Chicago

By Janet Southerland

More than one hundred and fifty people attended the Second Annual "Survivor In The City" Cocktail Party and Silent Auction to benefit the Brain Aneurysm Foundation (BAF) on Friday, September 30th. The event theme, "Learn from yesterday and focus on tomorrow," is the long term goal of the Chicago Chapter of the BAF based at the Department of Neurosurgery, University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System.

Those in attendance were brain aneurysm survivors, some who traveled from as far as Kentucky and Wisconsin, friends and family members who have lost loved ones, and medical professionals, including keynote speaker from the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System, Department of Neurosurgery Chief, Dr. Fady Charbel. He spoke of the importance of early detection for brain aneurysms. Dr. Charbel is also the Head of the Illinois Brain Aneurysm Center, first in the state for treating the most aneurysm cases.

The event also featured Chicago White Sox Legend Carlos May, who in the 1960's lost his thumb but overcame this obstacle to have a successful baseball career. May handed out the "Rising Star" award to brain aneurysm survivor Maria Micheletto for her pursuit in the nursing field. Survivor Betsy Riley was also given the "Rising Star" award for creating four hundred brain aneurysm bracelets for the foundation which raised \$10,000. Survivor Avis Williams was given an "In Gratitude" award for making two hundred BAF magnets to sell and distribute to attendees.

While we were able to match the same money that was raised last year, (\$6,000), we also accomplished numerous other goals. In September, we were able to launch two more brain aneurysm support groups; one at Resurrection Medical Center in Chicago, and another targeting survivors in the south and western suburbs at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital. We also kicked off an awareness campaign in Illinois which involved numerous newspaper articles, two radio public service announcements, and one cable public service announcement reaching millions of Illinoisans. The Chicago Chapter of the BAF will continue to support all Illinois brain aneurysm survivors through multiple partnerships with area hospitals, the media, and local businesses. We are now celebrating our four year anniversary and have learned that medicine can save lives, but love and faith can create miracles.



Dr. Fady Charbel, Susan Wienczek, and Andrea Darlas



go to "Team Karolina", who participated in honor of another Maine native, Karolina Kurka, who passed away at age 28 from a brain aneurysm.

The KAT-Walk for 2011 raised in excess of \$10,000 for The Brain Aneurysm Foundation and we are proud these funds will help to provide critical awareness, education, support and research funding. Thanks to all that made the day a huge success. Please visit: www.kat-walk.org for more on Kim and the event.

Number of Support Groups Continues to Grow!

The list of support groups for those affected by brain aneurysms continues to expand.

Brain Aneurysm Support Group Locations:

Massachusetts

- Boston Massachusetts Group
- Plymouth Massachusetts Group
- Merrimack Valley Support Group
- Brigham and Women's Hospital Brain Aneurysm Support Group
- Lowell General Hospital Brain Aneurysm Support Group
- The South Shore Support Group
- Cape Cod Brain Aneurysm - Injury Support Group, Sandwich, MA

Northeast

- Long Island Support Group
- Brain Aneurysm & AVM Support Group, Port Jefferson Station, NY
- Brain Aneurysm & AVM Support Group, Lake Success, NY
- Rochester NY Support Group
- Northern New England Brain Aneurysm Support Group in Concord, NH
- New York City Support Group
- Philadelphia Support Group

Midwest

- Indianapolis Neurosurgical Group
- Madison Area Cerebral Aneurysm Support Group
- University of Illinois Medical Center Dept of Neurosurgery Support Group
- Chicago Northwest Suburban Brain Aneurysm Support Group
- The Neurosciences Institute at Central DuPage Hospital Brain Aneurysm Support Group, Winfield, IL
- The DuPage County Brain Aneurysm Support Group, Hinsdale, IL
- Kansas City, MO Brain Aneurysm Support Group
- Twin Cities -The National Brain Aneurysm Center Support Group
- The University of Michigan Brain Aneurysm and AVM Support Group
- Tri-State Brain Aneurysm Support Group, Inc.

