Dear friends,

As we start getting back into the swing of things, watching COVID numbers slowly going down, the WPC team is gearing up for the 6th World Parkinson Congress (WPC 2023). While we postponed the Congress from 2022 to July 4-7, 2023, we never drifted far from our planning calendars and are eager to rev back up again. We hope you already have the dates on your calendar!

While we’ll be focusing this year on our plans for next year, we’ll still be offering a stellar line up of virtual programs to keep you occupied and educated until we can meet up face-to-face. If you missed the excellent interview with Professor Ronald Postuma speaking about his research on REM Sleep Behavior Disorder (RBD) and Parkinson’s, I encourage you to check it out.

We will launch a new line up of webinars as part of the WPC Care Partner Virtual Lounge with some excellent topics and presenters talking about what it means to be a PD care partner, caring for a loved one from afar, strategies for care partner coping and more. Learn more about the program on our website here.

As we gear up for the WPC 2023, some important dates to add to
your calendar and share are:

- **Volunteer Application open – August 1**
- **Abstracts open – August 15**

As always, thank you for your support of the WPC. We are here for the community and appreciate your enthusiasm for our programs and work.

Eli Pollard, Executive Director

and the entire WPC team

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**Upcoming Events**

**WPC Sing-A-Long**
We are delighted to be celebrating Valentine's Day a little early with Jerome Maume and the Parkinson Association of Ireland.

**Wednesday, February 9**
5:00 PM Ireland / 12:00 PM (Noon) New York / 9:00 AM Los Angeles / 6:00 PM Spain / 2:00 AM Kyoto (Feb. 10th) / 4:00 AM Sydney (Feb. 10th)

[Register]

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**Partner Highlight with the Parkinson's Women's Project**
In this webinar, the authors of the recently published paper *Unmet Needs of Women Living with Parkinson's Disease: Gaps and Controversies*. The panel will also answer questions from attendees.

**Tuesday, March 8**
12 PM (Noon) PST/ 3 PM ET/ 8 PM GMT/ 9 PM CET

[Learn more]

[Register]

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**Care Partner Virtual Panel**
What does being a Parkinson’s care partner mean to you? In this session we will hear from three PD care partners about how they see, understand, and advocate for themselves while also accepting their care partner roles.

*Made possible with support from Supernus and Kyowa Kirin*

**Tuesday, March 22**
3PM ET/ 7PM GMT
Research Spotlight
Genetics & PD: What Does It All Mean?
Dr. Andrew Singleton will discuss the complicated relationship between Parkinson’s and genetics. Genetics will play a major role in the field’s development and application of treatments for this disease.

Made possible with support from Supernus and Kyowa Kirin

Thursday, March 24
11 AM ET/ 3 PM GMT

Register
Read the blog post

WPC Song Competition is Open
We are looking for an original musical composition or new lyrics to an existing song to be performed by the WPC Choir during the Opening Ceremony of the 6th World Parkinson Congress in Barcelona, Spain.

Learn more
Join us for an hour of singing and fun!
REGISTER

Discussion with Dr. Andrew Singleton
REGISTER

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT
3 PM ET/ 8 PM GMT
Tuesday, March 8
Unmet Needs of Women Living with Parkinson's Disease: Gaps and Controversies
REGISTER

CARE PARTNER VIRTUAL PANEL
3 PM ET/ 7 PM GMT
Tuesday, March 22
What Does being a Parkinson's care partner mean to you?
REGISTER

WPC BLOG HIGHLIGHT

If Cellular Aging Is A Key Part Of Parkinson’s Disease Pathogenesis, How Do We Model It?
by Janelle Drouin-Ouellet, PhD

Parkinson’s Disease (PD) is a human disorder, and it is an age-related disorder. One of the big challenges to study PD-related mechanisms is access to live and aged cells that are either degenerating or inducing degeneration in the human brain. Access to model organisms has been instrumental to push forward our understanding of how brain cells interact and die in the context of PD. However, common animal models of the disease have much shorter lifespans than humans (~2-year lifespan for rodents and ~25-year lifespan for macaques). While it is difficult to determine which biological aspects of cellular aging are comparable in a 2-year-old mouse neuron vs. an 80-year-old human neuron, one can speculate that there exist temporal differences between species that contribute to the fact that old mice do not spontaneously develop PD, whereas some humans do as they age.

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