Vascular Cures envisions a world where all people have the opportunity to enjoy vascular health. We make that possible by innovating patient-centered research, catalyzing breakthrough collaborations and empowering people in their personal journey.

Vascular disease does not discriminate. It can strike anyone, anywhere, often quickly and silently.

At 13 years old, Hope was an excellent student and budding musician. Her true passion was her horse, Solie. Hope dreamed of becoming a barrel racer, flying through the turns and competing in the rodeo.

The week before Thanksgiving, she was admitted to the hospital with spiking fevers. Doctors found nothing conclusive and planned to release her. Her father, sensing something else, had her transferred to Phoenix Children’s Hospital. The next day, Hope had a major stroke walking across her hospital room. Her left carotid artery was almost completely occluded. The stroke had been caused by undiagnosed viral meningitis.

Did you know stroke is 1 of the top 10 causes of death in children?

The team at Phoenix Children’s Hospital gave Hope exceptional care. She spent 75 days in the hospital followed by another two years of intensive outpatient therapy.

Today, Hope is in 10th grade. She is again an excellent student. She draws intricate pencil drawings with her left hand. And she’s back in the saddle, racing her way through the turns, keeping focused on her dream of riding in the rodeo.

Our lives depend on healthy vascular systems – making every breath and heartbeat count. No one is immune to risk, from aspiring barrel-racers to professional athletes like Serena Williams who had a pulmonary embolism. Even returning military veterans may develop limb-threatening problems due to new battlefield medical techniques.

The rate of vascular disease is skyrocketing. Diabetes, obesity, and aging are contributing to an epidemic that leads to pain and disability for millions of Americans.

Fortunately, there continue to be significant advances in treatments. Through our research grants and programs like Project Voice, we have been able to propel patient-centered research that reduces pain and disability. We drive collaborations between industry, medicine and patients that create innovative breakthroughs.

This year’s newsletter is a snapshot of our efforts. We hope you will be inspired by the innovations and their impact. Your generosity allows us to continue working towards a future where everyone has the opportunity to enjoy vascular health.
Avoiding Bypass Surgery – An End-Run Approach

Diseases involving blocked arteries are one of the leading causes of death and disability in North America, and many patients are unable to undergo bypass surgery to fix the problem. Fortunately, arteries have remarkable plasticity: smaller blood vessels can become larger collateral vessels and be used to bypass blocked arteries. But what mechanism signals these vessels to grow to the right size?

The 2016 Wylie Scholar, Dr. Ryan McEnaney, hopes to answer that question. His research seeks to understand the underlying biomechanics of collateral artery growth with the long term objective of developing a pharmacological alternative to stents.

**Dr. Ryan McEnaney, Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center,** is the 19th Vascular Cures Wylie Scholar and the 4th Wylie Scholar for UPMC. He received his medical degree from St. Louis University School of Medicine and completed his residency at UPMC where he served as administrative chief resident in vascular surgery. He is board certified in vascular surgery.

Outside of the hospital, Dr. McEnaney relaxes enjoys painting, drawing, fishing, and spending time with his wife and 3 children.

Innovation & Collaboration

Collaboration Driving Innovation

Game-changing collaborations are often prevented by silos, underutilized proprietary resources, fragmented expertise, and competition for funding. We are overcoming these barriers by bringing innovators together for brainstorming, creating shared research assets, and providing novel forms of support.

In September, we hosted our inaugural Vascular Research Summit to initiate a new approach to fighting the vascular disease epidemic. Fifty-six surgeon-scientists from 31 leading academic medical centers across the United States were convened to identify crucial unmet needs in vascular research and to launch the Collaborative Patient-Centered Research (CPCR) Program. Our CPCR grants will fund high-speed, high-impact projects that are multi-institutional, share proprietary resources, and generate milestones within just a few years.

The Summit was just the first step towards revolutionizing collaborative patient-centered research. Vascular Cures will be:

- Funding several teams up to $150,000 to conduct their proposed projects beginning in January 2017.
- Developing a shared research asset portfolio which can be made available to the research community
- Creating collaborative tools such as a confidential discussion platform, databases, legal infrastructure, and a clinical trials network

UPMC leads the way with 4 Wylie Scholars - more than any other institution.