Southeast

- Nashville Tennessee Group
- Atlanta Support Group
- Naples-Fort Myers Brain Aneurysm Support Group
- Orlando Brain Aneurysm Support Group

- Deerfield Beach, FL Support Group
- Tampa Bay Area Brain Aneurysm Support Group
- Baltimore, MD Brain Aneurysm Foundation Support Group
- Falls Church, VA Brain Aneurysm Support Group
- Florida Brain Aneurysm Support Group in Gainesville
- Mayo Clinic Support Group in Jacksonville, FL
- Brain Aneurysm Support Group in Mandeville, LA
- Vanderbilt University Support Group

Southwest

- Littleton Colorado Brain Aneurysm Foundation Support Group
- Exempla Lutheran Medical Center Brain Aneurysm Foundation Support Group
- Dallas TX Support Group
- Houston TX Support Group
- Beaumont Texas Brain Aneurysm Support Group
- San Antonio Support Group

West Coast

- Bay Area Aneurysm and Vascular Malformation Support Group
- Sacramento CA Support Group
- Washington Brain Aneurysm Support Group
- Northwest Aneurysm Support Group
- Oregon Brain Aneurysm Support Group
- Brain Aneurysm/AVM Support Group in Newport Beach, CA

Canada

- Nova Scotia Support Group
- Winnipeg Manitoba Support Group
- Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Canada Support Group

For more information on support group meeting times go to <http://www.bafound.org/support-2>

Don't see a support group in your area? If you are interested in starting a support group, contact office@bafound.org.

We also have a very supportive online community at www.bafsupport.org

Upcoming Events

SAT., NOVEMBER 5, 2011

3rd Annual John Assante Memorial Walk, Palm Beach Gardens, FL

SAT., NOVEMBER 5, 2011

The 2011 Brejcha Memorial Softball Tournament, Escondido, CA

SUN., NOVEMBER 6, 2011

Bowl-a-Thon, Pennsauken, NJ

SUN., NOVEMBER 6, 2011

Betty Koch Epperson 3rd Annual Walk, Winston-Salem, NC

SAT., NOVEMBER 19, 2011

Bowling for Caytie, High Point, NC

SAT., DECEMBER 3, 2011

Brain Surge 5K, Gainesville, FL

For more information about upcoming events, please go to www.bafound.org

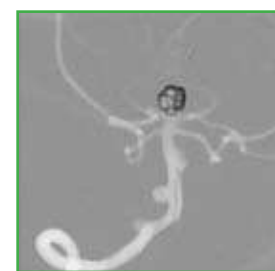
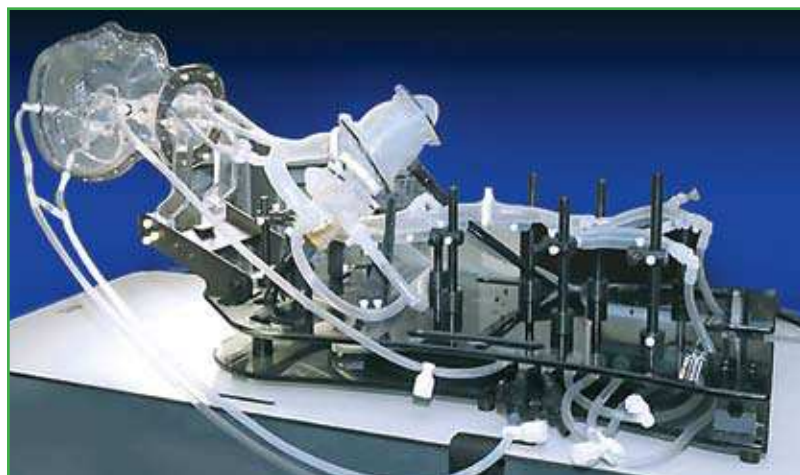
CORPORATE SPONSORS

The Brain Aneurysm Foundation wishes to recognize the following corporate sponsors for their generous contributions:



