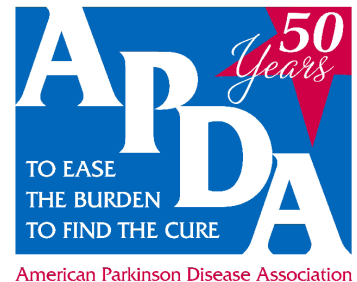


# Parkinson's & Us

## Newsletter Spring 2011



A Publication of the American Parkinson Disease Association  
Information & Referral Center at Emory University and the APDA Georgia Chapter

### **New Udall Center for Parkinson Disease Research at Emory University** *By Thomas Wichmann, M.D., PhD.*

In 1998, the US congress established a network of Parkinson's disease (PD) Research Centers in honor of the late senator Morris K. Udall. These centers are funded through the National Institutes of Health via a competitive grant process. Emory University was recently awarded a Udall Center, becoming one of eleven centers in this network.

Emory's center has three major goals - research, education, and public outreach. The research addresses one of the major roadblocks in the development of treatments for PD: the fact that the use of some of the most effective PD therapies remains empirical - we know *that* they work, but do not understand *how*. This is especially true for surgical treatments such as deep brain stimulation (DBS) or lesioning (pallidotomy). Thus, several of Emory's Udall Center research projects focus on assessing the consequences of such interventions on the brain. Other projects will develop and test new antiparkinsonian drugs. The center supports research conducted by scientists from several departments at both Emory University and Vanderbilt University, which encourages collaborations and the sharing of resources within the center and across the campus.

To fulfill its education mission, the center introduces young researchers to relevant topics and techniques in PD research through lectures, laboratory rotations, and small grants for PD-related research pro-

jects. The center also strives to engage the community in its efforts and has established a community advisory board that guides the center in its efforts to share its research findings and current approaches to improving PD treatment. The Emory-Udall center partners with the American Parkinson's Disease Association Information & Referral Center at Emory and the Atlanta Center for Clinical and Translational Science to reach patients, caregivers, and other interested individuals.

For decades, Emory University has been an exceptional location for PD-related research. The new Udall center represents the logical "next step" in this effort, uniting and organizing many of the varied Pd-related research, education, and outreach activities across campus.

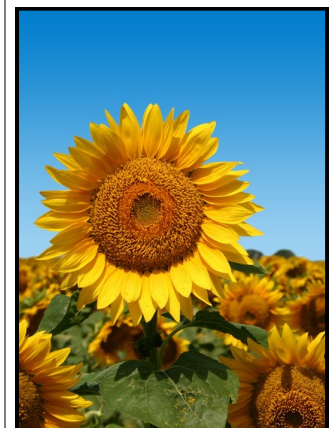
#### **HAPPY 50th ANNIVERSARY APDA!!**

The American Parkinson Disease Association was founded in 1961 "To Ease the Burden to Find the Cure" for Parkinson's disease. Head-quartered in New York, it is the country's largest grass roots organization serving the PD community. It is a 501 © (3) not-for-profit organization and receives no government or public funding. Each year APDA contributes more than \$2.5 million for research and another \$2 million for direct patient and care giver support through the generous support of individual and corporate donations.

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**Congratulations to  
Phyllis S.  
Doraville, GA.  
Winner of the  
Tuscany Dream  
Raffle!**



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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Lynn Ross, LMSW

Editor

Dear APDA Member, Supporter, and Friends,

“To Ease the Burden \_ To Find the Cure,” you recognize as the APDA Mission Statement.. Just how do we as an APDA Chapter try to stay on this path? What can we do to move down that path more quickly?

First, we raise money to offer programs and services that address both “To Ease the Burden” and “To Find the Cure”. We just held our biggest annual fundraiser – the Driving Parkinson’s Away Golf Tournament and Dinner at Smoke Rise Country Club in Stone Mountain. We are hoping for a banner year! Also, this year we added a new twist to our fundraising efforts. We created a raffle to win a Trip to Tuscany and I am happy to announce that Phyllis Stallman from Doraville is the lucky winner. Thank you to each individual and sponsor that made a contribution or participated in some way.