Joining Chief of Vascular Surgery Edith Tzeng and the 2001 Wylie Scholar are: Ryan McEnaney (2016), Ulke Sachdev (2008), and Bryan Tillman (2010)

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Project Voice: Putting Patients First

We have made great progress on Project Voice, the first national patient-centered initiative for people with peripheral artery disease (PAD). It has the potential to transform health outcomes for the 8-12 million Americans living with PAD.

For example:
- March 2016: Project Voice launches its first clinical research feasibility study at Wake Forest University
- July 2016: Feasibility study completed; feedback from patients and clinicians to MedHelp
- January 2017: Version 2.0 of the platform completed by MedHelp
- February 2017: Dr. Matt Corriere, Project Lead, 2014 Wylie Scholar and Assoc Professor at U. Michigan, will present results of the pilot study at the Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society meeting
- Spring 2017: Projected launch of second Project Voice study. Target sites include Dartmouth, the University of Michigan, and the University of California, SF

Project Voice uses the power of digital health to empower patients, promote shared decision-making, and improve research by including patient-reported outcomes data. While it wirelessly captures movement, it is more than just a fitness tracker. Project Voice includes wearable devices, health status indicators, peer communities, educational resources, and online tools for clinical research. It is built on the ideas generated by industry, health systems, and researchers from the 2014 Vascular Innovation Summit.

Project Voice is a crucial part of our vision for everyone to enjoy vascular health, by advancing patient-centered research, collaboration and patient empowerment.

Cheers to You!

The Department of Defense awarded 2010 Wylie Scholar Dr. Bryan Tillman (UPMC) $2.5 million to continue development of a retrievable stent to treat noncompressible hemorrhages, the leading cause of potentially survivable deaths by American troops. It allows almost any emergency physician to rapidly stop bleeding until patients can reach expert surgeons - an invaluable tool to save lives on the battlefield and in civilian trauma cases.

Dr. Michael Conte received a second UCSF Catalyst for Innovation award to develop a way to heal arterial injuries and improve the success of vein bypass grafts. He shared the award with his colleague, Tejal Desai, PhD.

2002 Wylie Scholar Dr. Alan Dardik edited the recently published Vascular Surgery: A Global Perspective, a book examining how vascular surgery around the world is impacted by regional differences such as disease patterns, genetics, culture and resource access.

Advisory Board Expansion:
Scott Berceli, MD, PhD, Professor of Surgery & Bioengineering at the Univ. of Florida, & Chief of Vascular Surgery at the N. Florida/S. Georgia VA. He is a leader of the Industry/University Cooperative Research Center (I/UCRC) at the University of Florida, to develop partnerships among industry, academia and government. He is a member of the Vascular Cures Research Network and is collaborating with Dr. Conte on a study improve post-surgical healing on blood vessels that have become blocked due to dialysis or PAD. The study uses blood samples from Vascular Cures’ own Stoney Vascular Biobank.

Barry Rubin, MD PhD FRCS, Chair & Medical Director of the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre (PMCC) at University Health Network and Professor of Surgery at the University of Toronto. As the Chair & CEO of the UHN Academic Medical Organization representing 4,000 physicians, he developed an innovation committee that pairs businesspeople with medical professionals to considers requests to fund new health care solutions submitted by members of the PMCC.
May 13, 2017 | Hotel Sofitel

Join us at Circulate! to celebrate innovations in vascular health, and enjoy fine wine, elegant dinner and a live auction. We moved it to the spring so more people can attend, and we hope to see you there!

Thank you to our supporters and sponsors of last year’s Circulate! Dinner

’Tis the Season to Donate: Tuesday, November 29th

Our work – innovating patient-centered research, catalyzing breakthrough collaboration and empowering patients – would not be possible without your support. This year, we are participating in Facebook’s #GivingTuesday on November 29th – and becoming part of a global initiative to encourage community giving. Take a stand against holiday consumerism and support our efforts by visiting facebook.com/vascularcures or vascularcures.org/donate.

Of course, this is just one way of many ways to support Vascular Cures at the end of the year and all donations are tax deductible.

Stay Current with VC on Social Media

We have active Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn pages. Be sure to follow us or like our pages.