



ACCELERATING *the* CURE

SUMMER 2005 NEWSLETTER 

SECOND LEAPS LAUNCHED

In recent years, Parkinson's research has advanced to the point that halting disease progression and even preventing Parkinson's are considered realistic goals. Despite considerable progress, however, many fundamental questions about the cause, development and treatment of Parkinson's disease remain unanswered.

Recently, The Michael J. Fox Foundation launched a second LEAPS (Linked Efforts to Accelerate Parkinson's Solutions) funding effort to support ambitious research projects that will translate into new treatments or otherwise have a tangible impact on Parkinson's disease research. LEAPS is a novel research paradigm designed to hasten progress in the study of Parkinson's disease by funding collaborative, milestone-driven approaches to tackle important research questions. The 2003 LEAPS program successfully attracted innovative and potentially high-impact concepts from the research community, and the Foundation hopes to build upon that experience with the 2005 LEAPS program.

The Foundation has committed up to \$10 million for grants under the second LEAPS program.

"We've already seen preliminary evidence that the LEAPS model works in bringing together outstanding teams of researchers to focus on a common goal," said Tim Greenamyre, MD, PhD, director of the Pittsburgh Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases and a member of the MJFF scientific advisory board, who will continue to serve as chairman of the LEAPS effort. "Parkinson's is a complex disease and many fundamental questions remain unanswered. A team approach that includes experts from various disciplines and sectors is key to answering these questions and translating research into outcomes that have a meaningful impact on patients' lives."

Two projects from the first LEAPS program are currently underway. One project partners the Mayo Clinic's extensive patient resources with Perlegen Sciences' high-density array genotyping technology to identify major Parkinson's disease susceptibility genes. The second award under the LEAPS program brings together an international team from nine institutions led by Lund University in Sweden to focus on advancing encapsulated cell technology to deliver the growth factor GDNF.

"LEAPS has become a fundamental part of our research strategy," said MJFF president and CEO Deborah W. Brooks. "Increasingly, as we focus on moving ideas from the lab to the clinic and become engaged in drug discovery and development efforts, we're expanding our portfolio to include novel research models such as LEAPS that leverage collaboration and pooled resources."

LEAPS are multi-year, multi-million dollar grants awarded to "all-star" research teams focused on answering a major research question that could result in a major, practical step forward in the understanding and treatment of Parkinson's disease. Grants will be awarded based on the potential impact and scientific merit of the chosen research question, probability of success in developing new treatments or otherwise accelerating progress in Parkinson's science, leadership and team track record, as well as other criteria. The Foundation expects to invest \$10 million in the 2005 LEAPS program and will allow applicants to request funding for projects lasting up to four years. The Foundation expects to award multiple grants; however, awards will be dependent upon the scientific merit of proposals received.

The Fox Foundation is currently evaluating applications. Grants are expected to be awarded by October.

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO



Increasingly, Parkinson's organizations are joining together to tackle common goals. In this issue, you'll read about Advancing Parkinson's Therapies (APT), a

community-wide campaign to increase awareness and participation in PD clinical trials and thus, accelerate the development of new treatments.

We've also profiled the 2004 Community Fast Track program, where once again, the community teamed up to fund groundbreaking research. Six national and regional Parkinson's groups helped us fund \$3.6 million in grants to 18 research teams—many working to develop neuroprotective treatments.

The community also mobilized when Amgen halted clinical trials of GDNF. While PDF and PAN led community support for patients, the Fox Foundation convened researchers to assess the future of GDNF therapy. And we continue to fund research into an alternative way to administer GDNF.

And, of course, all the major groups have joined the Parkinson's Community Research Advisory Council effort to collect and analyze data on research funding worldwide. We are pleased to be part of these efforts to achieve our common end—relieving the burden of illness for millions worldwide.

Warm Wishes,

Debi Brooks

Deborah W. Brooks
 President and CEO

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FOUNDATION EXPANDS SAB

The Foundation has begun to implement a new advisory structure that is hoped will increase its ability to creatively identify gaps and effectively manage investments. Earlier this year, invitations were extended to a number of scientists and clinicians to join the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), and 100 percent of those invited elected to join. This expansion was recommended last fall by a strategic task force comprised of staff and members of the

Foundation's Board of Directors after evaluating the Fox Foundation's evolving program needs. All twelve of the founding members of the SAB will continue to serve on the newly expanded Board.

The expansion will broaden the base of experts and range of opinions on which The Michael J. Fox Foundation formally relies for input and critical advice to include clinicians and experts from other fields.

