



CPF's 10th ANNIVERSARY
10 YEARS OF PROGRESS

Winter 2011



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Action Alert

The Quarterly Publication of the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis

Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis (CPF) Celebrates Decade of Progress in Pulmonary Fibrosis (PF) Leading the Fight Against PF – 10 Years of Progress

2011 marks the 10th Anniversary of the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis (CPF) – founded in 2001 to provide information, support, advocacy and hope to the tens of thousands of patients with PF. Until the CPF came into existence, there were no resources for patients or families facing PF. There was little to no government or public interest in or awareness of the serious nature of PF, a disease that takes as many lives as breast cancer.

The CPF was created to fill that gap in services and support. Shortly after its founding, the organization directly began to support research in PF. An impressive series of partnerships around the country, from powerful institutions such as the American Thoracic Society (ATS) as well as all major PF research and treatment centers, has dramatically increased the CPF's reach and impact. To date, the organization has provided more than \$1M in funding for PF research. The CPF is a member of the ATS' Public Advisory Roundtable, the patient voice of the pulmonary physician organization.

With the help of 25,000+ individuals to date who have become members of the organization, the national effort has given voice to the tens of thousands of patients who have suffered from PF and their families and caregivers.

Ever observant of the needs of patients and families that are navigating very difficult challenges in PF, the CPF has been there to support them every step of the way and has worked to raise restricted funds to directly support cutting edge and innovative research in PF. The organization and its members

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CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

CPF Achieves Milestones in PF Funding, Advocacy and Awareness; PF Efforts Grow in 2010

The CPF achieved milestones in 2010 in advocacy, research support and awareness of Pulmonary Fibrosis.

The organization increased national awareness efforts in 2010, via non-traditional as well as mainstream media. Stories of PF, through the personal accounts of patients including Bob O'Rourke, aired on major national media including NBC's The Today Show, CNN and NBC Nightly

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have brought national exposure to the disease via the media and social media, have helped put in place more than 50 support groups across the country, and advocated on behalf of patients and families by generating the first-ever funding allocation request for the disease.

The CPF is working hard to make the next 10 years even more productive and to keep the science moving forward. It has been a challenging journey, from little to no research on PF in 2001 to greatly increased attention that will lead to treatments and a cure.

Currently, there are at least 22 active PF research programs and we will work to help double that number over the next several years. Also, we have plans for even broader national awareness campaigns in which awareness can breed more concern and increased funding for PF. We will move our advocacy program forward to reach a successful outcome for the Pulmonary Fibrosis

Research Enhancement Act and to fund and establish the first national patient registry. The CPF will increase its relationships with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Veteran's Administration (VA) and will continue to work with them to encourage vastly increased attention to PF. We will lead the way and work with a coalition of medical institutions working on PF to provide a platform for the sharing of research and treatment information to find answers to PF.



Former Spokesman for Caltech Lends Voice to Disease that Took Him to Brink of Death

Bob O'Rourke, PF Patient, Receives Lung Transplant

Bob O'Rourke is used to being a spokesperson. He lent his voice and words to California Institute of Technology (Caltech) for more than 20 years as vice president of public relations. For nearly a year now, O'Rourke has spoken out nationally about the disease that wreaked havoc on his lungs.

Suffering from Pulmonary Fibrosis (PF), O'Rourke has worked with the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis (CPF), a patient support organization that also funds research to find a cure to the otherwise deadly lung disease, to raise awareness and funding. The only way to survive the disease which claims most of its victims in less than three years is with a lung transplant.

O'Rourke was listed for transplant in June 2010 and began a relatively lengthy wait for new lungs – lungs O'Rourke feared wouldn't come in time.

But they did. On Friday, February

19th, he got the call that would change his destiny with the disease that claims 40,000 people a year, the same number as lost to breast cancer. He was transplanted at UCLA and is currently on his way to recovery.

"Bob O'Rourke is generously using his skills in public relations to champion the cause of PF. He has put his heart and soul into it, along with his professional expertise in working with a good story. He understands that speaking out is how you affect change," said Mishka Michon, CEO of the CPF.

He shared his story with his friends and colleagues – people he'd been pitching stories about other people to for years. They took notice and the resulting major media coverage helped increase national awareness efforts of the disease in 2010. "The stories told about Bob provided the first national major media coverage of pulmonary fibrosis in history," said

Michon. "That coverage is helping to drive a new level of awareness for this little known disease and is providing hope for thousands suffering from the disease."

