



ACCELERATING THE CURE

The newsletter for friends and supporters of
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

SPRING 2012

Parkinson's Community Answers the Question: "What Can I Do?"

"Parkinson's comes into someone's life," says MJFF Co-Founder and Executive Vice Chairman Debi Brooks, "and I think there is a moment in which everyone pauses and asks, 'What can I do?' What inspires me at the Foundation today is that there are more and more ways to answer that question. Every day, people are finding their own way to be engaged. Together, our combined efforts make us more powerful."

Register for Fox Trial Finder

Did you know that you can help speed breakthroughs by participating in clinical research? Already, over 3,000 people have raised their hands to participate. Underenrollment, by people with and without Parkinson's, slows research progress — and patients pay the price in terms of higher costs and longer time horizons to new treatments. At MJFF, we knew patients were willing to participate, so we developed Fox Trial Finder, a Web-based solution to connect volunteers with the specific trials that need them. Initially rolled out in the U.S. in July 2011, Fox Trial Finder will formally launch in April 2012, and we hope to grow our ranks of participants in Canada, the U.K, Australia and Western Europe.

"A lot of new biological information has been discovered in the last five or 10 years through PD research, and we're at the stage where it's being translated into treatments," says MJFF CEO Todd Sherer, PhD. "This is exciting news — and an exciting opportunity for patients to play

a key role in actually getting these treatments onto pharmacy shelves."

Help us reach our goal of 10,000 volunteers by the end of 2012. Create your profile now at www.foxtrialfinder.org.

Join Team Fox

Many others get involved through Team Fox, MJFF's grassroots community network to raise funds and awareness, which has grown dramatically since its launch in 2006. With more than \$15 million raised and 1,500 current members, this group embodies our message of

"Parkinson's comes into someone's life, and I think there is a moment in which everyone pauses and asks, 'What can I do?' What inspires me at the Foundation today is that there are more and more ways to answer that question. Every day, people are finding their own way to be engaged. Together, our combined efforts make us more powerful."

—Debi Brooks

can-do optimism and action across the country and around the world — and its numbers only continue to increase.

You can join our athletic program and participate in a sponsored race or existing event on behalf of Team Fox. Or choose to create your own fundraiser and let your talents lead you to your Team Fox event. The event that's perfect for you is wherever your passions lie. Read the stories of two Team Fox members on page 4.

A Note from the CEO

As a scientist and CEO of The Michael J. Fox Foundation (MJFF), I am actively engaged in the latest news in Parkinson's disease (PD) research. In the second edition of "The Sherer Report," I offer my take on the most important recent research developments affecting Parkinson's drug development, and what they mean for patients. I hope you'll let us know if you enjoy it or what you'd like to see us cover in future editions.

In recognition of Parkinson's Awareness Month, this issue of *Accelerating the Cure* is really about you — members of the Parkinson's community: patients and your loved ones, scientists, clinical trial volunteers and Team Fox members. I hope you enjoy hearing directly from a few of these individuals, as they share how they've answered the question, "What can I do to help speed a cure?"

As a friend of the Foundation, you play a role in our progress and you will have a hand in our success. On behalf of everyone at the Foundation, thank you for being part of the answer.

—Todd Sherer, PhD

Tap into the Community — at Home and Online

Now MJFF's knowledge and expertise comes to you wherever you are through educational offerings such as Research Roundtables

Scan this code with your smartphone to hear from Debi Brooks on how you can get involved.



and support group presentations. Information on the 2012 Seminar Call Series on Hot Topics in PD is on the back cover of this newsletter. Take part in the community online, by joining MJFF's more than 100,000 Facebook fans or 10,000 Twitter followers. You can

listen to our podcast series online by visiting michaeljfox.org/podcasts, or on your smartphone by scanning a code in this issue. To get the latest news in PD research, explore the Foundation blog at blog.michaeljfox.org.

It's up to you how you choose to help speed a cure to PD. No matter the path, you can be part of the answer.

—Lauren Anderson

In This Issue: Codes for a Cure!

Once again, we're bringing MJFF straight to you — and to your phone — in this issue, so you'll find QR codes throughout. Scan the code with the free mobile app for your smartphone, available at <http://gettag.mobi>, to access exclusive Web-only content like podcasts and videos.