PD GROUPS UNITE TO ADDRESS IMMINENT CLINICAL TRIAL SHORTAGE

Currently an estimated 5,000 people with Parkinson's are participating in clinical research. This is far short of the 10,000-15,000 participants that researchers anticipate will be needed for clinical studies over the next two to three years, including studies of therapies to slow or stop disease progression and to improve symptoms such as tremors. This disparity could result in severe delays in the availability of new treatments.

Recently, the Fox Foundation worked with Harris Interactive® to conduct a national survey of patients and physicians to better understand the barriers to clinical trial enrollment. Low awareness about clinical trials among physicians and patients—particularly about clinical trials in their area—is a major barrier to participation. The survey also revealed that most patients get information about clinical trials and treatment options not from a physician, but from their local support group. The Fox Foundation joined several other Parkinson's groups to create a Web site and national education campaign called Advancing Parkinson's Therapies (APT) to address these issues.

APT is an effort to accelerate the development of new treatments for Parkinson's by increasing awareness and participation in clinical trials among the Parkinson's community. APT is led by the Parkinson's Disease Foundation in collaboration with the Fox Foundation, the American Parkinson Disease Association, the National Parkinson Foundation, the Parkinson's Action Network, The Parkinson Alliance and WE MOVE, and is advised by NINDS, the Parkinson Study Group and the Parkinson Pipeline Project.

Information about a variety of clinical trials currently enrolling patients—including trials that are activity-based or may require only a DNA sample from a patient—can be found on the campaign's

Web site: www.PDtrials.org or by calling toll-free (888) 823-8889. Visitors can search for a clinical trial by symptom, location, trial type or sponsor and can sign up to receive the latest news and views on what's happening in the world of Parkinson's trials.

In total, 250 neurologists and 250 primary care physicians (PCPs)/gerontologists who treat people with Parkinson's disease completed the 15-minute online survey. Additionally, a randomly selected population of 518 patients completed the questionnaire, which was returned by mail.

Following are some of the survey highlights:

- The majority (65 percent of neurologists and 54 percent of PCPs/gerontologists) have discussed clinical trials with 10 percent or less of their patients and the majority (53 percent and 83 percent, respectively) have never referred a patient with Parkinson's to a clinical trial.
- Of neurologists who have ever referred a Parkinson's patient to a clinical trial, the majority (54 percent) are likely to refer patients within five years of diagnosis.
- 95 percent of patients agree that clinical trials for Parkinson's are necessary to find better treatments, yet only 11 percent report that their doctor ever suggested that they participate in a clinical trial.
- Nearly 80 percent of patients stated that they would be somewhat, very or extremely likely to participate in a clinical trial if one were available in their area.
- 45 percent of patients surveyed were diagnosed with Parkinson's by a neurologist while 37 percent received a diagnosis from their PCP or family practitioner; 64 percent of patients are currently under the care of a neurologist and 40 percent see a PCP or family practitioner.

MJFF FUNDS STEM CELL TRANSPLANT THEORIES

The Fox Foundation awarded grants totaling nearly \$1 million to four researchers through its Cell Line II program, “Cell Replacement Therapy: Developing Dopaminergic Cell Lines With Long-Lasting Functional Impact in Transplant Models of Parkinson’s Disease.”

The program seeks to address current obstacles in achieving the therapeutic potential of cell replacement, including poor survival and function of stem cell-derived dopaminergic neurons after transplantation into the brain. Leading researchers have identified cell replacement therapy as one of the most promising potential treatments for Parkinson’s, capable of halting disease progression and even restoring lost function.

“Focused work in this area is an essential next step for stem cell research in Parkinson’s disease,” said MJFF president and CEO Deborah

W. Brooks. “We’ve made cell transplantation a top priority because we view it as a high-potential avenue of Parkinson’s disease research that is currently underfunded by the federal government.”

In 2002, the Foundation launched its first cell line initiative focused on generating a dopamine-producing cell line, which represented the next critical step in advancing the field. With this support in place, several scientists were able to isolate and grow the cells in the laboratory, as well as to induce differentiation into dopamine neurons. However, the cells quickly lost their dopaminergic characteristics and had overall poor viability after transplantation into animal models of Parkinson’s disease.

Some of the research funded under the Cell Line II program will seek to better understand the molecular mechanisms that regulate the generation of dopaminergic neurons and to map

the complex cell signals that direct stem cell differentiation and maturation (into dopaminergic neurons). The next step will be to test the approach in animal models of Parkinson’s.

One grant recipient will try to replicate earlier success of transplanting monkey embryonic stem cells into monkeys, instead using human embryonic stem cells. If long-term viability of the transplanted cells is achieved, the researchers hypothesize that their strategy will work in humans.