Next, we meet regularly as a Board and in conjunction with the Information & Referral Center, we make sure we are spending that money wisely. The programs and services that we offer:

1. Monthly educational meetings held at on the third Saturday of each month at Clairmont Oaks in Decatur where experts in the field of Parkinson’s research and treatment discuss subjects of interest to our members.
2. Support groups throughout Georgia (a few in South Carolina and Alabama) that meet on a monthly basis.
3. A Respite Program administered by the Alzheimer’s Association that reaches out to people who have Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s Disease
4. Exercise programs specifically designed for people with Parkinson’s Disease. This is a pilot program that we hope to grow and reach more people.
5. Our website: [www.apdageorgia.org](http://www.apdageorgia.org)
6. Our awareness programs including a billboard campaign and joint efforts with other PD organizations.
7. In conjunction with our National Office, the chapters across the country help fund:
8. Information & Referral Centers where you can call to get questions answered about Parkinson’s disease.
9. Major research grants that support finding the cure for Parkinson’s disease.

My reason for writing all of this in this newsletter is – we want to encourage you to participate. We need your input and suggestions. Are we on the right path? Is there a way we could get there more quickly? Please take the time to think about this...think about what else we could be doing (programs, services, fundraising ideas?) and let us know!

Thanks for your support,  
Annemarie Schwarzkopf,  
Board President

## American Parkinson Disease Association

[www.apdaparkinson.org](http://www.apdaparkinson.org)

As APDA celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it continues to build upon a tradition of research support that has been responsible for major scientific breakthroughs in Parkinson's disease. Including the work of Dr. George Cotzias, which led to establishing the effectiveness of high dose oral levodopa in treating PD. Also among its funding of pioneering research were the work of Dr. Roger Duvoisin that established the roles of heredity and environment in PD, and the research that led to the discovery of alpha-Synuclein.

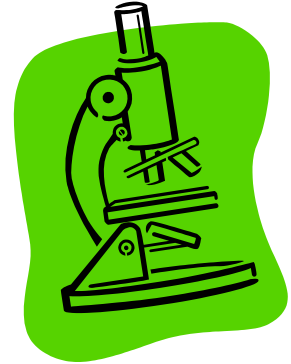
### Among current APDA research funding are the following areas:

- Systems neuroscience research on the circuit mechanism of PD
- I DOPA-induced dyskinesia
- Mitochondrial genes in Parkinson's disease
- Risk factors for Parkinson's disease including family history
- Motor physiology and DBS studies
- Relationship between mitochondrial dysfunction and proteosomal impairment
- Measurement of radiolabeled metabolites for PET studies
- Relationship between mode of inheritance and clinical characteristics
- Development of a model for the prediction of fall risk in Parkinson's disease patients.
- Role of mechanism of dopamine agonist-induced compulsive behaviors
- Parkinson's disease neuropathology in the post-mortem cerebral cortex
- Study of platelet mtDNA mutations from PD patients and controls

### APDA funding also supports:

- Clinical trials
- New lines of research to provide pilot data for future project development and pursuit of extramural funding.
- Addition of essential personnel at its Centers for Advanced Research including a movement disorders fellow, radio-chemist, data programmer, and mathematician.

**APDA CENTERS FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH:** Emory University School of Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham, UCLA School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, Boston University School of Medicine, University of Virginia, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Washington University, University of Chicago.



**It is estimated that less than one percent of the one million people with Parkinson's disease (PD) currently participate in trials.**

**[PDtrials.org](http://PDtrials.org)**

## *Driving Parkinsons Away*

On Saturday, March 12, the Sixth Annual Driving Parkinson's Away Dinner and Auction was held at Smoke Rise Country Club. This is the largest fundraiser of the year for the American Parkinson Disease Association's Georgia Chapter. The event included the gala, both a live and silent auction and ended with the golf tournament on Monday, March 14. At this year's event the announcement was made that the golf tournament will now be known as **The Bill Pender Charity Classic**. The golf tournament has been renamed in honor of Bill Pender, the driving force behind the event, and he was surprised and pleased to be recognized for his contribution. Mr. Pender was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in the early 90's and continues to play a major role in the APDA Georgia Chapter.



Mr. Pender, diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in 1994 has been the driving force behind this event and continues to play a major role in the APDA Georgia Chapter.