His story aired on major national media including NBC's The Today Show, CNN and NBC Nightly News and brought the message to more than five million viewers. Radio stories such as one aired by NPR reached hundreds of thousands more and web audiences and social media further disseminated the message of the disease throughout the country.

Now, the news is spreading about Bob's transplant. Bob even made the "pitch" to his media friends when he called to tell them he was headed to the hospital to get his new lungs. His friends are taking this ride with him and making sure the story of this next stage of his experience is spread as widely as possible – a story they hope has a happy ending.

Milestones continued from cover

News, brought the message to more than five million viewers. Radio stories such as one aired by NPR reached hundreds of thousands more and web audiences and social media further disseminated the message of the disease throughout the country.

A billboard ad with the potential, over time to reach millions of people, delivered a message about PF as more than 130,000 people pass a jumbotron (electronic advertising billboard) billboard on Northern California's Interstate 80 each day for several months. The jumbotron ad copy asked "How Long Have You Had That Cough?" and then listed the CPF name followed by the web address, www.cough-cough.org. A trucking company, Inman Trucking, owned by PF patient, Tommy Spivey, posted "Stop Pulmonary Fibrosis" signs on its fleet of more than 35 tractor trailer rigs that criss cross the country on a daily basis, bringing the message to hundreds of thousands of drivers via the nation's interstates and roadways.

A launch by the CPF of a Public Service Announcement (PSA) featuring the former Utah governor

Olene Walker (governor from 2003-2005 and a PF patient), carried the message of the need for increased attention and funding for PF through support of the CPF.

The CPF continued to drive advocacy efforts to gain support of the Pulmonary Fibrosis Research Enhancement Act (PFREA). A landmark bill, H.R. 1079, which developed out of a CPF partnership with then members of Congress Rep. Brian Baird (D-WA) and Rep. Mike Castle (R-DE), represents the first legislation specifically seeking congressional funding for PF research. Through its advocacy work representing the efforts of hundreds of PF patients and families, the CPF and its members worked to add 79 members of Congress as co-sponsors of the legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives, bringing the total support in the House to 149 members. (The PFREA is expected to be reintroduced into the current Congress soon.) Also, the CPF supported the work of Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID) to introduce the bill in the U.S. Senate.

"This year, we made progress by putting PF on the map nationally," said Mishka Michon, Chief Executive Officer of the CPF. "The message needs to reach millions more, and we will continue to drive much-needed attention to this devastating lung disease."

The CPF continued its commitment to fund research by doubling its partnership grants with the American Thoracic Society (ATS). The CPF/ATS partnership is directed at support for cutting-edge research that a peer review board determines is the most likely to further the science around PF so that treatments for the thousands of patients suffering from PF can be found. As many as 40,000 patients die each year to PF – the same number as are lost to breast cancer.

The Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis works on a national scale to support research for a cure and to assist patients. For information or to support this important work, please contact the CPF at (888) 222-8541, or visit www.coalitionforpf.org.

Save the Date:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| May 21, 2011 | 5K Walk/Run for PF - Central Park, New York |
| May 22, 2011 | 2nd Annual Casino Night – Hermosa Beach, California |
| June 4, 2011 | World Famous Mud Run – Camp Pendleton, California |
| August 13, 2011 | 5K walk/run for PF – Pittsburgh Pennsylvania |

For additional events, please visit www.coalitionforpf.org.

Please contact Su Hwang at (888) 222-8541 x 704 for event details.

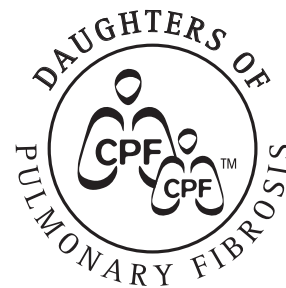
CPF's New *Daughters of PF* Program to Highlight the Women Behind the Cause, Support Their Efforts to Raise Awareness and Funding for PF

The CPF launched a new effort inspired by the tens of thousands of daughters who have seen a parent suffer from PF.

"Across the board in the CPF's advocacy efforts, it is largely the adult daughters of PF patients who are the loudest, strongest voices of PF on and off Capitol Hill," said Mishka Michon, CEO of the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis. "They fight for change whether their parent is currently struggling with PF or has passed on, turning their frustration and anger into action."