Another project will take a novel approach to minimize the immune or inflammatory response that results from implanting stem cells. The transplantation site essentially will be prepped to create a scar-free space that is ready to host subsequent transplanted cells. The hope is that this strategy will improve the likelihood of neuronal survival.

PROGRESS TOWARD PARKINSON’S BIOMARKER

Two teams of researchers have made significant progress in the hunt for a biomarker or “molecular fingerprint” of Parkinson’s disease. The Fox Foundation, which funded the work along with the Parkinson’s Disease Foundation under its 2002 Biomarkers program, awarded an additional \$675,000 to the teams to validate their preliminary findings. Both teams are based in the Boston area and will share resources including a clinical coordinator to maximize funding.

The overall goal of the program is an accurate and reliable biomarker that could be used to test for Parkinson’s disease and to track disease progression. A biomarker is also necessary for the development of neuroprotective therapies for Parkinson’s.

One team led by Drs. Stephen Gullans and Clemens Scherzer uses advanced DNA microarray or gene chip technology to analyze the activity of thousands of genes. The team compared blood samples from people with Parkinson’s and healthy people and discovered changes in seven genes that appear to be strongly associated with a risk for the disease. The association was confirmed in a small independent cohort of untreated patients with early-stage Parkinson’s. The supplemental funding will enable Drs. Gullans

and Scherzer to validate the findings in a larger, prospective case-control study with 150 people with Parkinson’s and 150 matched controls. The team hopes to translate the information about gene expression into a blood test that can accurately detect Parkinson’s disease in its earliest stages.

A second team led by Drs. Michael Schlossmacher and Omar El-Agnaf has devised an assay to quantify or measure levels of alpha-synuclein (and alpha-synuclein oligomers) in people with Parkinson’s disease and healthy people. Increased production of alpha-synuclein and the accumulation of alpha-synuclein aggregates have been implicated in the development of Parkinson’s disease. If a compound was discovered that could alter levels of alpha-synuclein, this type of biomarker would be used to confirm that the compound was having the intended biological effect. During the next phase of the project the team will enroll 150 people with Parkinson’s and 150 healthy people in a two-year prospective study. Levels of alpha-synuclein will be measured at enrollment, and at one- and two-year follow up visits.

The Foundation recently launched a second, two-year \$2 million biomarkers program to stimulate biomarker discovery efforts. Grants will be awarded this summer.

GRANT RECIPIENTS FOR CELL LINE II:

“CELL REPLACEMENT THERAPY: DEVELOPING DOPAMINERGIC CELL LINES WITH LONG-LASTING FUNCTIONAL IMPACT IN TRANSPLANT MODELS OF PARKINSON’S DISEASE”

Ernest Arenas, MD, PhD

Karolinska Institute

“Novel Protocols for the Differentiation & Functional Integration of Embryonic & Neural Stem Cell-derived Dopaminergic Neurons in Rodent Models of PD”

Jun Takahashi, MD, PhD

Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine

“Transplantation of Primate ES Cell-Derived Dopaminergic Neurons Into the Brains of MPTP-treated Monkeys”

Xuejun Wen, MD, PhD

Clemson University

“Improving the Long-term Survival and Functionality of the Transplanted Human Dopaminergic Neurons Based Upon a Novel Tissue Engineering Approach”

Su-Chun Zhang, MD, PhD

Waisman Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“Combined Stem Cell Transplant and Growth Factor Therapy for Parkinson’s Disease”

COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND MJFF JOIN TO AWARD \$3.6 MILLION THROUGH CFT '04

After issuing an open call to researchers from around the world, the Fox Foundation and its community partners awarded \$3.6 million in grants to 18 research teams under the 2004 Community Fast Track program (CFT '04). Projects range from new treatment approaches, including experimental neuroprotective therapies, to studies that could yield important insights into the etiology of Parkinson's disease. More than 40 percent of the applicants had never before sought funding from the Foundation.

Six national and local Parkinson's disease groups teamed together to fund CFT '04. Contributors include: the National Parkinson Foundation, the Parkinson's Unity Walk, the Parkinson Association of the Sacramento Region, the Lawrence County Parkinson's Association, Parkinson's Victoria and the Parkinson Association of the Rockies. Many are annual supporters of the program. Other past donors include the Parkinson's Disease Foundation and The Parkinson Alliance.

"Many of the proposals that caught our attention this year focused on the development of neuro-

protective treatments for Parkinson's disease," said Robert Burke, MD, Director of Laboratory Research in Parkinson's Disease and Related Disorders at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center and a member of the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board. "The scientific review committee felt strongly that several of the projects could significantly advance the field of Parkinson's disease research and lead to new treatment options to slow or stop the disease."

