Dear friends,

We are four days into the month of April, I wonder how you are honoring Parkinson's Awareness Month? It's exciting to see members of the community get involved, whether that's through participating in educational programs like viewing WPC webcast session of Dr. Nutt's talk from Portland (see below), or visiting the new WPC Blog to read posts from leaders in our community, or signing up for a clinical trial.

However you choose to engage, it makes a difference!

We'll be hosting a booth at the Unity Walk in New York City on April 22. Will we see you there? We'll be holding a raffle to give away some of our new stylish Parky the Raccoons and will be unveiling our new materials for the WPC 2019 in Kyoto, Japan.

Please take time to tell us what kinds of sessions you want to see at the WPC 2019. We are opening our survey today and will collect the ideas and feedback to share with our Program Committee members later this year as they begin the challenging process of designing the WPC 2019 program. We want to hear from you! The WPC is designed by the community, for the community. Your thoughts are valuable and needed.

Kind regards,

Elizabeth "Eli" Pollard
Executive Director

---

A Look Back at WPC 2016:
Levodopa Over The Last 50 Years, Where We've Come From And Where We Are Going
Levodopa (LD) is a marvelous treatment for Parkinson’s disease (PD). However, its clinical use poses challenges. LD is absorbed only from the small intestine; it has a short half-life so blood levels vary minute to minute making delivery to the brain variable and finally, its entry into the brain is influenced by amino acids in food. These factors contribute to the fluctuating response to LD. A variety of methods to produce continuous delivery of LD via the gastrointestinal tract or to bypass the gastrointestinal tract altogether are entering the market or are in early clinical trials. Methods to improve entry into the brain by altering LD blood-brain transport system are imaginable. But will overcoming these pharmacokinetic challenges be sufficient to produce a continuous “on” state? Even with constant blood LD patients still have “off” periods.

The response to LD changes with long-term administration and progression of the disease. Motor fluctuations which have been mild and often unnoticed early in the treatment appear. Onset of response is shortened and the magnitude is increased. But another change is the long-duration response, a response to dopaminergic drugs that develops and decays over weeks with repeated dosing. The long-duration response may be the same magnitude as the immediate response to LD and early in treatment may obscure the short-duration response. If the origin of the long-duration response was understood it could be manipulated to therapeutic benefit. Oral administration and even new methods to administer LD continuously can not mimic the normal pattern of tonic and phasic release of dopamine from nerve terminals. Feedback loops based on physical or brain activity could tailor delivery of LD in relation to need. In advanced PD, conversion of LD to dopamine likely occurs in serotonergic nerve terminals and other cells in the striatum leading to release of dopamine in no relation to normal targets or physiological needs. Further, decarboxylation to dopamine may become limiting in advanced PD. Remodeling the striatum by grafting or gene therapy may overcome these limitations. Fifty years later, challenges abound but many opportunities also exist to improve our use of LD in PD.
Watch Dr. Nutt's presentation from the WPC 2016

WPC 2016 webcast made possible with support from Biogen.

WPC Blog is now launched!

The following is an excerpt from Dr. Stanley Fahn's WPC Blog post.

This new blog, like the WPC, is unique. It’s not a blog for just one voice. Like the WPC, it will have hundreds of voices. It will include posts from key stakeholders across the Parkinson’s spectrum. It has been designed to give a voice to experts in our field who don't have the opportunities to tell the broader community their thoughts. Our researchers and clinicians spend so much of their time publishing peer-reviewed publications in academic journals that we rarely get to hear what they think about the science and future of PD.

The WPC Blog is being designed with something for everyone. The authors are experts from around the world who have somehow played a part in the WPC. Their posts will create a unique online library of ideas about Parkinson’s and will hopefully spark discussion and connect the community – something the WPC does best.

Join me in marking this blog as a new online Parkinson's resource and be inspired.

READ THE FULL POST

Become an Ambassador for the WPC 2019

Who should apply?

People with Parkinson's who have attended a past World Parkinson Congress. The ideal candidate is passionate about the WPC and believe it’s the right format of meeting to generate the collaborations and momentum needed to improve models of care and find a cure. They are leaders in their communities on the ground and online and look forward to welcoming delegates to Kyoto, Japan in 2019.

What are the responsibilities of an Ambassador?

Ambassadors will be asked to attend Parkinson's events in their area, promote the WPC on social media, and answer questions from people interested in attending the Congress. Ambassadors will be valuable partners in the long-term outreach plan and will represent the WPC leading up to, and during, the WPC 2019 in Kyoto, Japan.

How long do Ambassadors serve?

If selected you will serve until the conclusion of the WPC in 2019.

COMPLETE THE APPLICATION
As we prepare for the 5th World Parkinson Congress, we want to know what type of sessions you would like to see. The WPC program is designed BY the community FOR the community. So, in our program survey you will have the opportunity to suggest a session title, speaker(s), and learning objectives. As you can imagine, the process is complex, but your input as a community member is paramount to the success of designing a great program.

Ideas may be typed directly into our system OR uploaded in a word document. Visit the survey link to download the template.

How to suggest a session:

1. Choose a session title: This can be anything related to Parkinson's disease
2. Identify the category: Basic Science, Clinical Science, or Comprehensive Care
3. Choose a session level: Crosstalk (Minimal or no scientific background required), Moderate-level scientific session, High-level scientific session.
5. Suggest speakers: You can identify specific individuals or even just the types of specialists you would like to hear. For example, if your topic was L-dopa delivery, you may want a nutritionist, and a neurologist on your panel. Please note that we look for diversity in faculty make-up,
including but not limited to: gender, geographic, and seniority status.

We look forward to your suggestions.

TAKE THE SURVEY HERE

ORDER YOUR OWN PARKY
& SHARE YOUR PICTURE
See all of the places that Parky has been at whereisparky.org

PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH EVENTS

Join us at the Parkinson's Unity Walk

The 23rd Annual Parkinson's Unity Walk will be on Sat., April 22, 2017 (Rain or Shine)

Sign up for a gentle 1.4 mile walk in Central Park and be sure to visit the WPC booth to enter our raffle and get your own Parky the Raccoon tattoo.

100% of donations to the PUW go to Parkinson's research at six major U.S. Parkinson's foundations.

In addition to raising awareness and funds for research, it will also be a day of community and education.

We hope to see you there!

#UniteForParkinsons on April 11th

This year marks 200 years since Parkinson’s was recognized as a health condition by Dr. James Parkinson’s. This April 11, on World Parkinson’s Day, the European Parkinson’s Disease Association and Parkinson’s UK will launch a campaign to bring the global Parkinson's community together.

They are calling for everyone to use the hashtag #UniteForParkinsons on April 11 and to share experiences and plans for the future.

Why not #UniteForParkinsons in April? Using the hashtag on social media is the main call to action, but there are other ways to get involved. Learn more at www.worldparkinsonsday.com!

Useful Links

View online version
Forward to Friends

About This Email

You are receiving this email because you subscribed to receive WPC eNews. To