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## Alcor News Bulletin

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Number 45: November 22, 2005

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### Authors This Issue:

Jennifer Chapman [JC], Diane Cremeens [DC], Tanya Jones [TJ], Steve Van Sickle [SVS], Website Working Group [WWG].

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### \$100,000 Matching Grant for Whole Body Vitrification Research

A better cryopreservation can be yours. That's why our staff, including senior research scientist Sergey Sheleg, MD, PhD, is actively working to cryopreserve your intact body and brain as perfectly as possible.

Progress is already underway. Alcor recently upgraded its whole body cryopreservation procedure by switching to M22,

an advanced cryoprotectant capable of vitrifying the brain for whole-body members, but parts of the body are still not fully vitrified. We need your help to reach the next level.

We need the help of every one of our members now to achieve whole-body vitrification. Until January 31, 2006, every dollar donated will be matched up to \$100,000 by a generous donation from Bina & Martine Rothblatt, Alcor members dedicated to rapidly advancing this technology.

Call now to make your pledge: 877-462-5267 ext. 101

Or print and fax your pledge form to: 480-922-9027

Pledge forms are available at this link:

<http://www.alcor.org/Library/pdfs/MatchingGrant.pdf>

When sending donations by mail, include this pledge form or simply write "Matching Grant Donation" in the memo field of your check:

Alcor Foundation  
7895 E. Acoma Drive, Suite 110  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260  
Attention: Fundraising Dept.  
[JC]

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#### Cryopreservation Cases

During the past month, we performed one standby in northern California and two cryopreservation procedures. The standby was launched for member A-1598, who collapsed in his northern California home and fell into a coma. We deployed a full transport team, but after several days some of the team was called away by an emergency call for member A-1398 who was admitted to a hospital in New Orleans. Both cryopreservations were performed within 48 hours of one another. Full details will be in an upcoming issue of Cryonics magazine. [TJ]

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#### Financial Matters

Recent problems regarding reconciliation of the Patient Care Trust (PCT) and Comprehensive Member Standby Program (CMS) are largely resolved. The PCT has been paid everything owed it with the exception of one \$10,000 payment and the recent case for which we are currently awaiting insurance payment (as is normal procedure). The CMS fund still has an outstanding amount owed it, but this should be more than balanced by two uncharged standbys. We're still awaiting payment from the PCT for outstanding construction invoices, which will allow us to continue addressing accounts payable. The chart of accounts has been reconfigured to allow easier internal billing of cases, and a collections process is underway for those who are over 60 days past delinquent on membership dues, CMS, and subscription payments. Aleetha Castro has left the organization and Alcor is seeking a replacement. We wish

Aleetha the best in her future endeavors. Questions about billing can be sent to [SVS]

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#### New Whole Body Cryopreservation Procedure

Alcor has upgraded its whole body cryopreservation procedure for all members currently signed up as whole body, as well as for those whole body members who have executed an open option contract. Further information and micrographs explaining the switch to M22 technology for all Alcor cases can be found on our website at:

<http://www.alcor.org/Library/html/newtechnology.html>

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#### Alcor Performs In-house Sterilization

We've purchased an ethylene oxide sterilizer and installed both it and the vent line needed for safe operation. This will enable us to restock our surgical supplies faster after cryopreservation cases. [TJ]

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#### Dozens of Scientists Go Public with Support for Cryonics

At the Life Extension Extension Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on Nov. 5, the Immortality Institute unveiled an Open Letter signed by 56 scientists, physicians, and ethicists endorsing the scientific basis of cryonics. The letter is online at:

<http://www.cryoletter.org>

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Anyone with a PhD, especially in biology, or MD degree with a background in research, who would like to support this letter is asked to contact

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#### Alcor Contributes to Methuselah Foundation

Alcor committed to a \$2,000 contribution to the Methuselah Mouse Prize. This is a very worthy program, generating interest in aging research, promoting it through a prize program, and directly funding research programs. More information can be found at:

[www.mprize.org](http://www.mprize.org)  
[SVS]

