



Innovation Matters

Project Voice: Walking Away From Surgery



"My first doctor recommended bypass surgery. I got a second opinion and he told me 'I really can't improve your quality of life with surgery. What you need to do is start walking.' I started walking, and I got up to 2-3 miles in a day. That's not to say I wasn't experiencing pain along the way at different times, but the more I walked the better my circulation

became. Fast forward to today - 8 years later - I am 72, and I'm quite active. I no longer have pain in my lower legs. And the need for surgery at this present time is not there", Steve, PAD patient.

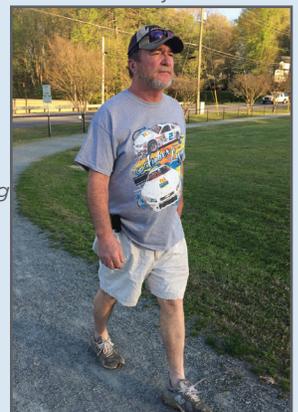
We launched Project Voice to improve health outcomes for Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) patients. Walking has proven therapeutic effects for PAD patients and the Voice resources help patients manage their disease. We created this innovative digital health platform to empower patients like Steve, strengthen the patient-physician partnership, and provide patient-reported outcomes data to both doctors and researchers for shared decision-making.

The second Project Voice study for 40 patients will launch soon at Wake Forest and the University of Michigan. Participants will use wearable activity trackers synced with iPads to capture walking and sleep data. They can view their progress; watch or read educational resources; access online peer communities in PAD, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension and smoking addiction; and track health trends such as blood pressure, sugar levels, and smoking cessation.

The leader of the project is Dr. Matthew Corriere, Associate Professor at the University of Michigan and our 2014 Wylie Scholar. His abstracts and presentations about Project Voice have been accepted at premier medical conferences.

Project Voice is a collaborative effort. Last month, Vascular Cures hosted a workshop with key stakeholders about the use of digital health technology by people with PAD. Participants included technology companies, patients, vascular clinicians and researchers, coming together to share insights and solutions. Their input is a key part of our planning for the next phases of Project Voice.

Doug was forced into early retirement with severe PAD and had seven leg stents and bypass surgery. Years later, he joined the first study of Project Voice at Wake Forest. "Project Voice brought me a lot. I was probably too lazy to exercise on my own, but Project Voice challenged me to do it and I wanted to do well with it. I didn't realize that I was also teaching myself along the way, something that gave me self-confidence. I got to learn more about my disease than anyone else had taught me. If I panicked or had an uneasy feeling, I had a resource I could look at immediately. "



Vascular Cures has a new address:
274 Redwood Shores Parkway #717
Redwood City, CA 94065



Join us to celebrate breakthroughs in vascular health! Our annual meeting and gala is on Saturday, May 13th at 6:00 p.m. at the Pullman San Francisco Bay (formerly the Hotel Sofitel) in Redwood City. The evening will include a wine-tasting reception and innovation showcase followed by dinner and an exciting live auction. **RSVP by May 5th.**
tinyurl.com/circulate2017.

News & Notes

Welcome Advisory Board Members

Dr. Zorina Galis is the Chief of Vascular Biology and Hypertension at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute at the NIH, overseeing a large and diverse extramural portfolio of basic, translational, and clinical research.

Dr. Scott Berceli is currently Professor of Surgery and Bioengineering at the University of Florida, and Chief of Vascular Surgery at the North Florida/South Georgia VA. He is a leader of the Industry/University Cooperative Research Center at University of Florida focused on accelerating innovation through partnerships with industry, academia and government.

Dr Barry Rubin, MD, PHD FRCS is the Chair and Medical Director of the Peter Munk Cardiac Center at University Health Network, Canada's largest cardiovascular unit. He was also the 1998 Wylie Scholar. Dr. Rubin created an industry/academic consortium to evaluate innovative research projects throughout PMCC.

Congratulations to BOD Member, Julie Freischlag, MD

Dr. Julie Freischlag, a member of our Board of Directors, and current Vice Chancellor for Human Health Sciences and Dean of the School of Medicine at the University of California at Davis, has been named as Chief Executive Officer at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston Salem, North Carolina.



Patient-Centered Collaborations

We held a national Vascular Research Summit last fall, engaging 56 surgeon-scientists from 31 institutions. This meeting was the kick-off for Vascular Cures' new Collaborative Patient-Centered Research (CPCR) Grants Program.

The awardees are two multi-institutional teams led by Dr. Karen Ho of Northwestern University and Dr. Larry Kraiss at the University of Utah. Each team will receive milestone-based awards up to \$100,000 to conduct projects that use shared research resources and will generate results within 1 - 2 years.

Dr. Ho's project seeks to better understand how the presence of different gut flora may contribute to or be an early-warning indicator of atherosclerosis. Her collaborators come from Brigham & Women's Hospital (Boston), the University of Chicago, and Northwestern University.



The second grant went to a team led by Dr. Larry Kraiss to create an assessment tool designed to improve shared decision-making with patients about the risks of maintaining functional independence after surgery. Dr. Kraiss' collaborators come from the University of Utah, Emory University, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Stanford University and the University of Nebraska. He was the 1997 recipient of Vascular Cures' Wylie Scholar award.



2017 Wylie Scholar

Sean English MD, Washington University Reducing AAA Development and Ruptures

Vascular Cures congratulates Dr. Sean English on becoming the 20th recipient of our Wylie Scholar award. The long-term goal of Dr. English's research is to develop new ways to diagnose and limit development of abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA). AAA is most common in Caucasian men over 60, and ruptured AAAs have a mortality rate over 90%.

Interleukin-6 (IL-6) is a signaling molecule that affects inflammation and plays an integral role in both AAA development and rupture. Dr. English will use the Wylie Scholar 3-year \$150,000 grant to assess effective noninvasive ways to neutralize IL-6. His study will compare the use of PBR28, a positron emission tomography (PET) radiotracer, or contrast agent, to that of an IL-6 antibody.



Dr. English is currently as Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Section of Vascular Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine. He serves as staff vascular surgeon for the St. Louis Veterans Affairs HealthCare System. He is the third recipient from Washington University School of Medicine, demonstrating the power of the award to foster mentorship as well as career growth.