WPC eNews

In 2015, we expanded our partner program to include Parkinson's bloggers from all around the world. In the past year, we were able to expand our virtual reach to over 50,000 people from 60+ countries through the inspiring, informative, and influential posts from our 16 Blogger Partners. The WPC would like to thank our amazing Blogger Partners for their contributions to the community and the WPC 2016. We invite you to take some time to read through their blogs, which give glimpses to each author's personality, experience with Parkinson's disease, and their WPC journey.

Read these great posts from our Blogger Partners

- **Moving Forward with Parkinson's Disease** by Julio Angulo (USA)
- **Parking Suns** by Bruce Ballard (USA)
- **PD Blogger** by Jean Burns (USA)
- **Tulip Friends** by Jin Choe (South Korea)
- **444 Parkinson's Traveler** by Marcus Cranston (USA)
- **The Magic Trick** by Laura Kennedy Gould (USA)
- **Tim's Blog** by Tim Hague Sr. (Canada)
- **Shaky Paws Grampa** by Kirk Hall (USA)
- **Living Well with Parkinson's Disease** by Sheryl Jedlinksi (USA)
WPC 2016 Leadership Forum

On Monday, September 19th, the WPC hosted its first ever Leadership Forum, a full day event designed by the Organizations Committee, co-chaired by Steve Ford (UK) and Maria Barretto, PhD (India). The goal of this event was to start a discussion with the leaders of nearly 200 WPC Organizational Partners around how we can more effectively collaborate while setting the stage for a global effort to raise awareness around PD and improve care for people living with PD. This event was a great success with more than 100 attendees from approximately 60 different organizations. One exciting talk was given by Deirdre O'Sullivan, Chief Executive at Parkinson New Zealand. Deirdre discussed how PNZ utilizes a team of Parkinson Community Educators to provide care support to New Zealanders living with PD. Watch Deirdre's presentation on our YouTube page.

Placebo Effect & Parkinson's Disease Clinical Trials

Contributed by Matt Sacheli (Canada)

The Changing Brain in PD, a look back at the WPC 2016

Contributed by James Beck, Ph.D.
Parkinson's Foundation, PDF Division

It should be no surprise that PD changes the brain and how it works. But perhaps it is a surprise to learn that scientists are still
A central component in all randomized control trials is the placebo effect. Either it is a scientific compound that needs to be controlled for or it is the dependent variable being study. In Parkinson's disease (PD) the importance of the placebo is even more significant, due to its link to dopamine release and the expectation of a reward.

Dr. Alberto Espay, a member of the WPC 2016 Program Committee, is a world-class neurologist who was nominated to the Best Doctors in America list in 2009. During Dr. Espay's WPC 2016 roundtable discussion on Friday, September 23rd, researchers and patients had an opportunity to explore the ‘Pandora's box’ that is the placebo effect and the significance it has on clinical trials and PD.

Click here to watch Dr. Espay's clip on the placebo effect in Parkinson's.

grappling with the how and why behind these brain changes. This fundamental issue was the heart of the Circuitry Alterations in PD workshop at the WPC 2016. Three outstanding young scientists presented our current understanding of how the brain changes (not always for the best!) because of PD and the seemingly science fiction approaches they are taking to ask why and understand the how.

Answers to these questions can lead to not only better DBS but a profound way with which to understand how PD does what it does.

Alexandra Nelson, MD, PhD is the Richard and Shirley Cahill Endowed Chair in Parkinson's Disease Research in the UC San Francisco Department of Neurology. She established her own laboratory in 2014, devoted to unraveling the cellular and circuit mechanisms of movement disorders.

Mark Bevan (PhD) is a Professor Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in the Department of Physiology. His research is focused on basal ganglia microcircuitry, activity, integration, plasticity and disease.

Anatol Kreitzer (PhD) in 2007 established his laboratory at Gladstone. Dr. Kreitzer’s research focuses on the function of basal ganglia circuitry in motor control and reinforcement learning.

READ Abstracts from this workshop

WPC Online Store

The Onsite Store was a huge success at the WPC 2016. If you weren't able to find time to visit the store, don't fret, we still
have items available through our online store until the end of December. We have the Official WPC 2016 Delegate Bags on sale along with some Parkys who still need homes, a few aprons for the chef in your family, and some baseball hats! Visit the store today to stock up on WPC 2016 gear before it is all gone.

Do you wish you had a WPC Mug? Or different styles of t-shirts? Tell us exactly what you want to see in the store for the WPC 2019 by taking this 2-minute survey HERE!

Visit the WPC Store TODAY!