Following is a snapshot of research funded under CFT '04:

- Examine the neuroprotective effects of the drug Copaxone in animal models of Parkinson's disease with the ultimate goal of moving to clinical trials. Copaxone is a neuroprotective agent currently used to treat multiple sclerosis.
- Explore the ability of various trophic factors to prevent the death of dopamine and restore functioning: one project will determine whether the molecule pleiotrophin (PTN) could protect dopaminergic neurons in animal models of Parkinson's. Another team will assess and compare the potential therapeutic value of two

proteins from the neuregulin family of growth factors with the goal of identifying the best candidate for future preclinical testing.

- Investigate whether genetic variations in combination with exposure to one or more environmental toxins causes Parkinson's by comparing DNA from 84,000 people involved in a study of pesticide exposure with a population-based epidemiological cohort of Parkinson's patients in rural central California.

- Characterize the role and normal function of the recently discovered PINK1 gene. Mutation of PINK1 has been found to be associated with the early development of Parkinson's disease.

- Verify the hypothesis that the Ras/ERK signaling pathway is crucial to the development of levodopa-induced dyskinesias and motor fluctuations and test the efficacy of drugs that block the signaling process in either preventing or alleviating motor complications.

Launched in 2001, the Community Fast Track program has awarded more than \$13 million to support 71 grants.

2004 COMMUNITY FAST TRACK GRANT RECIPIENTS

Ernest Arenas, MD, PhD

Karolinska Institute
"Dopaminergic Neurogenesis: From Development to Stem Cell Replacement Therapies"

Oliver Bandmann, MD, PhD

Sheffield University
"A DJ-1 Mutant Zebrafish Model of Parkinson's Disease"

Angela Cenci-Nilsson, MD, PhD

Lund University
& Riccardo Brambilla, PhD
San Raffaele Research Institute
"Role of the Ras/ERK Signaling Pathway in the Development of Dyskinesia & Motor Fluctuations During Chronic L-DOPA Treatment"

Paul Fraser, PhD

University of Toronto
"PINK1 Structure & Function"

Peter Heutink, PhD

VU University Medical Center
"Finding Genetic Risk Factors for Parkinson's Disease in Genetically Isolated Populations"

Eric Huang, MD, PhD

University of California San Francisco & VA Medical Center
"Mechanisms of HIPK2-dependent Survival & Differentiation of Midbrain Dopaminergic Neurons – a Chemical Genetic Target for Parkinson's Disease"

Daniel Kaufman, PhD

University of California, Los Angeles
"Vaccine-induced Neuroprotection in an Animal Model of Parkinson's Disease"

J. William Langston, MD

The Parkinson's Institute
"Alpha-Synuclein and Environmental Exposures: A Study in Humans"

Meng Li, MD, PhD

University of Edinburgh
"Identification of Factors That Promote Midbrain Dopaminergic Fate from Embryonic Stem Cells & Neural Stem Cells"

Amy Manning-Bog, PhD & Donato Di Monte, MD

The Parkinson's Institute
"Characterization of DJ-1 Null Transgenic Mice"

Michele Morari, PhD

University of Ferrara
"The Role of Nociceptin/Orphanin FQ in Regulation of Motor Behavior and Induction of Parkinsonism"

Alain Prochiantz, PhD

Ecole Normale Supérieure
"Engrailed as a Potential Therapeutic Target in Parkinson's Disease"

Kim Seroogy, PhD

University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
"Neuregulin-2b: A Novel Trophic Factor for Midbrain Dopamine Neurons"

Jie Shen, PhD

Harvard Medical School, Brigham & Women's Hospital
"DJ-1 Function in Dopaminergic Neuronal Function & Survival"

Caryl Sortwell, PhD

Rush University Medical Center
"Gene Transfer of Pleiotrophin to Aged Parkinsonian Rats"

Jeffery Twiss, MD, PhD

Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children
"Maintenance of Nerve Terminals by Local Synthesis of Proteins in Axons"

Allan Weissman, MD

Center for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute – Frederick
"Dysregulation of Ubiquitylation in Parkinson's Disease"

Shi Du Yan, MD

Columbia University
"Cytoprotective Role of ABAD in Parkinson Disease"

PARKINSON'S UNITY WALK RAISES MORE THAN \$1 MILLION



Michael J. Fox and staff at the Foundation's booth

The 11th Annual Parkinson's Unity Walk drew its largest crowd ever this year. More than 8,500 walkers and donors from across the nation and around the world descended upon Central Park to raise more than \$1 million dollars for Parkinson's research. Friends and families strolled "Fund the Cure Boulevard" under April sunny skies, visiting the numerous booths that offered the latest information on Parkinson's. There was even an "Ask the Doctor" booth manned by medical experts for people with questions about various treatments for Parkinson's disease. Boehringer Ingelheim and Pfizer were this year's primary corporate sponsors while the Weather Channel pulled out all of the stops to publicize the Walk.

