



CATALYST

Growing Funds for Parkinson's Research

Charitable Giving Reaches New Heights in Amarillo

The Parkinson Alliance is pleased to announce an unprecedented \$100,000 research donation from the Amarillo, Texas Area Parkinson Support Group (AAPSG).

This generous gift comes from the estate of Herbert Breitling and Louis Blackwell Breitling, longtime members of the Amarillo support group. The check was presented to Carol J. Walton, Executive Director of the Alliance, at a lovely award ceremony in the Amarillo City Council Chambers.

Carl Ray Williams, President of the AAPSG, and fellow board members researched several national organizations as potential recipients, and decided that the mission of The Parkinson Alliance was an ideal match. The Parkinson Alliance is committed to raise funds for the most promising Parkinson's disease research targeted on finding a cure. The Alliance is a unique non-profit organization in that 100% of all individual donations

go directly to research. This is possible through its partnership with The Tuchman Foundation, which matches all donations to cover administrative costs for the organization.

Carl Williams, whose wife Melnora has had Parkinson's disease for many years, reiterated during the ceremony how proud the Support Group was to channel the Breitling gift to a national organization

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that will ensure the monies will be used for research. ☺



The Parkinson Alliance Supports Deep Brain Stimulation Research in Patients with Advanced Parkinson's Disease

Dr. Andres Lozano, Dr. Elena Moro, Dr. Anthony Lang and their colleagues at the University of Toronto and Toronto Western Hospital are conducting a pilot study in unilateral pedunculo pontine (PPN) deep brain stimulation (DBS) in patients with advanced Parkinson's disease (PD). The PPN is a structure involved in locomotion, muscular tone, cognition and REM sleep generation. The PPN is supposed to be hypoactive in PD and be involved in the pathogenesis of postural and gait dysfunction and akinesia. Preliminary European published data in a few PD patients with bilateral PPN DBS seem to be encouraging. This Toronto study is specifically focused on effectiveness and safety of unilateral PPN DBS, clinical effects of different electrical parameters of stimulation, clinical effects on gait and sleep, neuroimaging study for understanding mechanism of action.

To date, two patients with advanced Parkinson's disease have received left pedunculo pontine deep brain stimulation at Toronto Western Hospital. Preliminary data in double-blinded fashion have shown a 20% improvement of the motor score with DBS when compared to "stimulation off" and "off medication" conditions. The improvement was related to gait, contralateral tremor and bradykinesia, and freezing was markedly reduced in both PD patients. Both patients have also reported improved sleep after surgery. While gait data are under analysis, the sleep study in one patient has shown a significant increase of REM sleep.

You are Making a Difference: Parkinson's Unity Walk Kick-off Reception

by Trina Stokes

February 7th marked the kick-off for the 2007 Parkinson's Unity Walk. It was a chilly evening in Manhattan for this yearly reception that brings together Board Members, Volunteers, Team Captains and Sponsors that help make the Walk a success. Inside the mood was warm as everyone came to show their support for the event coming on Saturday, April 28th.

Carol Walton, Executive Director of The Parkinson Alliance and Board Member of the Unity Walk, started the program presenting a challenge, "Last year's event had over 10,000 people and raised almost \$1.5 million for research and this year our goal is \$2 million. We have come a long way."



Martin Tuchman and Ken Aidekman

The evening was a perfect occasion to present Kenneth Aidekman, co-founder of the Unity Walk, an "Excellence in Service Award". Martin Tuchman, Chairman of the Unity Walk, eloquently stated, "I consider Ken Aidekman to be a pioneer in the Parkinson's community. I feel fortunate over the past years to have met my share of pioneers—but, one I feel has made the most impact on the lives of thousands of people in the Parkinson's community is Ken, who in 1994, with Margot Zobel, founded the Parkinson's Unity Walk."

Trina Stokes, the Event Director, then introduced the Team Captains of USA PD Pals—Annie Konopka of New Jersey and Judy Hensley from Tennessee. They made their debut at the 12th Parkinson's Unity Walk in 2006, had over 30 family members and friends walk that day, and raised over \$17,000—an amazing

amount for their first year. These two ladies have tackled their diagnosis in more ways than one and shared their successful formula for raising money. They ended their speech with a surprise by presenting a \$7000 check to the Unity Walk.

