Dear WPC friends,

As we come to the end of the year, I am grateful for so many things. This is the time when we look back on the last 12 months to take stock of the work we've accomplished and to gauge the impact we've had on the Parkinson's community. I am routinely inspired by the community, the researchers working tirelessly to advance our understanding of PD, the clinicians and rehab specialists who work day after day to help people with Parkinson's live the best possible lives, and the people with Parkinson's and caregivers, who advocate, volunteer, write, speak, and educate to help all PwPs live each day well, even when it gets tough.

While I am inspired and grateful, I am also frustrated. Why am I here? When I was hired in 2004, everyone was saying "the cure is five years away" so when I took this job, I honestly assumed I would be out of a job in a short time. I was okay with that, it made me happy to think that a cure was just around the corner and I would be able to see it all unfold and happen in my lifetime and work life. I am frustrated that I am still
here, but at the same time, I feel like one of the most fortunate people. I have a job that I love, despite being frustrated that people I care about have PD, and it's because Parkinson's exists that I have a job. It makes me want to work even harder.

I know that the triennial World Parkinson Congresses won't change the world, but they do change the lives of those who attend, and that is a pretty powerful thing to observe. While PD still exists, I take solace in seeing delegates who attend the WPC and leave inspired to return home to do new research, participate in clinical trials, invite PwPs to be part of their trial design, host events and write blogs to educate others, and raise money for research and more.

I am grateful for those who I've met in the WPC community who inspire me and I am looking forward to meeting those of you who are attending the 5th World Parkinson Congress in Kyoto who I have yet to meet. I like to imagine those of you who are attending the WPC for the first time, wondering how the WPC will change your PD journey and trajectory.

The best holiday gift for me is knowing that in six months delegates will be experiencing one of the most impressive scientific programs offered today on Parkinson's disease, where we can learn about cutting edge research, hear Nobel laureate Shinya Yamanaka speak about iPS cells, and share experiences and stories that inspire and connect us. It's just six months away, but the days will pass quickly. View the program and start planning your days, but remember to leave ample time to just connect and have fun and be sure to check that your Passport is current and check if you need a visa to enter Japan. Take the time now to prepare so your journey can be stress-free.

From the WPC team, we wish you a wonderful holiday season, where you can enjoy time with people who matter in your life, eat some delicious food, get good rest, and refresh yourself so you are ready for 2019 in the best possible health and spirits.
Where Are We With Surgery For PD?

by Elena Moro, MD, PhD

I have had the privilege to be involved in surgery to treat Parkinson’s disease (PD) for over 20 years. I still remember the first patients with severe advanced PD who had deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery in the early 90’s. After a lot of suffering, these patients could have a decent life back: no more violent dyskinesia or very painful and disabling dystonia, no more horrible tremor and motor fluctuations. It really was like a miracle! I also still remember the hours spent in the operating room to test treatment efficacy and side-effects.... A great team effort, but so rewarding for everybody!

Continue Reading . . .

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Sponsor the 5th World Parkinson Congress!

Our Support & Exhibition Prospectus has been updated with new exhibit hall space and new opportunities for your company to stand out at the WPC.

Your company can now sponsor our newest Pre-Congress Courses.
Course V will be designed by companies for Japanese speaking health professionals only. Download our updated prospectus to learn more.

Abstracts, Late-Breaking Abstracts & Travel Grants
The abstract submission closed on Monday, Dec 3. Announcements will go out at the end of January, via email, so stay tuned and be patient. We are just thrilled with the response and number of abstracts received. For those who submitted an abstract, thank you and good luck.

Late-breaking abstracts for research that is completed in before the end of February, can be submitted for consideration as a Late-Breaking Abstract. This means the research must be late-breaking, not just late, so please keep this in mind. Details on on submission of late-breaking abstracts will be posted in February.

Travel Grants application deadline passed on Dec 7th. Announcements on awards will go out the first week of February for those who have received support. Please be patient and watch you inbox that first week of February.
Video Competition

The WPC invites ALL members of the global Parkinson's community to make a video for the WPC 2019 Video Competition about their experiences living with, treating, researching, or caring for people with Parkinson's.

Submission for the competition is NOW OPEN.

Grab some popcorn and watch the submissions that have come in to date!

- **Don't Give Up** by Jose Maria Lobo
- **Hope** by Munal Subedi
- **HAKA to Fight Parkinson's for WPC 2019** by Cathy Renkiewicz
- **Caring for Someone Living with Parkinson's** by Fulvio Capitanio
- **Just Imagine** by Nancy Peate
- **Pilot to Co-Pilot** by Gloria Gottesman
**Vernon Parkinson's Warriors Fighting Back** by Laura Wilson

**I Climb** by Lisa Cox

**Read more about the WPC 2019 Video Competition here.**

**Art & Creativity at the WPC 2019**

The Choir is open to ALL congress attendees: People with Parkinson’s, care partners, caregivers, family, friends, research teams, medical professionals, non-profit professionals, students and WPC sponsors. The choir will perform the two winning songs from the song competition at the WPC 2019 opening ceremony.

Online rehearsals start in January.

[Sign up for the choir here.][1]

As part of the Soaring with Hope for PD art display, members of the Parkinson's community are invited create a dance or movement piece inspired by the origami cranes in the art installation. Your dance will add to the celebration of hope as symbolized by the crane. All video submissions will be compiled into a single continuous video which will be shown as part of the Soaring with Hope project at the WPC 2019.

[Learn more here.][2]