The inaugural group of daughters involved in *Daughters of PF* includes daughters who are professional women in various fields and specialties including legal, medical, and educational. The women are creating projects across the country and in their local areas to increase awareness and understanding of PF and some will also hold fundraisers to raise needed money for research and patient support services. Their efforts are reflective of their interests and talents and will allow them to make a difference right where they are.

"I am excited to see the launching of the CPF's *Daughters of PF*. In my many years as a board member with the CPF, I have been heartened by the dedication and enthusiasm brought to this work by the many daughters who have faced a personal loss from Pulmonary Fibrosis," said Deirdre Roney, a CPF board member who has lost her mother and six other relatives to PF. "Working together through this special campaign will substantially increase the opportunities for awareness-building and funding of the critical work being done for patients."



"I lost my Mom, who was my best friend, my hero, my everything, to Pulmonary Fibrosis. It is such a horrible experience to watch your loved one suffer from this disease. When she passed, I promised myself I would do anything and everything to help others learn about this disease and find a cure," said Tami Rippey, a *Daughters of PF* member. "I reached out to the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis for support and I immediately wanted to join their efforts in any way that I can to promote awareness of PF."

The *Daughters of PF* will be visible on the CPF's website (www.coalitionforpf.org) and on its Facebook page.

If you're a daughter of a PF patient past or present and you're interested in joining the *Daughters of PF* program, please contact us. In this 10th anniversary year for the CPF, we need your help in raising awareness and/or funding for PF and support of the patients and families who suffer.

If you have an idea for an event or activity in your area, please let us know. Email Teresa Barnes at tbarnes@coalitionforpf.org or call (888)222-8541, ext. 702.

“Walk for Their Next Breath”

A Nationwide Grassroots Campaign to bring attention to Pulmonary Fibrosis.
Join us, invite your friends, and plan a walk in your community.

Contact Su Hwang for further information (888) 222-8541 x704

Walk for Their Next Breath – 2011 Nationwide Community Walk Event

Walking is easy for most people, but nearly impossible for the 128,000 Americans who suffer from Pulmonary Fibrosis (PF). The progressive scarring of the patient’s lungs increasingly interferes with their ability to breathe, initially leaving them short of breath when active, and ultimately making activity impossible. What can we do to help? We can **Walk for Their Next Breath!** Join us in our nationwide community walk campaign to walk together to fight PF.



Make a pledge now to reach out to 10 friends and family for a leisurely walk, create a team of 10 to walk a local 5K/10K, or organize your own PF Community Walk Event in your area. It will make a tremendous difference in raising awareness and funds for research. The CPF will help you make it happen. Take the first step and call Su Hwang at (888) 222-8541 x704.

Elliot Walsey, PF Patient, Advocate and Fundraiser for CPF

Once a boxer, the “fighter” in Elliot Walsey has continued to help him raise awareness and funds for the fight against PF. He is one of the CPF’s most successful online fundraisers, raising over \$8,000 from friends, family, and his community. He and his wife Joan hosted Peoria, Arizona’s 5K Walk for PF this past December and they will also host the *Breath of Life Car Show* on April 9th (with Trilogy @ Vistancia

Road Runners Car Club) to benefit the CPF. Please see our CPF events section for more details at www.coalitionforpf.org.

To view Elliot and Joan’s fundraising page and to create your online fundraising page, please visit www.firstgiving.com/coalitionforpf

“Whatever degree of success I and others like me are able to achieve will probably have little effect for me, but I sure would like to do something to give the others [48,000 newly diagnosed each year] an opportunity to survive beyond the present window that exists.” — Elliot Walsey



Joan and Elliot Walsey with Lillian Rogers, Support group volunteer (in the middle)

News on First Drug for Treatment for PF *Esbriet (Pirfenidone) Passes Hurdle, Way Clear for European Union Approval*

InterMune, Inc., announced that the European Commission (EC) has granted marketing authorization for Esbriet(R) (pirfenidone). Esbriet is indicated in adults for the treatment of mild to moderate pulmonary fibrosis (PF). The approval authorizes marketing of Esbriet in all 27 EU member states, and marks a significant turning point for the treatment of PF patients in Europe.

