Dr. John Byrne is our 2018 Wylie Scholar Award recipient at the University of Toronto. Not only is John an outstanding surgeon, but he is leading research which could ultimately allow us to prevent fatalities from abdominal aortic aneurysms by identifying and predicting which are at risk of fatal rupture.

There are a lot of heroes in the world of vascular health: patients who battle their way back from stroke, doctors who juggle saving lives with research to end disability from peripheral artery disease or aneurysms, and family members caring for their loved ones with vascular dementia, among many others.

CHELSEA HALPERT
Chelsey has what is known as the MTHFR genetic mutation, which increases her risk of blood clots and complications during pregnancy that can lead to miscarriage. Having struggled in previous pregnancies, Chelsea took charge of her own health – one genetic screening and 298 blood-thinning shots later, she gave birth to her beautiful daughter, June.

At 41, Kipp Penovich was an avid bicyclist who appeared to be the picture of good health. One day Kipp could feel an odd pulsating lump in his abdomen when lying down. After a friend’s near-death experience, Kipp decided to get checked out by a doctor. He was diagnosed as having an abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA.), rare for someone his age. Being proactive saved him and he is now back to his active lifestyle.

TERRI WIGGINS
Terri Wiggins is VP of Vascular Health Programs at the American Heart Association. She oversees this new division of the organization and has been a champion for earlier diagnosis of vascular disease to improve outcomes. Her passion for changing perceptions by educating everyone in the world of healthcare – from doctors to the patients – is inspiring.

KIPP PENOVICH

See all of our vascular heroes’ stories on our website at vascularcures.org/vascularhero or by following #vascularhero on social media. Nominate your own hero by posting on any social media platform using #vascularhero.
A Vision for the Ultimate Cure

Vision: an acute sense of the possible. It is what others don’t see and when those with similar vision are drawn together, something extraordinary happens.

– Dr. Stoney’s guiding belief

Those who know Dr. Ronald J. Stoney know that he is a man relentlessly driven by a passion to help others. In addition to treating thousands of people and receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Vascular Surgery, Dr. Stoney is a steadfast champion for patients, an innovator and inventor, and a mentor to young vascular surgeons who go on to have a lifetime of impact.

Dr. Stoney co-founded Vascular Cures in 1982 with a mission to support research that could save and improve the lives of those living with vascular diseases outside of the heart. His vision was to one day put all vascular surgeons out of business by preventing vascular disease – the ultimate cure. For over 35 years, Ron’s vision has inspired Vascular Cures to champion programs designed to empower patients and transform the health of the millions of people with vascular disease.

Ron is retiring from the Board of Directors at the end of the year. Vascular Cures has created a fund to honor his legacy. Our goal is to raise $500,000 to continue Ron’s lifelong passion for patient-centered programs that change and save lives.

If you’d like to be a part of making this vision a reality, you can do so on our website.

Vascular Cures: From Vision to Impact

1996 – Established Wylie Scholar career development award for young surgeon-scientists

2000 – Created Laboratory for Accelerated Vascular Research for medical device and biology innovation

2010 – Launched Vascular Cures Research Network and Stoney Vascular Biobank to advance personalized medicine

2014 – 1st national Vascular Innovation Summit, convening diverse stakeholders to design patient-centered projects

2014 – 2nd Summit, initiating Collaborative Patient-Centered Research grants

2018 – 3rd Summit, leading to task force of patients, providers and companies on Patient-Reported Outcome Measures in PAD

TODAY:

• A pipeline of innovators: 21 Wylie Scholars, with an ROI of over 25 to 1

• Over $7.4M invested in patient-centered research

• 3 Summits that catalyzed collaborative projects:
  • 2014 – 27 leaders, 23 organizations
  • 2016 – 46 leaders, 31 organizations
  • 2018 – 97 leaders, 56 organizations

Patient-Reported Outcome

Any report of the status of a patient’s health condition that comes directly from the patient, without interpretation of the patient’s response by a clinician or anyone else.

Moving from Concept to Consensus to Implementation: Patient-Reported Outcomes in PAD

Until now, doctors, companies who develop new products and insurers have relied on medical observation, tests and imaging to assess patient health. Medical practice is evolving, however, to include the patient perspective in evaluating the need for or success of various treatments.

Vascular Cures is leading the way to advance the use of patient-reported outcomes (PROs) in the care of peripheral artery disease (PAD). Stakeholders including the FDA are seeking to understand how patients experience the effects of medical treatments in their everyday life, such as impact on mobility or pain while walking – but there are major barriers to putting this into practice. There is considerable variation about which PROs are most meaningful to consider, as well as how to measure, validate and standardize them for use. Conflicting priorities between groups make it an even greater challenge.

The Patient-Reported Outcome Measures in Peripheral Artery Disease (PROM-PAD) Working Group is a year-long initiative that will bring together patients, multiple medical specialties, companies, the FDA and others to move toward widespread adoption of patient-reported outcome measures.

As CEO Wendy Hitchcock explains, “As a national non-profit without proprietary interests, Vascular Cures has the unique ability to create partnerships between people who do not normally work together to solve crucial patient problems.”
there’s an app for that

Project Voice

Our Project Voice is teaming with Dr. Oliver Aalami, a vascular surgeon at Stanford, to explore using his iPhone-based application called VascTrac to measure walking function in patients with PAD. This technology could increase patient engagement and adherence to prescribed walking programs. Vascular Cures is in discussion with Kaiser Permanente of Northern California to evaluate if the Voice/VascTrac platform plus validated behavior modification techniques can enable a digitally-supervised home-based exercise program that could improve outcomes for patients with PAD.

Thanks to our Generous Sponsors!

Congratulations to 2016 Wylie Scholar Dr. Ryan McEnaney, MD on receiving $1.5 million from the US Veteran’s Administration to support his research on structural remodeling of blocked arteries to create new channels for blood flow. Diseases involving arterial blockages are the leading causes of death and disability in North America and Europe and have a high prevalence in the veteran population. Dr. McEnaney’s Wylie Scholar research regarding collateral artery growth and blood flow recovery, directly informs this new project.