NOTE: If you have an iPhone, you may need to use iTunes to listen to podcasts. Find more podcasts at michaeljfox.org/podcasts.



FOUNDATION NEWS

“Patients are at the Heart:” MJFF’s Patient Council

Since Michael J. Fox founded MJFF, the patient voice has played a critical role in our programmatic agenda. We share patients’ sense of urgency for improved treatments and a cure, which has shaped our decision-making around research priorities.

“Patients have always been at the heart of what we do, through our focus on their unmet needs and the personal connections to PD shared by many of our staff and board members,” says MJFF Co-Founder and Executive Vice Chairman Debi Brooks. “In our early years, we called on patients in ad hoc ways to provide the counsel that only those living with the disease could offer — such as authoring the Guide for the Newly Diagnosed on our Web site. As we evolved, our resources and programs grew to encompass a greater emphasis on clinical research and community awareness building. We realized it was time to establish an advisory body of patients to provide regular counsel on overall strategic direction.” In 2009, the Foundation formally chartered its Patient Council.

Seizing an Important Opportunity

MJFF selected 10 council members from across the United States and Canada. Requirements for selection included not only having been diagnosed with Parkinson’s, but a range of experiences with the disease, as well as active engagement in the PD community — through the Foundation and/or other Parkinson’s organizations.

Patient Council members convene at bi-annual meetings with Foundation leadership, where they receive Foundation updates, hold brainstorming sessions and weigh in on Foundation initiatives. Members also share their guidance with MJFF through monthly calls and informal interactions — helping to provide direction across numerous fronts, such as strategies to best convey patient

priorities to the research community and content for patient education and outreach.

Among these early members was Carey Christensen of Stanwood, Washington. She shares, “It’s thrilling to be at table with MJFF staff and scientists who are at the leading



Carey Christensen

edge of Parkinson’s research. It’s a privilege to be a part of the conversation, and MJFF takes us seriously.”

Says CEO Todd Sherer, PhD, “The Patient Council has been a tremendous resource — to us, each other and the

PD community. They’ve helped us communicate more effectively with patients and caregivers, and their insights into the challenges behind clinical trial participation in particular are invaluable.”

In 2012, MJFF expanded the Patient Council to 20 members to integrate new points of view and touch a wider geographic range. One of the new members is Fabrizio Acquaviva of Key Biscayne, Florida. Originally from Ecuador, Fabrizio was diagnosed 10 years ago at age 33. He exercises control over his condition “with my attitude and a lot of effort,” he says. Part of his therapy included learning how to fly remote-control helicopters, which demands a great deal of hand-eye coordination. Fabrizio brings to the Patient Council his belief that we need to find a better way to address the human side of the disease, as well as his business acumen from his experiences as an entrepreneur in South America.

“Donating money is important,” he says, “but there are many other ways to contribute. I’ve decided PD won’t control me, and I’m motivated to see how I can help.”

Unique Approaches Lead to a Single Desire to Help Other Patients

As Patient Council members, Carey and Fabrizio serve as ambassadors — for MJFF and the PD community. When asked what advice they would give to a newly diagnosed patient, they share a message of optimism that is also at the core of



Fabrizio Acquaviva

the Foundation’s mission. Fabrizio says, “Although you’re very scared when you first receive that diagnosis, know that there’s a better life for you out there. You become more aware of what you’ve been missing. Parkinson’s takes you into what I call

reality. You learn to be more efficient every day so you can take advantage of what’s most important to you.”

Carey adds, “PD isn’t the end of the world. I wish I’d known how well I’d be doing 13 years later, and I expect to have many more fulfilling years. There are so many ways you can live with the disease now — you just have to find what works for you. Never lose your hope that it can get better, and that you can do something about it.”

To read more about the Patient Council and its members, visit www.michaeljfox.org/PatientCouncil. —LA

Join the Brin Wojcicki Challenge in 2012!