Prior to starting the two-mile walk, the crowd gathered in the stage area as emcee and WABC-TV weekend anchor Michelle Charlesworth

introduced a panel of speakers. Unity Walk chairman Martin Tuchman read from a proclamation from Mayor Michael Bloomberg declaring April 16 Parkinson's Unity Walk Day. Professional golfer Cherie Zaun talked about her recent PD diagnosis and shared her "game plan" for how she plans to tackle the disease. She encouraged people to keep a positive attitude and to get out and exercise. In addition, Muhammad Ali's daughter, Maryum "May May" Ali, thanked everyone for their support.

Margot Zobel, founder of the Unity Walk, the Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, founder and Chair of The Congressional Working Group on Parkinson's Disease and Joan Samuelson, president and founder of the Parkinson's Action Network, all gave passionate speeches, followed by the presentation of The Alan Bonander Humanitarian Award to John Cottingham and Barbara Patterson for their exceptional efforts to support the Parkinson's community. Michelle Charlesworth then introduced Michael J. Fox. The crowd reacted with thunderous applause as he passionately spoke about Parkinson's and the importance of community.

All funds raised from the Walk are designated for research and will be distributed among the major U.S. Parkinson's disease foundations, including the American Parkinson Disease Association, the National Parkinson Foundation, The Parkinson Alliance, the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, the Parkinson's Institute, the Parkinson's Action Network and The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

BETTING ON A CAUSE AND A CURE

Michael J. Fox, Cam Neely, Denis Leary and guests gambled the night away recently at the third annual "Betting On A Cause And A Cure." More than \$600,000 was raised with proceeds to be split by The Cam Neely Foundation for Cancer Care, The Leary Firefighters Foundation and The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

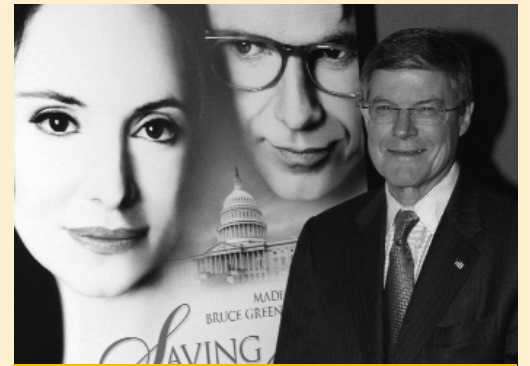
This year's black-tie Monte Carlo weekend was held at the Charles Hotel in Boston. Big winners took home extravagant prizes like a 2005 Chrysler Pacifica and everyone was invited to bid on items during the live auction. Rock and Roll Hall of Fame nominee The J. Geils Band reunited for one night only and played a very special concert at midnight.

The event was sponsored by Harrah's Entertainment, Tudor Investment Corporation, The Charles Hotel, American Airlines/American Eagle, Alpha Omega Jewelers and Dav El Chauffeured Transportation.



Denis Leary, Michael J. Fox and Cam Neely

BITTERSWEET LOVE STORY MOVES MILLIONS



Mort Kondracke poses in front of a poster promoting *Saving Milly*

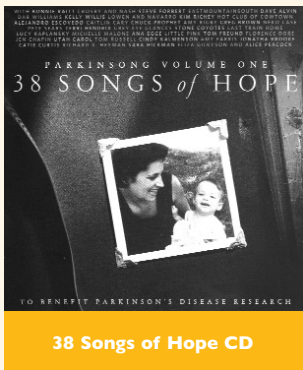
Millions of viewers from around the country tuned in recently to watch the CBS drama "Saving Milly." But for many, especially those with Parkinson's disease, the movie was almost too much to bear. Madeleine Stowe and Bruce Greenwood star in the movie which tells the real-life love story between political journalist Mort Kondracke and his dynamic wife Milly, and the dramatic changes in their lives after she was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease at the age of 47. Both Greenwood and Stowe are superb, but it's Stowe's accurate portrayal of Milly after Parkinson's has robbed the once fiery activist of her ability to move or even speak that is most startling.