We are proud and grateful that our generous sponsors make it possible for us to continue giving 100% of the contributions sent to the Unity Walk directly to the major Parkinson's foundations for research. For 2007, this event is made possible by our premier sponsor, Boehringer Ingelheim, and others that include Medtronic, Inc., Novartis, Schwarz Pharma, Teva Neuroscience, Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, and Vernalis. ☺

Start Your Fundraising Now!

Join the
**Parkinson's Unity Walk
Community &
Education Day**

in April 2008

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



*(above) Annie Konopka and Judy Hensley of USA PD Pals
(right) l to r: Carol Walton, Terry Drucker, & Lupe McCann*



Team Parkinson Passes the \$1 Million Mark!

At our annual LA Marathon Carbo Dinner on March 3rd, Carol Walton, Executive Director of The Parkinson Alliance, made the very exciting announcement that Team Parkinson had passed the million dollar mark since our inception in 2000! It was a proud moment for us all.

The theme for Team Parkinson 2007 at the Los Angeles Marathon was courage. Some might call it stubbornness, but we prefer to see it as courage and character that just won't quit. This is fitting, as we dedicated this year's event to the memory of long time Team Parkinson member Dr. Marty Polonsky. Marty wasn't a quitter and personified courage in always showing up for events despite the physical and logistical problems he faced.

The Expo

After months of behind the scenes work, our race weekend started with two days at the Quality of Life Expo at the Los Angeles Convention Center, where we had a booth. It's always a pleasure for us to meet new friends and to reconnect with old friends who have been loyal members of Team Parkinson for years.

The Dinner

On the Saturday evening before race day, we hosted a dinner for over 100 people at Taix French Restaurant in Los Angeles. Our two very distinguished guest speakers were Dr. Giselle Petzinger of USC and Dr. Yvette Bordelon of UCLA. Each spoke of ongoing research and explained how vitally important funding is. It was very motivating for everyone to learn how their fundraising efforts make a huge difference.

In addition to the very exciting announcement that Team Parkinson had passed the million dollar mark, we acknowledged the incredible contribution of Aaron and Harriet Moretzsky, who have raised over \$100,000 over the past few years.

Then the Grand Prize fundraising winner was announced, this year going to new members Steve and Lynn Frankel, who headed up the amazing Team Frankel, and raised over \$30,000!

Race Day

Sunday March 4th dawned sunny. The 10 Team Parkinson bike riders were happy to have the warmth as they started their ride at 6am and the 100 5K runners and walkers didn't mind the sun either for their 7:30am start. Our 24 participants in

the full marathon, including four with Parkinson's, were a bit warmer than they would have liked! Our blue t-shirts really stood out all along the race course!

Courage comes in many forms and we saw a lot of it in our Team Parkinson 2007 effort at the Los Angeles Marathon. We'd like to thank each and every one of you for your participation as runners, walkers, riders, volunteers, fundraisers and researchers. This is a labor of love for us, and we hope that one day in the not-too-distant future we'll gather for a huge celebration party because the cure will have been found and we all will have been instrumental in making it happen. ☺



*Grand Prize winners
Steve & Lynn Frankel raised over \$30,000!*



*Top row l to r: David James, John Ball, Doug MacGlashan,
Mark Saxonberg
Bottom row l to r: Gary Miller, Mimi MacGlashan*

Upcoming Events — 2007

Putting for Parkinson's Golf Outing

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

W. Napa Valley, CA

2nd Annual Team Parkinson Golf Classic

Monday, July 16, 2007

Whittier, CA

Team Parkinson at the San Francisco Marathon

Sunday, July 29, 2007

San Francisco, CA

Putting for Parkinson's Golf Outing

Tuesday, September 19, 2007

Jamesburg, NJ

Carnegie Center 5K and Fun Run

Saturday, September 29, 2007

Princeton, NJ

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"Your Support Counts"

We would not be able to fund critical research initiatives without the generous support of our sponsors. The Parkinson Alliance along with our 5K Race Director, Mark Hockenjos of Boston Properties, presented an appreciation plaque to the companies that support our annual Carnegie Center 5K and Fun Run. This year's event was once again supported by a number of corporate sponsors including Interpool, Inc., Boston Properties, GE Healthcare, Kyowa Pharmaceuticals, The Residence Inn at Carnegie Center, Tyco, Washington Group International, Yardville National Bank, NRG Energy, Inc., The Ruderman Family, Akros Pharma, Lawrence Shopping Center, NAI Fennelly and Hyatt Regency Princeton. We are proud to be in partnership with these companies. ☺

(right top) Tyco International Ltd.

(right middle)

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

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