## *In Loving Memory*

*Betty S. Bailey*

*Jonas N. "Jay" Brady*

*Joan Bush*

*Tom Earl Caddick*

*Jacqueline Clare Cahill*

*Body Christian*

*John Leonard Cyphers*

*Bill Eubanks*

*Dorothy Holliday*

*Dr. Samuel B. Jordan, Jr.*

*Paul King*

*Captain L.E. Kirkemo*

*Stanley Levine*

*Peter Lopushinsky*

*Barbara Marshall*

*Spencer Edward Mercer, Jr.*

*Margaret Miller*

*Barbara Mitchell*

*Dennis L. Nichols*

*Marion Perling*

*Barbara Rosenberg*

*Dorothy Schwartz*

*Paul Sifen*

*Doris Stoner*

*Anne Suhr*

*Darlene Taylor*

*David Herman Webb, Jr.*

*Lewis Washington*

*Patsy Weinman*

*Joseph T. Wells*

## *In Honor of*

*Alan Rosenberg*

*Robert Morrison*

*Noel Fry*

*Forrest Gee*

*Bill Pender*

*Flavius Passman*

*Cathy Frazier*

*David Shaw*

*Charles Jones*

*Doris Gay*

*Joyce Sanders*

*The Georgia Chapter APDA would like to extend our sincere gratitude for donations made in memory and in honor of your loved ones. We are working hard to ensure your donations will make a difference in the lives of those with Parkinsons disease. To make a donation go to our website, [www.apdageorgia.org](http://www.apdageorgia.org) or mail to: APDA Georgia Chapter, PO Box 49416, Atlanta, GA 30359*

If you would like to play a more active role in your own healthcare and help others by contributing to medical research, please consider volunteering for one of the research trials listed below. By becoming part of a study, you will have access to leading healthcare professionals and to potential new therapies. You will also increase your knowledge and understanding of PD and how it affects you.



## **PD RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES AT EMORY**

### **RELATIVES PD PATIENTS**

- **Healthy control; 3-5 year observational w/MRI, Lumbar Punctures and Spect imaging.**
- **Generic research looking at families w/PD history; 1 time visit blood draw and PD evaluation**
- **ANY PD**
- **Orthostatic hypotension in PD pts; 14 week study**
- **PD pts. With cognitive impairment w/o dementia**
- **Overactive bladder in PD**
- **Survey of exposures and genetics**
- **EARLY PD**
- **Non-PD treated and not needing treatment for at least 6 months; 3-5 year observational w/MRI, Lumbar puncture and Spect imaging**
- **Potentially neuroprotective medication that is currently approved for use for Diabetes. Early PD, currently treated with Eldepryl (selegiline) or Azilect (rasagiline) for between 2-8 months; on no other PD meds. 44 week study.**
- **New neuroprotective medication; on no other PD meds; approx. 32 weeks.**
- **Currently taking either Requip (ropinirole) or Mirapex (pramipexole) as only treatment for PD: 29 weeks w/ophthalmology and dermatology visits.**
- **FLUCTUATING PD (having “OFF” time)**
- **Add-on treatment to PD patients currently taking PD medications, includes diaries, ophthalmology and dermatology visits.**
- **Surgical trial for otherwise healthy adults w/PD and having motor fluctuations(off time between doses).**
- **PD patients having motor fluctuations; will receive up to 16 weeks of free Apokyn (injectible dopamine agonist medication) with or without pre-treatment with Tian for nausea.**

# Mark Your Calendars!

## UPCOMING APDA EVENTS

The Educational Meetings are held at Clairmont Oaks in Decatur, GA

**April 16, 2011**

“Freezing Gait in PD” by Jeff Hoder, DPT, NSC

**May 21, 2011**

“Round Table Discussions with PD Researchers at Emory”

Various Speakers

**June and July 2011**

No meetings

**August 20, 2011**

“PD Update 2011-2012” by Jorge Juncos, M.D.

**September 17, 2011**

“Ask the Doctor” with Stewart Factor, D.O.

**October 14-16, 2011**

Southeastern PD Conference

Sheraton Gateway Hotel, Atlanta, GA

**November 19, 2011**

“DBS Program” by TBA

## OTHER PD EVENTS

**April 16 Pancakes for Parkinson’s—University of Georgia, Athens, GA**

**May 14 Motorcycle Ride for Parkinson’s—Zebulon, GA to Griffin, GA**

**June 4 Casino Royale—Mason Murer Art Gallery, Atlanta, GA**

**Dance for Parkinson’s Classes at Atlanta Ballet. 11 week Spring session Mondays from 12:30 –1:30 pm. Contact Brooks & Company Dance at 404-590-0738 for information.**

**Parkinson’s Exercise Class at Belmont Village meets at 11:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month. Contact Kendall Crye at 404-252-6271 for information.**



American Parkinson Disease Association

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Information & Referral Center  
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#### DISCLAIMER

The material in this newsletter is presented solely for the information of the reader. It is not intended for treatment purposes, but rather for discussion with the patient's physician.