The CBS movie is based on Kondracke's best-selling book "Saving Milly: Love, Politics and Parkinson's Disease" which he published three years before Milly died. It's as much a love story as it is a chronicle of one woman's fight against Parkinson's disease. In the book Mort writes candidly about their marriage—the ups and the downs—including his battle with alcoholism. He also describes in detail the realities of Parkinson's disease and how it affected the couple and their two daughters.

Michael J. Fox appears at the end of the movie to deliver a message that more research is needed to find a cure for Parkinson's disease. Mort echoes those sentiments in a public service announcement that CBS aired directly following the movie. The Foundation saw a significant spike in donations after "Saving Milly" aired and will split all donations stemming from the movie with the Parkinson's Action Network.

Mort is executive editor and a columnist for *Roll Call*, a commentator for Fox News and also co-hosts *The Beltway Boys*. Mort sits on the Boards of both the Fox Foundation and the Parkinson's Action Network.

SONGS OF HOPE FOR SALE



The Foundation recently added a new listing to the resources section of the Web site. Parkinson Song, Volume One: 38 Songs of Hope is a

double-CD featuring a superb collection of music from a virtual “who’s who” of singers and songwriters, including Bonnie Raitt and David Crosby and Graham Nash. All proceeds will benefit Parkinson’s disease research. For more information or to order this special CD visit www.Parkinsonsong.com.

CLASSIC T-BIRD TO HIGHEST BIDDER



1955 T-Bird with 3-speed transmission, V-8 312 engine

East Coast Classic Cars based in Lillington, NC recently auctioned off a 1955 T-Bird and raised more than \$40,000 for Parkinson’s disease research. Billy Ray Brown, the owner of East Coast Classic Cars, has Parkinson’s disease and is dedicated to helping find a cure. Billy Ray has donated a portion of the proceeds from the sale of this one-of-a-kind car to Duke University, and plans to donate the remainder to other Parkinson’s research organizations. The T-Bird is a 3-speed transmission with a V-8 312 engine. It has a Jaguar rear end and is completely customized inside and out. Visit www.ecoastcc.com for more information and to view photos of the car.

INTERESTED IN ORGANIZING A FUNDRAISER FOR MJFF?

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR GUIDELINES AND GET SOME IDEAS BY VISITING THE “HOW TO HELP” SECTION AT WWW.MICHAELJFOX.ORG

EYE-CATCHING COLLECTION, CELEB PHOTOS RAISE DOLLARS FOR RESEARCH

Cole Haan and GQ magazine recently teamed up to raise funds for the Fox Foundation. The retailer and popular men’s magazine organized an exclusive showing of famed photographer Mark Seliger’s extraordinary works previously featured in GQ. Guests had the rare opportunity to bid on Seliger’s prints of musicians and actors like Jude

Law in a silent auction as they sipped cocktails and dined on hors d’oeuvres. The sophisticated event was held at Cole Haan’s new store at The Shops at Columbus Circle in New York. Proceeds from the silent auction and a portion of the evening’s sales totaling nearly \$2,000 were donated to the Foundation.

MJFF SCORES \$17,000 POKER POT

In the fight to cure Parkinson’s, many different approaches have been taken to raise research money. One of the most creative, however, is the 3rd Annual Poker Run of Sun Prairie, WI organized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), a nonprofit association. Two other groups, The Victory Riders Association (VRA) and Hanley, also assisted VFW in running the event. A committee, including Dan Clavette, spearheaded this year’s event with the help of nearly 100 volunteers.

Several hundred people arrived at the starting line with a twenty-five dollar entrance fee in hand. Donations were also accepted. At 11:00 am, riders revved their motorcycle and car engines, and the 70 mile race began. Every ten miles, the participants would stop for food and beverages at either a bar or restaurant. Before setting off, they would reach into a deck of cards and blindly pick one out of the pile. This process continued for

seven stops until each rider had accumulated seven cards. At the finish line, the player who could make the best five card poker hand won a prize. The winner could either claim the \$500 prize or a half of a beef. The top seven players also left the race winners, each collecting a sum.

Everything from food to prize money was donated by various organizations and businesses. At the end of the run, participants attended a barbeque featuring a raffle, silent auction and live music. Auction items ranged from a football signed by Brett Favre to a metal beer cooler worth \$40 that was auctioned for \$400. Among the speakers was Poker Run “poster boy” Larry Danielson, a member of VFW who has Parkinson’s disease. In its first year the Poker Run raised \$2,000. But over time it has grown in popularity and raised \$17,000 last year. The organizations involved have high hopes for this year’s race on August 27, 2005.

