Dear friends,

The WPC has a strong history of bringing the community together to ensure that everyone understands what the other stakeholders are doing to advance progress on Parkinson’s. This Parkinson’s Awareness Month we continue our work introducing community members, but this time it's via our Twitter Take over series which will highlight Professor Patrik Brundin. Connect to us on Twitter and take a peek. Next up in May is Professor Michael Okun.

The WPC is launching The Parkinson Tulip Project this month. This project, supported by Supernus Pharmaceuticals, will run from April 2021 through April 2022 and will culminate in a beautiful tulip garden exhibit on site at the WPC 2022 in Barcelona. To be a part of this project, submit photos of yourself with a tulip, any kind of tulip, whether hand draw, painted, real, knitted... creativity is encouraged. People who submit photos will have their images be used in this exhibit and they will also be entered into our various raffles to win free prizes, including free registration to attend WPC 2022. All community members are invited to participate, people with Parkinson's, scientists, health professionals and others. Learn more and submit your photo today!

The WPC Song Competition deadline is September 30, 2021. The
two winning songs will be performed by the WPC choir at the opening ceremony in Barcelona, on Tuesday, June 7, 2022. [Learn more.]

See details below for upcoming WPC virtual programs.

**WPC Virtual Congress** – Registration is now OPEN!
**Monday, May 17 – Friday, May 21, 2021**
ABOUT: This exciting program cements the WPC’s commitment of bringing the community together to advance our knowledge of Parkinson’s.
*Made possible with support from Premier Sponsors: Amneal Pharmaceuticals and Medtronic*
[View Program & Register]

**WPC Dual Language Webinar Series**
**Thursday, May 20, 2021**
1 – 2 PM ET – Myths and Facts of Levodopa (listen in English)
2:30 – 3:30 PM ET – Mitos y realidades de la levodopa (listen in Spanish)
ABOUT: This webinar set will do a deep dive on levodopa, how it works and why to take it. Hear from movement disorder experts and Parkinson advocates about this gold-standard medication for Parkinson’s.
[REGISTER today]

**WPC Research Spotlight** – New Studies Support a Critical Role for Alpha Synuclein in PD
**Thursday, May 6, 2021**
11 – 12 AM ET/ 4 – 5PM BST/ 5 – 6 PM CET
ABOUT: Professor Erwan Bezard, Dr. Benjamin Dehay and Dr. Marie-Laure Arotcarena will discuss their research showing that pathological forms of the α-synuclein protein present in the brain of deceased PD patients were capable of initiating a Parkinsonian-like pathological process in mice and primates.
[REGISTER today]

**April Parkinson Sing-A-Long**
**Wednesday, April 14, 2021**
12 PM – 1 PM ET
Join WPC Choir Director, Judi Spencer, for a lively session of song this Parkinson’s Awareness Month.
[REGISTER today]

Looking forward to seeing you in 2022 in Barcelona.

Best regards

Elizabeth "Eli" Pollard
TWITTER TAKE OVER
Prof. Patrik Brundin takes over our Twitter account on April 6th!
WPC Twitter!

SING-A-LONG
12 PM EST
Weds, April 14
Join us for an hour of singing and fun!
REGISTER

CARE PARTNER VIRTUAL PANEL
3 - 4 PM ET
Tues, June 22
Care Partnering and Parkinson’s: The emotional rollercoaster
LEARN MORE

SONG COMPETITION
WPC 2022 Song Competition Now Open!
Closes September 30, 2021
LEARN MORE

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT
11 AM - 12 PM ET
Thursday, May 6
New Studies Support a Critical Role for Alpha Synuclein in PD
REGISTER

DUAL LANGUAGE WEBINAR
1 - 3:30 PM ET
Thursday, May 20
Myths and Facts of Levodopa
REGISTER

WPC BLOG HIGHLIGHT
MAKING A MARK
by Jon Stamford, PhD

You’ve heard it all before… Subject: female, 42, Journalist and PR. Presenting symptoms: insomnia, stress tremor, occassional limp, recurring frozen shoulder. Usual pathway – friends beginning to notice her symptoms. Goes to the GP. GP unsure, thinks/hopes it’s probably stress but refers on to a neurologist. Pushed and prodded until "Parkinson's disease" the neurologist
says. Usual stunned silence. Usual tears. Usual platitudes "we are in it together". Usual responses from friends - "but you're too young to have Parkinson's". DATscan says otherwise - young onset Parkinson’s disease. It even has its own acronym YOPD. Her ‘diagnosis buddy’, brought along for emotional support, you know, "just in case you're needed" drives her home. Prangs the car. The day can't get much worse. They head for the pub.

It doesn't really matter how the journey starts. It's where you take it and where it takes you. Read on.

READ MORE