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#### Cryonics Discussed in Major Medical Journal

The current issue of Critical Care, a peer-reviewed journal read by 15,000 critical care medicine specialists worldwide, contains an article by four ethicists and medical specialists on a relatively new form of organ

donation called Donation after Cardiac Death (DCD). One of the authors of the article, entitled "Pro/con ethics debate: When is dead really dead?" is former Alcor President and cryonics research legend, Mike Darwin. In his contribution, Darwin cites Ralph Merkle's "information theoretic criterion" for death, and states flat-out that almost no patients declared dead today "are in fact truly dead by any rigorous scientific criteria." He goes on to state that recent advances in organ and brain cryopreservation even suggest that it might be possible for patients declared dead by DCD criteria to be saved by prompt cryopreservation (i.e. cryonics). For better or worse, DCD is forcing ethicists to acknowledge what cryonicists have asserted for decades: There is a difference between legal and biological death. Further discussion and a link to the article can be found at

<http://www.alcor.org/Library/html/dcd.htm>

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#### Media This Month

An estimated 25,944 distinct computers visited Alcor's website in October. Media participation this month includes:

- Zig Zag Productions: Alcor hosted a visit from the producers of this documentary with assistance from Deb Johnson of WalshCOMM. The crew plans to film at Alcor early next year.
  - Origins of Timeship: Alcor gave permission for several of its photos to be included in Stephen Valentine's book about Timeship. The book describes the Timeship project and touches on how life extension/cryonics evolved over time. It is scheduled for release in early 2006.
  - Crime Scene Investigation, New York: Tanya Jones fielded a call from a CSI researcher who wanted to understand the cryonics process for an upcoming episode. We asked him to keep us informed of if/when the episode will air. [JC/WWG]
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#### CryoFeasts Continue

The Texas CryoFeast (Austin) was held on 11/12 and the Canada CryoFeast (Toronto, Ontario) will be held on 12/04. Alcor will not be attending these events but is helping announce them and providing free giveaways for the guests. Alcor is also planning an Arizona CryoFeast in Scottsdale for early December. [JC]

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#### Membership Statistics

Approvals: 11  
Members: 780  
Applicants: 63

On October 31, 2005, Alcor had 780 members on its Emergency Responsibility List. Eleven memberships were approved during this month, one membership was reinstated, three memberships were cancelled and two members were cryopreserved. Overall, there was a net gain of seven members this month. We have an average net gain of 6.7 members per month in 2005, which compares favorably to the average net gain of 4.3 members per month last year. At the end of this month, Alcor had 63 applicants for membership, a net loss of 5 applicants.

Alcor distributed 152 information packs this month. Our average for 2005 has grown to 119 per month, compared to 50 in 2004. There were 784 subscribers to Alcor News as of the last issue. [DC]

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#### Alcor United

Alcor members have a new forum where they can meet and chat with other members. Get to know other cryonics supporters in your area by visiting Alcor United:

[www.alcorunited.org](http://www.alcorunited.org)

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#### Construction Update

We are creating the final punch list for the construction project, with mostly minor details remaining. Details were missed in the construction contract, like the addition of data and phone lines in the various spaces, but this work is sufficiently minor that it will not impact the end-of-month deadline. Also, the bulk liquid nitrogen tank has been ordered for delivery. [TJ]

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#### Employment Opportunities

Have you ever thought about joining the Alcor team? We have immediate needs for licensed Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians, Registered Nurses, Lab Technicians and more to join our nationwide Transport Team. Participation would be on a contractual basis.

You'll be given cryonics training that will enable you to participate in our patient rescue and transport cases. Licensed professionals do not have to be Alcor members to work with us. We welcome your expertise and interest. If you're interested, send your resume to:

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#### Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 3, 2005, at 11:00 AM (MST).

Board meetings are typically held on the first Saturday of the month at the Alcor facility (7895 East Acoma Drive in Scottsdale, AZ). Members and the public are encouraged to attend.

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End of Alcor News bulletin #45 dated November 22, 2005.  
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