DANCING THE DAY AWAY



Dr. Jeffrey Kordower addresses guests

The Northwest Indiana Parkinson’s Disease Support Group held its Second Annual Luncheon/ Dance to benefit the Fox Foundation. Nearly 100 guests attended the fundraiser which was held at the Celebrity Ballroom of the Radisson Hotel in

Merrillville, Indiana. Dr. Jeffrey Kordower, a member of the Foundation’s Scientific Advisory Board and director of the Research Center for Brain Repair and professor of neurological sciences at Rush University Medical Center was on hand to talk about the progress being made in Parkinson’s research as well as what future avenues research will take. But the day was not purely educational. Guests danced to the tunes of Al Rossi and “A Touch of Class” and items such as an autographed picture of Chicago Cubs Hall of Fame pitcher Ferguson Jenkins were raffled off.

The event raised \$3,230 for the Fox Foundation, and hosts Ramona and Kerry Mitchell have already started planning next year’s event.

DRIVE AROUND THE WORLD

Talk about a long journey! A team of eight San Francisco bay area professionals spent the past 16 months circling the globe to raise funds and awareness of Parkinson's disease. The "Drive Around the World" team logged 41,000 miles in Land Rover Certified Pre-owned Discovery vehicles and visited more than 31 countries on four continents before calling it quits and returning home.

Executive director and expedition leader Nick Baggarly developed the Drive Around the World program as a creative response to the news that his sister Jackie had been diagnosed with Parkinson's. Each team member has a friend or family member who suffers from the disease, and they say the expedition is their way of doing something about it.

"We realized that we could either sit back and do nothing and accept the hand that had been dealt us, or we could get up and do something to solve the problem," said Baggarly. "We chose to help solve the problem."

Since their journey began on Nov. 1, 2003, the team has traversed ten deserts, crossed the Panama Canal, climbed two volcanoes, stood at the edge of the world in Tierra del Fuego, become the first foreigners to complete an overland transit of Myanmar (formerly Burma) since 1953, traversed the world's highest motorable road in the Himalayas (Khardung La Pass, 18,640 feet) and endured temperatures of 58 degrees below zero in crossing Sibera's frozen expanses.

Along the way, the team met with Parkinson's researchers and patients. One Land Rover vehicle remained in the U.S. and was taken to classrooms nationwide as part of the Expedition's education segment. It was outfitted with special expedition gear and signed by Michael J. Fox, Jay Leno, Academy Award-winning director James Cameron and California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, among others.

For more information visit the group's Web site at www.drivearoundtheworld.com.

MARATHONER MOTIVATED BY DAD



Susie Rosenthal finishes the NYC marathon

San Francisco native Susie Rosenthal finished last fall's New York City marathon in three hours, 42 minutes and 48 seconds. That put her in the top 12 percent of all finishers. Although this was her sixth marathon (and third time running the New York City marathon), this one was special. Susie ran for her father Robert Rosenthal who was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in the fall of 2001 and died in May 2005.

"In researching Parkinson's disease, I saw how The Michael J. Fox Foundation was working so hard to find a cure and I decided to see how I could help," said Ms. Rosenthal. "I have friends who I train with and decided I could add this important cause to my motivation for training."

Susie asked friends, family and coworkers for their support and was able to raise \$3,400.

"Knowing how many causes are out there, I was overwhelmed by the generosity and response I received," said Ms. Rosenthal. "During the hardest miles of the run—miles 20-26.2—I definitely thought of all of my friends and family that pledged their money in support of Parkinson's and my run. I knew I would finish, no matter what!"

ON A MISSION TO COMPETE IN ALL 50 STATES

Gene Gurkoff is a 26-year-old attorney practicing in New York City who has set an unusual challenge for himself: to run or compete in a multi-sport event in all 50 states. And he has vowed to keep going until a Parkinson's cure is found. But his hope is that the science will lead to a cure before he is able to complete his mission. Any money that Gene raises through the competitions will go to support Parkinson's research.

Gene is working to coordinate with other endurance sports enthusiasts. If you plan to run a 5K, kayak or compete in a bike race or triathlon—any sort of sporting event—and would like to be put in touch with other individuals in your area training for similar competitions, please contact Gene Gurkoff at egurkoff@hotmail.com or contact Amanda McDorman at the Foundation at amcdorman@michaeljfox.org.