Based on anticipated EU country reimbursement timelines, InterMune currently plans to launch Esbriet in the so-called "Top 5" EU countries as follows: Germany in September of 2011; France, Spain and Italy in the first half of 2012 and in the United

Kingdom in mid-2012. InterMune also plans to launch Esbriet in all or substantially all of the 10 most important pharmaceutical markets in the EU by approximately mid-2012. Roland du Bois, M.D., Professor of Respiratory Medicine, Imperial College, London, and co-chair of the Esbriet Phase 3 clinical program, said, "PF is a chronic, progressive, respiratory disease with an estimated survival rate of only 20 percent after five years, which makes it more lethal than many cancers, and yet no therapeutic interventions have been approved for European patients suffering from this devastating disease — until today. The approval of this new

medicine for European patients is a landmark event in PF care, as Esbriet now offers individuals suffering from this appalling disease a novel treatment that has been shown to have a clinically meaningful effect in their disease."

Esbriet is indicated in adults for the treatment of mild to moderate PF. InterMune hosted a conference call to discuss European approval of Esbriet and highlights of the SmPC, or "label" for the marketing of Esbriet in all 27 countries of the EU. The archived call is posted on their website at www.intermune.com.

Source: InterMune; content edited

Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis, Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation and American Thoracic Society Announce New Research Grants for Pulmonary Fibrosis Research *CPF and PFF Commit to ATS to Fund Grants*

The CPF, Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation (PFF), and American Thoracic Society (ATS), the world's leading professional organization for pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine, announced that the CPF and PFF will again partner with the ATS to fund PF research.

"The CPF is dedicated to this important partnership with ATS and the PFF," said Marvin Schwarz, M.D. chairman of the CPF and the James C. Campbell Professor of Medicine at the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine. "As the CPF celebrates 10 years of work on behalf of the PF community, it reaffirms its commitment to supporting efforts to find answers to the disease. We will continue to fund critical research

that will take us from a disease that is virtually untreatable to one that is curable."

"We are proud to have joined this partnership with the CPF and ATS in 2009, and are encouraged by the quality of research these grants have funded to date," said Daniel M. Rose, M.D., President of the PFF. "Given the urgent need for treatments and the very challenging nature of this disease, this expanded support for the ATS research grant program offers excellent hope for new findings that may lead to a better understanding of PF and earlier opportunities for the development of avenues for treatment," said Mishka Michon, CEO of the CPF.

The patient organizations will each commit \$30,000 per year to co-fund two-year research grants for two consecutive years. The ATS will provide partial funding and management of the grants. "Pulmonary fibrosis was once considered rare," said Jesse Roman, M.D., chair of the ATS Scientific Advisory Committee and chair of medicine at the University of Louisville. "We now know it's not. In fact, recent studies show that it is on the rise. And yet, there is no effective treatment. These research grants will help us change that."

Research in PF has been minimal historically compared with research into other diseases, including

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diseases that affect fewer Americans and that are not imminently deadly like PF. However, the joint effort between the ATS and the CPF for the Partnership Grant for Pulmonary Fibrosis was established in 2006. The Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation joined the partnership in 2009, committing funds to the effort through 2012.

“Even though my research started with this funding partnership, it didn’t stop at the end of two years,” said Andrew Tager, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, a recipient of an ATS/CPF grant award in 2008. “It established an important foundation on which to build ongoing research in the search for treatments and a cure.”

Past CPF/ATS Partnership Awards, through 2008, were granted to:

Sonye K. Danoff, M.D., Ph.D., of Johns Hopkins University: VEGF: Marker or mediator of lung injury in PF? Her research is currently testing the hypothesis that locally elevated levels of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) in the lungs of patients with autoimmune pulmonary fibrosis contribute to disease progression.

Andrew Tager, M.D., assistant professor at Harvard Medical School in the Pulmonary and Critical Care Division and at Massachusetts General Hospital: (LPA) and its Receptor LPA1. His study is investigating the role of Lysophosphatidic Acid (LPA) and its cognate receptor LPA1 in lung injury and fibroproliferation following bleomycin treatment.

Harikrishna Tanjore, Ph.D., of the Center for Lung Research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center: The study’s purpose was to determine the extent to which epithelial to mesenchymal transition (EMT) contributes to lung fibrosis and to investigate the role of TGF in EMT in the lungs.