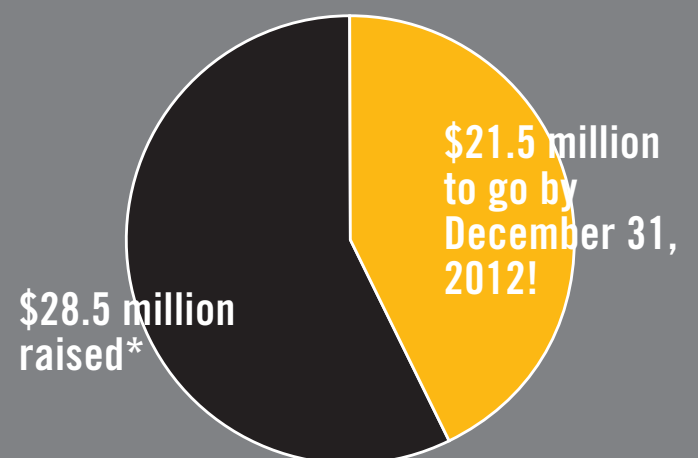
MJFF needs your help to raise \$50 Million by December 31!

BRIN WOJCICKI CHALLENGE
for THE MICHAEL J. FOX FOUNDATION FOR PARKINSON’S RESEARCH

Scan this code to make a gift and double your impact now!



The \$50-million Brin Wojcicki Challenge aims to increase The Michael J. Fox Foundation’s capacity to speed breakthrough treatments and a cure for Parkinson’s disease. Launched by Sergey Brin, co-founder of Google, and his wife, Anne Wojcicki, co-founder of personal genetics company 23andMe, the Challenge matches all new and increased giving to MJFF, as well as gifts from donors who have not given since 2010 or earlier, on a dollar-for-dollar basis through December 31, 2012.



*As of 3/13/12

GET INVOLVED

Maurizio Facheris Meet MJFF's First MD



Maurizio Facheris

The Michael J. Fox Foundation takes a proactive approach to the clinical development of drugs to treat Parkinson's disease. More and more potential treatments are advancing toward the clinic, due in no small part to the Foundation's significant investments in pre-clinical research to date. My role is to manage the clinical research in our funding portfolio and help make decisions about which trials could have the greatest impact for patients in the near-term.

MJFF is devoted to a strategy that is at once patient-driven and focused on identifying and prioritizing the most promising research. In my work with the scientists leading the interventional

clinical trials supported by the Foundation, and through my background treating people with PD, I hope to provide new insights into how researchers and clinicians can work together to develop therapies that will have the greatest impact on those living with the

disease today. These diverse points of view on PD are critical to better understanding both the disease process and the concerns of patients. By combining my physician's perspective with

Hear from Maurizio on the connection between genetics and environment in PD.



a classical scientific point of view, we can find different ways to approach the same topics, which can in turn lead to novel ideas about how to progress meaningful therapeutic targets into the clinic faster.

As a trained movement disorders specialist, I have experience with some of the everyday issues of those battling the disease. During my time as a neurologist in Italy, for example, I worked with people with dyskinesias that scientists don't have

models to study in the lab. This has given me a direct line to people with Parkinson's, helping me understand nuances in how the disease manifests itself in patients' lives day to day. This understanding helps guide decision-making by those of us on the scientific team here at MJFF, as well as by our awardees.

Watch the video of Maurizio in MJFF's new series "Ask the MD," in which he answers, "Is there a recommended diet for Parkinson's?"



Already, I have been impressed by the optimism of my colleagues at the Foundation, and I look forward to being a part of our work together toward the ultimate goal, finding a cure for PD.

Maurizio Facheris, MD, MSc, is associate director of research programs at MJFF, and the first trained physician to join the Foundation's staff.

Jon Surine

"I Don't Want to be Defined by PD, I Want to Help Define It"

When I was first diagnosed with PD in 2010 after consulting my physician about a mild tremor, I wasn't completely surprised. I wasn't the first in my family to hear this news from my doctor — both my mother and father-in-law had PD — so I was already familiar with some of the realities of living with the disease.



Mary and Jon Surine

Still, it was important to me to do everything that I could to stay educated on the latest in PD research, and thankfully, my wife Mary has been incredibly supportive in this respect. Once we knew I had PD, Mary remembered that Michael J. Fox also had the disease, so she went straight to the MJFF Web site to learn more. She was immediately impressed with how the team at the Foundation has constructed a site that is so easy to use and understand.