SECRET GARDEN TOUR



An old boat anchors Debbie Harrington's garden

Driving by Debbie Harrington's home, one would never guess that tucked away in the backyard is a whimsical garden. An old rowboat filled with begonias and hostas sits next to

a strawberry patch planted in a child's bed. Debbie lives in a development of about 100 homes outside of Seattle. She admired the many homes in her neighborhood but always wondered what the gardens in the back looked like. This inspired her to organize a garden tour of homes and gardens. She enlisted five neighbors to open their yards and sold tickets to neighbors, friends and families raising \$1,000 for the Fox Foundation. Refreshments were served and guests had such a wonderful time that many never made it to all five homes. The event was a huge success and Debbie is planning another garden tour for this summer.

"HEARTS SPEAK WHEN WORDS CANNOT"

**MY GRANDMA USED TO WALK.
MY GRANDMA USED TO TALK.
NOW SHE LAYS IN BED ALL DAY,
BECAUSE PARKINSON'S STOLE
HER VOICE AWAY.**

**NOW I READ HER BOOKS,
I BRING HER DRINKS.
I LOVE MY GRANDMA,
BUT PARKINSON'S STINKS!!!!**

*By Bernadette Bianchi
9 years old*



Grand Central Station, P.O. Box 4777
New York, New York 10163
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SUMMER 2005 NEWSLETTER

FOUNDATION DEBUTS "MAKE IT STOP" PSAs

Parkinson's is a degenerative disease. Over time, it destroys the body, leaving the mind a prisoner. It can strike as early as age thirty, and it has no cure. Current medications only mask the disease. By aggressively funding the latest research, we believe that Parkinson's is curable within our lifetime. We're getting closer every day. You can help us finish the job.

MAKE IT STOP



Look for our new ads on television and in *People* magazine and other publications that have generously donated ad space to the Foundation

The Foundation recently launched a new public service announcement (PSA) campaign to help educate the general public about the realities of Parkinson's disease. The ads focus on the physical consequences of Parkinson's and the fact that it can strike anyone—men and women, old and young. The use of visual effects and a special type font help to illustrate the degenerative effects of the disease. While the ads represent a significant departure

from lighthearted PSAs the Foundation has produced in the past, the core message is the same: that the Foundation is dedicated to funding research that will find a cure.

The ads were designed and produced pro bono by a team from leading ad agency Deutsch Inc. Award-winning director Robert Hales lent his time for the television spots. To view the ads visit www.michaeljfox.org/About/Michael.

SUNNY L.A. EVENING RAISES \$6.4 MILLION FOR PARKINSON'S

The Foundation's first-ever Los Angeles fundraiser was a huge success. "A Sunny Thing Happened on the Way to Cure Parkinson's" was held at the home of Heather Thomas and Skip Brittenham. It was an intimate evening of dinner under the stars featuring a comedic performance by Emmy-nominated actor and comedian Ray Romano. Ray Romano was a hit with the local crowd and also showed some never-before aired bloopers from his hit television show "Everybody Loves Raymond."

Fox Foundation Board members and friends Shanna and Jon Brooks, Dawn and Stuart Clifton, Tracy Pollan and Michael J. Fox, Diana Meehan and Gary David Goldberg, Marilyn and Jeffrey Katzenberg, Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall, Nina and Bobby Kotick, Jodi and Michael Price, Georgina and

Alan Rothenberg, Laurice and Richard Rothenberg and Sanctorem Pictures served on the benefit committee. In addition to the \$1.4 million raised prior to the dinner, one of our donors announced during the program a \$5 million gift. That same donor also underwrote all costs associated with the evening so that the \$6.4 million raised could go directly to fund research into a cure for Parkinson's.

While in the Los Angeles area, the Foundation also organized a research roundtable which was hosted by Ali Kasicki of the Peninsula Hotel who generously donated the space and food for the event. More than 120 guests had the opportunity to hear first-hand from leading researchers (and Fox Scientific Advisory Board members) about the state of the science and to ask questions. Drs. Jeffrey Kordower, Theo Palmer and Joseph Jankovic talked

about current treatments and challenges as well as new treatments in the pipeline. They also talked about the therapeutic potential of trophic factors such as GDNF and research being done to advance this area—including projects funded by the Foundation and work being conducted at pharmaceutical companies. Of particular interest was Theo Palmer's discussion of the latest strides in stem cell research as it applies to Parkinson's and his insider's perspective on what is happening with the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (also known as Proposition 71).

Recently, the Foundation also held research roundtable events in Chicago and New York. Visit www.michaeljfox.org/news/index.php for information about upcoming events in your area.

THE MICHAEL J. FOX FOUNDATION FOR PARKINSON'S RESEARCH IS DEDICATED TO ACCELERATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CURE FOR PARKINSON'S DISEASE THROUGH AN AGGRESSIVELY FUNDED RESEARCH AGENDA.