Melissa Hunter Piper, Ph.D., of the Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute at Ohio State University: who studied whether the loss of the expression of miR-17-92 (microRNA) cluster contributes to the pathogenesis of PF.

Grants Awarded by the CPF/PFF/ATS partnership beginning 2009 were:

Steven Huang M.D., lecturer, University of Michigan Medical School: His study is The Regulation and Pattern of the DNA Methylome in PF. The study involves hypermethylation of DNA, an epigenetic process recognized to be important in many diseases though understudied in PF and genes that may be hypermethylated, and to profile the DNA methylome of fibrotic lung fibroblasts. Also, his study addresses how prostaglandin E2, an antifibrotic lipid mediator, may be able to regulate DNA methylation machinery.

Erica Herzog, M.D., Ph.D., of Yale University’s Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine: Her study is titled Semaphorin 7a and Alternative Macrophage Activation in PF. The research seeks to determine the mechanism through which Semaphorin 7a promotes the appearance of M2s and collagen

deposition in a mouse model of PF and to determine the mechanism through which Semaphorin 7a affects the differentiation and activation of M2s obtained from patients with PF.

Zhou, Beiyun Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine, of the University of South California’s Division of Pulmonary & Critical Care: The study is titled Endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress induces epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) in alveolar PF. The researcher is investigating the hypothesis that ER stress induces EMT in epithelial cells thereby contributing directly to fibrosis. Understanding the mechanisms whereby ER stress contributes directly to fibroblast accumulation should provide new insights into the causes of PF that may offer therapeutic strategies for this otherwise fatal disease.

Simonian, Philip M.D., assistant professor of Pulmonary Sciences & Critical Care at the University of Colorado Denver: His study is titled Protection from Inflammation-Induced Pulmonary Fibrosis by IL-22. The focus of the research is to determine the mechanism by which IL-22 protects against lung fibrosis so that better therapies can be developed that protect patients from the development of PF.

Vitamin D Supplements May Reduce Extent Of Lung Disease, Study Says

Vitamin D supplementation may do more than promote healthy bone growth. Researchers at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine have found that vitamin D deficiency plays a crucial role in the severity of a particular lung disease.

A study published in the journal *Chest* revealed that patients with autoimmune interstitial lung diseases (ILDs) tend to have low levels of vitamin D, which may contribute to the disorder. Autoimmune ILDs occur when the body attacks the tissues that

surround the microscopic alveoli, which are the sacs that exchange carbon dioxide for fresh oxygen with each breath.

When it attacks the lungs, an ILD can cause scarring and may be fatal. The study's authors suggested that vitamin D supplementation may improve lung function, though they added that further research is needed to determine this.

Previous studies have associated higher levels of vitamin D with reduced asthma rates, faster

recovery from tuberculosis and a lower likelihood of osteoporotic hip fractures, heart disease and diabetes. Daily vitamin D supplements may even reduce the severity of seasonal affective disorder, since the body synthesizes less of it when not exposed to direct sunlight, scientists at Loyola University have said. Adults should consume approximately 200 micrograms of vitamin D per day, according to the Mayo Clinic.

Source: Better Health Research News Desk; content edited for space

FibroGen Announces the Initiation of an Open-label Phase 2 Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of FG-3019 in Individuals with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis

FibroGen, Inc. announced initiation of an open-label phase 2 study to evaluate the safety, tolerability, and efficacy of FG-3019, a human monoclonal antibody against connective tissue growth factor (CTGF), in individuals with PF, a chronic, progressive, fatal lung disease for which there are no FDA-approved therapies.

The development of PF is not completely understood but is thought to result from repetitive injury to epithelial cells that line the lungs. This initiates an abnormal wound healing process characterized by activation of cells called myofibroblasts, which produce and deposit excessive amounts of extracellular matrix (ECM). ECM deposition and tissue remodeling are key elements in the process of fibrosis that can eventually severely

damage the lungs.

"What sets our program apart is that FG-3019 targets the central mediator of fibrosis whereas other approaches target modification of indirect fibrogenic factors or a single point in the process," said Thomas B. Neff, Chief Executive Officer of FibroGen. "CTGF is at the center of multiple positive feedback loops that, irrespective of etiology, drive the fibrosis process. We believe anti-CTGF is the only currently known therapeutic approach having potential to alter disease progression."