A New Way To Practice Treating Intracranial Aneurysms

Vascular Simulations LLC. has developed a novel device that replicates brain blood vessels and brain aneurysms. In addition to the cerebral blood vessels, the Vascular Replicator also has a functioning heart and aorta so that physicians can practice performing endovascular procedures on brain aneurysms exactly as they are performed in real cases. Unlike the current generation of software based simulators which are essentially video games, the Replicator has actual vessels made of silicon with a circulating fluid that mimics the pulsatile blood flow in patients. Any catheter (tubes placed into blood vessels), wire used to navigate catheters into brain vessels or device used to treat brain aneurysms such as coils, balloons and stents can also be used in the Replicator. The fluid has been altered so that



the devices perform identically to actual cases of aneurysm treatment. For some aneurysms, in particular ones that have not bled, it would be possible to replicate that aneurysm and practice the procedure before a patient is treated.

The Replicator starts with functioning chambers of the heart that pumps fluid exactly the way that the left atrium and ventricle of a patient pumps blood into the circulation. The pressure waveforms within the circulation are identical to those in patients. The intracranial blood vessels can also be modeled by taking real angiograms, CT angiograms or MR angiograms and are converted into silicon replicas. The blood vessels are then housed in a gel that mimics the housing of blood vessels in the skull and brain. The system can be filled with any fluid including actual blood itself and a simple switch starts the heart pumping. A synthetic clear "blood analog" has also been created so that devices used in the replicated vessels will behave identically to the actual procedure itself. For the

first time physicians will be able to practice an endovascular procedure with the identical anatomy and pathology that they will ultimately treat clinically.

The utility of the Replicator extends beyond just training physicians and practicing complex neuroendovascular procedures. It also represents an opportunity for medical device companies to test early generation prototypes in an environment as close to "real life" as possible. The Replicator is also CT and MR compatible so imaging companies looking to evaluate new methods of assessing blood flow can do so quantitatively in human type vasculature.

Training courses using the Replicator have already been performed at Stony Brook University. Recently, the Replicator was used for the American Association of Neurological Surgeons Resident Training Course in Memphis, Tennessee and was also present at the 2011 Congress of Neurological Surgeons meeting in Washington D.C.

Vascular Simulations LLC is based in Stony Brook Long Island and also manufactures at a facility in Stuart FL. The website is www.vascularsimulations.com.

The Brain Aneurysm Foundation would like to thank Microvention for their generous donation in honor of their parent company, Terumo Corporation's 90th anniversary.

We appreciate your dedication to the treatment of brain aneurysms.



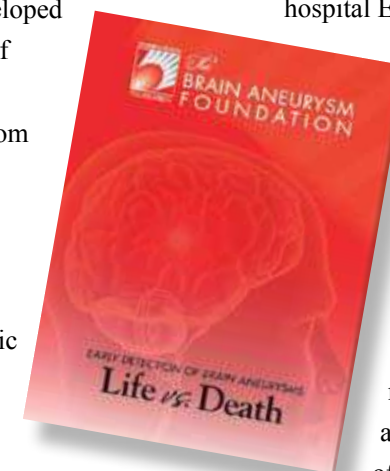
Early Detection Videos Available for First Responders

To help ensure the proper diagnosis of brain aneurysms, The Brain Aneurysm Foundation has developed an educational video entitled Early Detection of Brain Aneurysms: Life vs. Death. Designed to educate primary care physicians, emergency room physicians, nurses and emergency medical technicians on the early detection of brain aneurysms, this 20 minute video focuses on recognizing the symptoms related to a brain aneurysm and performing appropriate diagnostic brain imaging to determine if an aneurysm is present.

Over 4,000 copies of the DVD were previously distributed to hospital Emergency Departments across the nation to help

promote earlier detection of brain aneurysms and save lives. However, too often the right diagnosis is not made on a timely basis or the symptoms of a brain aneurysm are not recognized as a serious condition.

We need your help. If you would like to distribute copies of the DVD "Early Detection of Brain Aneurysms: Life vs. Death" to first responders in your community, email your name, address, number of DVD's requested to office@bafound.org



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- The Joint Cerebrovascular Section AANS/CNS
- <http://www.cvsection.org/>
- The Joint Section has partnered with the Brain Aneurysm Foundation to provide high quality educational materials to patients regarding the treatment of brain aneurysms.



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Gift Instructions

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