During one of Mary's many visits to michaeljfox.org, she found out about the Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative (PPMI), the Foundation's landmark biomarkers study. I learned that since I was newly diagnosed and not yet taking medication, I was a potential fit for PPMI. Since I enrolled in January 2011, Mary has accompanied me on all of my visits to the Northwestern University study site.

I'm grateful for the love and support of my family, which truly helped to lay the groundwork for my participation in PPMI — and it's been such a positive experience. PPMI means a lot to me, because I want to do what I can to help in the fight against this disease. I can be a proactive part of the solution. I don't want to be defined by PD, I want to help define it.

Jon Surine is now retired from a family-owned garden center in Texas Township, Michigan. When they're not visiting their five grandchildren in the greater Detroit area, he and his wife Mary can be found traveling the United States. They never go to the same place twice.

A Personal Responsibility to Meet the Challenge

Did you know that you can become a part of the Brin Wojcicki Challenge through an anonymous gift? Here's the story of one anonymous Challenge donor:

My family has always believed in helping others in need. The mission of my family's foundation is to support medical research in several specialized areas. After my older brother was diagnosed with Parkinson's 10 years ago and experiencing what he endured, helping to find a cure for this disease became a personal cause for me.

As I began looking into how and where to make meaningful contributions to Parkinson's research, I learned of several recognized physicians and organizations whose focus is Parkinson's. But when I found out what The Michael J. Fox Foundation was doing, I was impressed with its approach. Researchers and scientists from all over the world apply for funding to MJFF, which maintains on-staff scientists to

evaluate each request and determine which are the most promising. By this method, MJFF is not focusing only on individual scientists or research laboratories of major hospitals, but is simultaneously supporting hundreds of researchers and coordinating their findings. It is the hope that this combined research effort will lead to positive results for patients — and a cure — sooner. That is the significant difference with MJFF.

In 2010 I decided to hopefully help others with Parkinson's by making a pledge of \$100,000 to the Foundation. We all know there are many terrible diseases without a cure, and Parkinson's is just one of them. But as government funding for medical research shrinks each year, the only way to make a real impact on these diseases is through private contributions. Everyone should feel a personal responsibility to give something,

at any level, to help find cures for these diseases, as they can happen to any of us at any time. I hope that my belief in supporting medical research and my gift motivates others to participate.

When I learned about the Brin Wojcicki Challenge, I was again inspired to participate — this time in early 2012 with an additional gift of \$50,000. The concept of the Challenge is simple: for every dollar that someone contributes to MJFF that dollar is matched, thereby creating two dollars. So my \$50,000 contribution has become \$100,000 by virtue of the Challenge. Clearly the more money that is contributed now to MJFF and doubled by the Challenge furthers the research we need in Parkinson's disease.

The name of this Challenge donor was withheld upon request.

BRIN WOJCICKI CHALLENGE
for THE MICHAEL J. FOX FOUNDATION FOR PARKINSON'S RESEARCH

GET INVOLVED

Chris Coffey MJFF Partner Scientist Runs Marathon for PD

I head a research group at the University of Iowa. One of our projects is to manage the analysis of data being generated by the Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative (PPMI), The Michael J. Fox Foundation's landmark biomarker study. The lack of biomarkers of disease progression is a major hurdle in the development of new treatments for PD. Validated biomarkers of disease progression would dramatically accelerate PD drug development.

Like a lot of researchers, I've been inspired by MJFF. I knew early on that I wanted to go beyond my scientific relationship with MJFF — I decided to run a marathon to raise funds as part of Team Fox. Reading through the inspirational stories from other Team Fox members, I get the sense that I'm not the typical participant. Many have a personal connection to the disease. Although I know people who have had PD, I don't have an immediate family member with the disease, nor have I ever been a caregiver for someone with PD.

I ran the marathon to honor the individuals who are volunteering as control participants in PPMI. It takes a special kind of courage to dedicate oneself to the commitment required of this study when one doesn't have the disease oneself.



