Dear friends,

As the world rolls into its sixth month of living with COVID (it sometimes feels longer!), the Parkinson’s world keeps moving forward. People are still being diagnosed with PD, researchers are working to find ways to continue their research with new safety protocols, and clinicians are navigating the world of telehealth and learning all sorts of new ways to connect and care for their patients.

Like the rest of the world, the WPC continues its work as well in both planning the scientific program for Barcelona, fundraising for the Congress, hosting Care Partner Virtual panels, designing a new dual language webinar series in English and Spanish, all while mapping out plans for driving up participation in Barcelona in order to deliver the best Congress yet.

The #WPC4YOPD Facebook fundraiser continues to raise funds to help get
more people with young onset PD to Barcelona, panelists for the third care partner webinar looking at the role of care partners in cognition and Parkinson’s are getting their presentations ready for September, and we just selected eight WPC 2022 Science Ambassadors.

The WPC Science Ambassadors will work closely with the WPC leadership to help drive up interest and awareness in the science community around the World Parkinson Congress. We want to see more scientists attending and presenting at the WPC 2022 than ever before and these Ambassadors will help make this happen.

Help me in welcoming our new WPC Science Ambassadors!

Dayne Beccano-Kelly (UK)
Judith Bek (UK)
Xi Chen (USA)
Marie Fuzzati (France)
Richard Gordon (Australia)
Adriana Laguna (Spain)
Ignacio "Nacho" Matta (USA)
Mattia Volta (Italy)

Kind regards,

Elizabeth "Eli" Pollard
Executive Director

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**WPC Blog Highlight**

**Do Antibiotics Cause Parkinson's Disease?**

by Filip Scheperjans, MD PhD
We recently discovered in a nationwide registry-based study that in Finland subjects diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease (PD) had a higher number of antibiotic courses in the years before diagnosis than control subjects.

So does this mean that antibiotics cause PD and that people should not use antibiotics?

The short answer is “NO”, but a bit longer answer may make the underlying connections more clear. PD is most definitely a multifactorial disease, meaning that, with the exception of rare familiar forms, no single factor is enough to cause the disease. Most likely, genetic factors (vulnerability), environmental factors and age interact and only if the aggregated pathogenetic pressure reaches a certain threshold, the pathological process of PD starts.

So, antibiotics alone definitely do not cause PD. But rather it seems that an increased cumulative use of antibiotics is one among other environmental factors that increases the risk of PD. In subjects that also have accumulation of other predisposing genetic of environmental factors, extensive antibiotic use may be a final trigger that contributes to initiation of PD.

Read more
Date: Monday, September 14, 2020
Time: 3PM ET/ 12PM PT

Moderator: Julie Carter, RN, MN, ANP, Professor Emerita, Oregon Health & Science University

Cognition and Parkinson’s: What role does the care partner play?
Panelist: Jenna Iseringhausen, BSN, RN, NYU Langone Marlene and Paolo Fresco Institute for Parkinson's and Movement Disorders

How does cognition impact the care partner and what are some tips and tricks to use when cognition is a challenge?
Panelist: Elaine Book, MSW, University of British Columbia

Personal experience from the “real experts” talking about and working through cognitive issues and Parkinson’s.
Panelists: Hyam Kramer and Tom Gunnoud

Did you miss our earlier Care Partner Panel on medication management and mental health? Watch the archived talks today

Register

WPC for YOPD Fundraiser - #WPC4YOPD

In January, the WPC launched a PwP designed and PwP led fundraiser to raise money for travel grants for people with Young Onset Parkinson's to attend the 6th World Parkinson Congress.

You can support this initiative by giving on Facebook, or directly through the WPC website. Even with the "pandemic pause", we have already raised nearly $19,000 towards our goal of $50,000. Many global PD advocates start their advocacy work at the WPC. Any support you give will
come back to the community many times over. See who is up next on the FB Fundraiser...

Name: Christine Jeyachandran  
Country: Peru  
Fundraiser Dates: August 19 - September 01

Christine Jeyachandran was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease almost 6 years ago at age 37. It started with a slight tremble, weak fingers and lead to left foot dragging and difficulty walking without medication. The first few years flew by and she suddenly realized that she couldn’t raise her arms and this lead her to do something drastic! She lives in Peru where there are no PD classes nor PD physios so she choose a coach she trusted who happened to be her daughters gymnastics coach. Gymnastics has changed her life completely and empowered her physically and mentally. Her video Handstand for Parkinson’s was a finalist at the World Parkinson Congress. She regained range of movement, balance, flexibility, coordination and she's stronger than ever. And the latest update shows how hard it is but she is persevering: Christine's Gymnastics Update. Now she is passionately helping educate PWP and encouraging them to exercise, especially in Peru as they have very limited services and patient education.

Parkinson Sing-A-Long Returns

In April we held a series of virtual Parkinson Sing-A-Longs to celebrate Parkinson's Awareness Month. We had such a fun time that we will be
hosting sing-a-longs once a month starting on Wednesday, September 9th at 1PM ET. In face, the second Wednesday of each month we'll hold the sing-a-long, but the time may fluctuate depending on the region of the world we're reaching out to.

Learn more about the Sing-A-Longs.

Judi Spencer, WPC Choir Director, will be leading our Parkinson Sing-a-Longs. To celebrate the global Parkinson's community, we will have a different co-host with Judi each month. If you are a choir director, musician or part of a music group and would like to co-host a Parkinson Sing-A-Long, contact Judi at judi4tulips@gmail.com

WPC 2022 Photo Campaign

Are you planning to attend the 6th World Parkinson Congress in Barcelona, in June 2022? Submit a photo letting the Parkinson's world
know you will be in Spain with us! Be creative and we may post your photo here next month!

Submit Your Photo

Useful Links

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