The phase 2 study is expected to enroll 48 patients with progressive PF, who will receive intravenous infusions of FG-3019 every 3 weeks for 45 weeks. Safety, tolerability, and the effect of FG-3019 on extent

of lung fibrosis (as measured by CT scan), lung function, and shortness of breath will be assessed.

"This is an important study that will examine the ability of anti-CTGF therapy to attenuate fibrosis and improve lung function in patients with PF," said Frank Valone, M.D., Chief Medical Officer of FibroGen. "Based on evidence from nonclinical studies that FG-3019 can reverse the process of lung fibrosis, we are hopeful that FG-3019 will prove clinically beneficial in patients with PF."

For more information on the study, contact Loredie Lugos, RN, BSN at (415) 978-1353 or llugos@fibrogen.com

New Procedure May Double Proportion of Lungs Healthy Enough For Transplantation

The *Los Angeles Times* (12/15, Healy) "Booster Shots" blog reported that a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* "tallied the cost of a widely used procedure to maintain the flow of oxygenated blood in prospective organ donors', and proposed an alternative procedure for doing so that better preserved the lungs of a brain-dead patient for potential donation." Specifically, "the study found that by leaving lungs slightly inflated between 'breaths' and lowering the volume of air flowing into the lungs from a respirator, physicians were able to double the proportion of lungs that were healthy enough for transplantation." What's more, "the alternative respirator strategy also cut the intensive-care unit stays of lung recipients by a third and slightly improved the survival of patients who got those lungs."

Source: *ATS Morning Minute*



New Test Announced for Major Killer of Lung Transplant Patients

High stem cell count after transplant predicts debilitating syndrome, U-M research finds

A lung transplant can mean a new chance at life. But many who receive one develop a debilitating, fatal condition that causes scar tissue to build up in the lungs and chokes off the ability to breathe.

University of Michigan researchers hope a new diagnostic tool they developed to predict bronchiolitis obliterans syndrome (BOS) will allow doctors to intervene earlier and, ultimately, to provide life-saving treatments.

BOS is the leading cause of death for those who survive one year after lung transplantation and more than half of recipients will develop BOS within five years. There is currently no cure.

Vibha Lama, M.D., M.S., an assistant professor of pulmonary and critical

care medicine at the University of Michigan Medical School, led a team of U-M researchers who recently discovered that patients who had a high number of stem cells in their lungs six months after transplantation were much more likely to develop BOS than those with lower counts. The findings were recently published online ahead of print publication in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*.

In 2007, Lama and her colleagues published another discovery about the stem cells, revealing that the cells reside in the transplanted organs, independent of their more commonly known association with bone marrow. That study led to the further exploration of the cells' involvement with chronic transplant rejection.

The new findings also have the potential to spur research that will help people suffering from other types of lung disease, such as PF.

Having the biomarker will also allow researchers to readily identify a population of patients ideal for testing new drug interventions and therapies.

"By the time we usually diagnose BOS, there's already been a huge decline in lung function," Lama says. "If we can find the disease early, we can potentially do something about it."

Source: *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* 2010, doi:10.1164/rccm.201005-07420C; content edited for space

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The CPF is proud of all of the PF support groups across the country. The article below written by Exempla Lutheran in Denver highlights a successful group in Colorado. To learn more about support groups in your area or to start one, visit www.coalitionforpf.org or call us at (888) 222-8541 and we'll send you a support group starter kit and help you promote your new group.

Wheat Ridge Pulmonary Fibrosis Support Group Grows by Leaps and Bounds

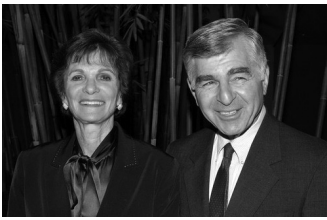
The Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program at the Exempla Lutheran Rehabilitation Center in Wheat Ridge Colorado, has made a tremendous difference in the lives of patients suffering from Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis.

Back in 2007, Phil K., an PF patient in the Pulmonary Rehabilitation program at Exempla Lutheran Rehabilitation Center, wondered why no support or resource groups existed in Colorado for those with the disease. Together with Brenda Crowe, Exempla Lutheran Respiratory Therapist, Phil set out to organize a community support group for all patients with Interstitial Lung Diseases.