Chris Coffey

I started my marathon training June 2011. Eighteen weeks later, I found myself toeing the starting line in Chicago and beginning my journey. In many ways, the control volunteers, PD participants, staff at MJFF and PPMI investigators have also started a marathon. While mine only lasted a few hours, the PPMI marathon will take much longer to complete. But thanks to the dedication of all involved, I am optimistic that when we reach the finish line, we will have made serious progress toward finding a cure for this disease.

Chris Coffey, PhD, is director of the Clinical Trials Statistical and Data Management Center at the University of Iowa. He finished the Bank of America Chicago Marathon in 5:02:59 on October 9, 2011.

Tom Shannon: Sculpting A Unique Contribution



Tom Shannon (center) with inaugural Robert A. Pritzker Prize recipient Anders Björklund and Michael J. Fox

Tom Shannon is not only one of the world's great artists; he's an inventor whose work resides in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institution. "Whether pragmatic or visionary," wrote *Art in America*, "all of Shannon's projects possess a self-conscious, human dimension, one that he believes can have a positive effect on our future." His sculptures also often appear to defy gravity — and his design for MJFF's Robert A. Pritzker Prize for Leadership in Parkinson's Research is no exception.

The Foundation honored the inaugural Robert A. Pritzker Prize recipient, Anders Björklund,

MD, PhD, of Lund University, Sweden, at a ceremony in New York City on November 11, 2011. The second Robert A. Pritzker Prize was presented to Bill Langston, MD, of The Parkinson's Institute, on April 5, 2012.

"In my sculpture, I try to capture innovation, to which the Robert A. Pritzker Prize also pays tribute. As an artist and as someone with Parkinson's, I was honored when The Michael J. Fox Foundation asked me to create this award. It's a privilege to make my own contribution in support of the Foundation's mission and in the fight against this disease," Tom says.

TEAMFOX

Stephanie Desautels Fulfilling an Interest — and a Need — for the Plattsburgh Community

Even before my dad's diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, I knew about — and admired — Team Fox. So when the news came in 2009, there was no question that I'd raise money for Team Fox. I just didn't know how. Since I had already run several half marathons, I kept returning to the idea of hosting a race. Coincidentally, I ran into a friend of mine, Jennifer Boyer, who had created a race on her own. We realized there were a number of 5K runs and walks in our area, but no half marathons. And the Plattsburgh Half Marathon was born!



Stephanie Desautels (left) and Jennifer Boyer (right) with Associate Director of Team Fox Stephanie Paddock at the 2011 Plattsburgh Half

Jen, along with Steve Peters from the City of Plattsburgh Recreation Department, helped me organize the first Plattsburgh Half for April 2010, which we've run (behind the scenes and on the course) for three years now. Going into this, we had no idea what to expect. But within three weeks, we closed out our registration with 500 people! And we brought in over \$24,000 for Parkinson's research. It was clear to me then that our race fulfilled a real interest — and a real need — in the community. Last April we had 1,000 runners and raised more than \$35,000. This year our event will be on April 22, and we've added a two-person relay. We're on track and already have over 900 runners. To earn a dollar-for-dollar match through the Brin Wojcicki Challenge, we've stepped up our fundraising goal to \$50,000.

Not only do hundreds of runners take part in the Plattsburgh Half Marathon, raising thousands of dollars to help speed a cure for people like my dad, but the entire community gets involved. A local Parkinson's support group comes out in full force each year, setting up an informational booth and cheering our runners along the way. Last year my dad even fired the starting gun for the race.

Looking back, I still think of that first year. We pulled in at 4:30 in the morning, and I watched our banners and flag being hung. I was simply overcome with emotion. It's a remarkable feeling to be able to do something like this for the community, and for such an important cause. The Plattsburgh Half has brought people together in ways I couldn't have imagined three years ago. So on April 23, we'll start planning for next year!

Stephanie Desautels joined Team Fox in 2009, hosting her first Plattsburgh Half Marathon in April 2010. It's the only Team Fox-organized half, and this year's race will be held on April 22, 2012, in Plattsburgh, New York. For more information, visit www.plattsburghhalfmarathon.com.