During the first meeting in November 2007, 13 attendees quickly bonded as they sought direction and information. Over the next three years, the support group grew, attracting attendees from as far away as Pueblo and Colorado Springs. By the November 2010 meeting, over 50 patients and caregivers attended the meeting. Sadly, on December 29, 2010, Phil K. passed away, leaving a thriving legacy of caring and support for those with Interstitial Lung Diseases.

The Exempla Lutheran Rehabilitation Center still serves as the group's meeting place, and co-founder Brenda Crowe is as deeply committed as ever to providing support.

For more information, please call (303) 467-4122.



Newest CPF Honorary Board Members Announced

Gov. Michael Dukakis, Professor
Kitty Dukakis, author, social worker, advocate

In 2010 the CPF established an honorary board with members including:

Tom Brokaw/Meredith Brokaw	James Marsden/Lisa Linde Marsden
Dick Cook/Bonnie Cook	Peter Mullin/Merle Mullin
Gov. Michael Dukakis/Kitty Dukakis	Kris Popovich/Jane Popovich
Jim Ellis/Gail Ellis	Paul Reiser/Dr. Paula Reiser
Tommy Hawkins	John Shea/Dorothy Shea
Tom Johnson/Edwina Johnson	Daniel Stern/Laure Stern
Jay Leno/Mavis Leno	Governor Olene Walker

“Having now personally witnessed the dire impact of Pulmonary Fibrosis on the patient, their family and their entire circle of friends, my wife Gail and I are pleased to assist in the fight against the disease through our membership on the Honorary Board. Like so many others, we were unaware of the dramatic number of lives lost to PF, but we have come to understand the urgency of finding answers sooner, not later.” — Jim Ellis

New Support Groups

Evansville, Indiana

Where: St. Mary’s Heart Institute, 3700 Washington Avenue,
Evansville, IN 47750; Conference room – 2nd floor

When: March 14, 2011 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (other meetings TBD)

Contact: Liesl Farley, (812) 485-5230

Cary, North Carolina

In Partnership with Duke University Medical Center

Where: Amberly Residents Club, 1075 Residents Club Drive,
Cary, N.C. 27519

When: 4th Saturday of every month at 10 a.m.

Contact: For information or to register, call Carmen O’Brien at
(919) 461-7122 or email at greenthumb7@earthlink.net

Whether you are a PF patient, a family member of a patient, or are close to someone with PF, the CPF is always just a phone call away. Our staff has counseled thousands of patients, and we are always here to provide you with the resources and support you need. Please call (888) 222-8541 to learn more.



Education. Support. Hope.

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About the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis

The Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis (CPF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, founded in 2001 to accelerate research efforts leading to a cure for pulmonary fibrosis (PF), while educating, supporting, and advocating for the community of patients, families, and medical professionals fighting this disease. The CPF funds promising research into new approaches to treat and cure pulmonary fibrosis; provides patients and families with comprehensive education materials, resources, and hope; serves as a voice for national advocacy of PF issues; and works to improve awareness of PF in the medical community as well as the general public. The CPF's nonprofit partners include many of the most respected medical centers and healthcare organizations in the U.S. With more than 23,000 members nationwide, the CPF is the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to advocating for those with pulmonary fibrosis. For more information please visit www.coalitionforpf.org or call (888) 222-8541.

Supporting the CPF

The Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis (CPF) relies on the contributions of individuals, corporations and associations who share our commitment to improving awareness and education of PF, and improving the quality of life for patients fighting PF nationwide.

Every service we offer is at no cost to the PF community. Through your generous support, the CPF will continue to provide information, resources and support to more than 128,000 PF patients, caregivers and families, and to the healthcare professionals who treat them.

Should you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to the CPF, we encourage you to send your check or money order to:

Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis
10866 W. Washington Blvd., #343
Culver City, CA 90232

Contributions are also accepted online by using any major credit card safely and securely through our Web site. Please access our contributions page at www.coalitionforpf.org/AboutUs/contribute/contributenow.asp, or click "Contribute Now" from our home page. To contribute by phone using any major credit card, please call the CPF at (888) 222-8541.

If you have any questions about your contribution to the CPF, or if you would like to make a restricted donation to advance specific CPF programs or research efforts, please contact us at (888) 222-8541, or by email at info@coalitionforpf.org.