THE SHERER REPORT



ELENA OLIVO

In this edition of “The Sherer Report,” my continuing series of updates on progress from the front lines of Parkinson’s research, I’m highlighting a few Foundation-funded projects to identify new drug targets for symptomatic PD treatments and improve on today’s generation of dopamine-based therapies. I also report on our continuing pursuit of a disease-modifying treatment that could slow or stop the progression of Parkinson’s disease. Finally, I want you to know about expanded industry investment in some MJFF-driven projects, which could have implications for speeding potential treatments toward pharmacy shelves.

Todd Sherer

Todd Sherer, PhD, CEO

Read “The Sherer Report” at www.michaeljfox.org/TheShererReport

■ The MJFF-led Parkinson’s Progression Markers Initiative (PPMI) continues to pave the way in the development of PD biomarkers — necessary tools for testing disease-modifying treatments in the clinic. PPMI has reached the halfway point in subject recruitment (newly diagnosed PD patients and volunteer controls). Real-time data has already been made available to the entire research community (almost 10,000 downloads and counting since March 2011) and initial observations are being reported.

Additionally, in 2012 we are looking forward to results from two clinical trials that have been driven by MJFF for several years, with a third to follow in 2013: the SURE-PD trial, which aims to test whether elevating urate (a naturally occurring anti-oxidant) through the supplement inosine could present a viable strategy for developing a disease-modifying PD treatment; the multi-site study assessing the safety of isradipine, an FDA-approved calcium channel blocker that has demonstrated potential to modify disease progression in pre-clinical models; and Ceregene’s Phase II trial of CERE-120, its gene therapy delivery of the neurotrophic factor neurturin.

Renewed interest from pharmaceutical companies

As a final note, I wanted to highlight some recent encouraging news demonstrating expanding interest in PD from the pharmaceutical industry. As potential therapies advance to and through the stages of clinical testing, costs grow exponentially. We must work to find ways to engage and encourage investment from pharmaceutical companies and other investors who have the resources, and who are motivated to develop novel, impactful medications. I am happy to report tangible progress on this front.

■ Pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) recently announced separate follow-on deals with two different MJFF awardees, Signum Biosciences and Proteotech Inc. Both companies are actively developing disease-modifying treatments targeting the protein alpha-synuclein. GSK will provide needed resources for further clinical testing.

Get involved

A critical component of drug development is the involvement of PD patients and control volunteers — and you can help! MJFF rolled out Fox Trial Finder in summer 2011 to make it easier for you to learn about clinical trials and find the ones that need someone specifically like you. Completing a profile is easy and your privacy is always assured. Over 3,000 people have signed up, helping to build one of the largest groups of interested and engaged PD patients in the world. Information on more than 180 PD clinical trials is available. Visit www.foxtrialfinder.org to learn more.

The level of activity in the field of PD research continues to grow. MJFF alone supported over \$57 million of new research grants in 2011.

Hear more from Todd about new lines of research to treat dyskinesia — and what this might mean for patients.



But while we have made measureable progress, many challenges remain. Nonetheless I am more optimistic than ever. With the scientific breakthroughs we’re making every day, new, transformative treatments are on the horizon. Thank you, as always, for being part of our shared mission to eradicate Parkinson’s disease.

Patients living with Parkinson’s today have a clear unmet need for improved treatment options to manage symptoms and increase quality of life. Current dopamine-based treatments are inadequate — they address only a subset of symptoms, lose effectiveness over time, and are marked by significant side effects such as dyskinesia (uncontrollable and debilitating movement). The Foundation continues to see encouraging progress toward new treatments that bypass the dopamine system altogether, as well as new formulations of dopamine replacement therapies that could address shortcomings of current treatments.

Progress with novel targets

Several clinical trials under way are based on biology that was not linked to PD a decade ago. Two MJFF awardees are pursuing innovative approaches that come directly from our increased understanding of PD over the past 10 years:

■ Anders Björklund, MD, PhD, of Lund University in Sweden has been funded by MJFF since 2006 for his work on the brain chemical serotonin. In 2010 Björklund and the U.S.-based biotech PsychoGenics launched a proof-of-concept clinical trial to test a promising drug that targets serotonin as a treatment for dyskinesia. The trial is nearing completion and results are expected this year.

■ Chelsea Pharmaceuticals has been developing a drug, droxidopa, which targets the noradrenaline system, another chemical that functions in the brain. Droxidopa is being developed as a treatment for orthostatic hypotension (a sudden drop in blood pressure upon standing), a common cardiovascular symptom of PD for which there are currently no good treatments. Chelsea has completed a series of clinical trials for droxidopa in PD and is preparing for an FDA review this year, the last step in drug development. An FDA panel has already recommended droxidopa’s approval, but a final decision hasn’t been made as this issue goes to press. Interestingly, droxidopa may also have the potential to address other, untreated symptoms of PD based on the role of noradrenaline in the nervous system — which MJFF is helping researchers to explore. In 2011, we announced the support of a study led by Peter LeWitt, MD, at Wayne State University School of Medicine, to test the effectiveness of droxidopa on cognitive function in PD patients.

Work to improve dopamine-based therapies

Today’s generation of dopamine-based therapies often wear off before it is time for the next dose,

leaving patients vulnerable to symptoms such as rigidity. The “peaks and valleys” of current formulations are also thought to contribute to dyskinesia.

Hear more from Todd about improving dopamine-based therapies, which may help address the “on/off” cycle patients experience.



A more consistent delivery of levodopa could help patients get more benefit from their therapy with less risk of side effects. Two MJFF awardees are making progress toward improving current levodopa therapies:

■ Impax Pharmaceuticals has been developing an improved extended release capsule formulation of carbidopa-levodopa that has returned encouraging results in clinical trials. Participants in a Phase III clinical trial experienced nearly an hour and a half less “off-time” per day when taking the drug — and a corresponding increase in their “on-time” without troublesome dyskinesia. Impax has completed several clinical studies and is preparing for FDA review this year for their novel dopamine-based treatment for PD.

■ Civitas Pharmaceuticals is developing an inhaled formulation of levodopa for its potential to produce more rapid and continual relief from the debilitating motor fluctuations associated with Parkinson’s. Civitas is in the initial stages of clinical assessment of their drug candidate, called CVT-301. The company recently announced promising results from a study in healthy adults and is now planning a follow-on study in PD patients.

Preparation for clinical trials of disease-modifying approaches

As always, a great deal of our work focuses on strategies to slow, halt or reverse the progression of PD — something no available treatment can do. While there are many challenges to developing disease-modifying treatments, we are breaking new ground in this area and remain optimistic that this will pan out sooner rather than later. Many of our efforts involve laying the groundwork for effective clinical trials:

■ MJFF has been working diligently since 2005 to clarify the process for testing disease-modifying treatments. We are developing numerous pre-clinical tools and sharing them with the research community to accelerate science, foster collaborations and allow for comparisons of results across different labs. To date, we have generated 17 tools that have, in total, been ordered over 1,000 times by labs worldwide.



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SPRING 2012 / JOIN THE CHALLENGE IN 2012. DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT NOW!

GET ON THE LINE WITH MJFF TO LEARN MORE!

MJFF and leading experts in the field invite you to learn more about relevant PD topics and Foundation news through our Seminar Call Series. Listen in for one or join them all — choose the issues that interest you.

2012 Seminar Call Series on Hot Topics in PD:

- Wednesday, May 9:** Disease-modifying Therapies and Biomarkers
- Thursday, June 14:** Living with PD: Going Beyond Medications
- Tuesday, Sept. 18:** Genetics and PD
- Wednesday, Oct. 17:** Cognitive Issues in PD
- Thursday, Dec. 13:** Review of 2012 / Thinking Ahead to 2013

All calls are from 12:00 p.m. - 1 p.m. ET.
RSVP to hottopics@michaeljfox.org for dial-in information.
Learn more at www.michaeljfox.org/hottopics.

ACCELERATING THE CURE is published three times a year by The Michael J. Fox Foundation. Two issues are mailed to donors who have given \$25 or more within 12 months. The year-end issue is mailed to friends and supporters who have given \$25 or more within three years. Past issues are available at www.michaeljfox.org. Submit questions, comments and feedback to the editor at the address to the right. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please email info@michaeljfox.org.

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