THE PARKINSON PATH

The Parkinson Association of Northern California is an organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with Parkinson's, their families and care partners.



Get The Parkinson Path delivered straight to your email inbox by contacting Sharon@panctoday.org

What Causes Parkinson's Disease?

by Dr. Ehsan Hadi, MD, Dignity Health

arkinson's Disease (PD) is the second most common neurodegenerative disorder after Alzheimer's disease with a prevalence of 0.5-3% as the age advances. Parkinson's Disease is a slowly progressive brain condition, which manifests with both motor and non-motor symptoms. The cause of Parkinson's Disease still remains uncertain though appears to be complex. Several genetic factors and genes have been identified implying that there must be some genetic predisposition, which under environmental influences, lead to damage to the dopamine (brain chemical) producing deep nuclei of the brain. Dopamine helps with transmission of brain signals in order to maintain smooth control of movements and when dopamine levels drop, people start experiencing symptoms of Parkinson's Disease. The pathological hallmark of Parkinson's Disease is called Lewy body, which are aggregates of proteins called alpha synuclein.

There are certain factors that can increase the risk of developing Parkinson's Disease, such as age (risk increases

with age), profession (contact with chemicals), race (white), serious head injury (severe enough to lose consciousness/ memory), gender (men), living situation (rural/farmland/ well water use) etc.

FALL 2019

The majority of patients are classified as idiopathic (unknown cause) PD. In a small number of cases (5-10 %), there is a family history of PD. The genes that are potentially implicated in the development of PD are called **PARK** genes, which can be transmitted in an autosomal dominant or recessive manner. Thus far 23 **PARK** genes have been identified but having these genes still does not mean one will develop PD. This suggests that additional research is required to identify additional unrecognized genes.

In 1983, several people developed PD after injecting themselves with drugs that were contaminated with **MPTP** (Methyl phenyl tetrahydropyridine), which when metabolized can act like a neurotoxin. This led to studies

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The Parkinson Path is published four times a year by the Parkinson Association of Northern California.

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June – August 2019

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PLEASE JOIN US AT THE PARKINSON ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S Annual Educational Conference Saturday, October 26

Details on the back

THANK YOU PANC COMMUNITY FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS AMAZING EVENT! by Marcie Larkey

The 3rd Annual Robert G. Smith Walk to Cancel Out Parkinson's, fondly known as the 'COP Walk', was held April 6, 2019. The walk, organized and coordinated by the Embarcadero Lions Club and supported by regional Lions Clubs and the State Lions Organization is held in honor of 'Bob' Smith, with all proceeds donated to support the efforts of the Parkinson Association of Northern California (PANC). This year the PANC Community showed up in force, with teams of family, friends and fellow Parkinson Support Group members. In total, four hundred walkers attended, enjoyed, the park, the beautiful weather, the entertainment and the lunch.

AND THE BEST WAS YET TO COME!

On June 19th, 2019 several PANC Board members President Sean Tracy, Secretary Myron Jantzen and 'Cop Walk, Liaison, Marcie Larkey, attended the Embarcadero Lions Club's Annual Installation of Officers and received the 'Cop Walk' donation. The 2019 gift of \$32,000 (the largest ever) was met with overwhelming thanks and gratitude. In the past three years the total support from the Lions to PANC is \$81,570. We really couldn't do all we do without them!

The support of the PANC Community along with our wonderful 2019 Sponsors made this the best year yet!



Cop Walk participants, Kay and Hugh Griffin.

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- Foothill Lions

Sadly, Bob Smith, beloved member of the Lions and their Past International Director, succumbed to Parkinson's Disease on March 30, 2019, one week shy of his 3rd Annual Walk. However, the walk will continue in his memory. His courage and loving spirit will remain with us as we plan the 4th Annual Robert G. Smith Walk to Cancel Out Parkinson's, scheduled for **Saturday, April, 4th 2020.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SOS by Dorothy Ross, Davis Support Group

The neurologist tried to warn me. When prescribing a new medicine for Parkinson's Disease the doctor cautioned about many possible side effects, especially compulsivity toward gambling and drugs. The dire litany didn't include Shopping Online Syndrome, but SOS was the compulsion I developed.

A neighbor alerted me to Overstock.com's huge linen selection, I was amazed at their inventory of brand name bed linens. Instead of trudging from Macy's to Penney's to Sear's, I sat at my desk in my bathrobe, sipping coffee while perusing a staggering array of blue sheets.

On that first foray into computer-assisted shopping, I was startled to have suggestions pop up on my screen, like the ad for a "greatly reduced" blue denim bedspread. My husband loves everything denim, so I bought the spread for our cabin. While I was filling out the order form, an ad appeared for a matching denim bedskirt — also on sale. I added the bedskirt. That's how it started.

My full-immersion online shopping habit was aided and assured by my new laptop. Its backlit keys are perfect for searching the Net in the wee hours. When I can't sleep and the house is dark and quiet, I sit in my big chair, in the blue halo of the small screen, comparison shopping with my fingers.

My computer has replaced stationery, pens and postage stamps. It has eliminated the need for Webster's dictionary, Roget's thesaurus, and Britannica's encyclopedia. It has also displaced mail-order catalogues. I know my sources and my sources know me. The genie in my computerized Pandora's box links me directly with my favorite retailers.

As our household's designated consumer, I was happy to save time and money by ordering online. Then I stumbled across eBay's auctions. In no time, I mastered the bidding system and began filing maximum bids and incremental bids and automatic bids. I know. That's gambling. But the stakes were low and my mood was high.

I won't confess my compulsive behavior when I visit the neurologist, because I wouldn't want the doctor to change my meds or my moods.

NOTE: If excessive spending is an issue for you or for a loved one, talk with your neurologist. Your PD meds may need to be adjusted.



MONTHLY GIVING

Your monthly gift to the Parkinson Association generates impact every day of the year. Recurring contributions allow us to support the crucial needs of the Northern California Parkinson's Community.

You can easily setup your monthly gift at: www.panctoday.org

LEAVING YOUR LEGACY

Including the Parkinson Association of Northern California in your estate planning leaves a lasting impact in the lives of the Northern California Parkinson's Community.

For more information visit: www.panctoday.org

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Being the Best of Friends

by Jim Morris

I have a very good friend whose name is Kerri Kuska. Her heart is as big as all out doors. Through her Facebook account she even topped what I already knew of her. Apparently you can send a request to your Facebook friends suggesting how to honor your upcoming birthday. She did so last year by asking her many friends to donate on her behalf to PANC during the two-week period before her birth date. Well, she happens to have over 1,000 Facebook Friends. Last year's contributions came to \$1,220. and this year even more at \$1,510. So, whether your cause is Parkinson's Disease or something else, an easy way to help and be a good friend is through Facebook. Kerri even had another of her friends join in with her own birthday request for Parkinson's. Wow, what a friend!

What Causes Parkinson's Disease?

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linking environmental factors, such as Pesticides (Paraquat, Rotenone), chemicals (agent orange, manganese, lead, trichloroethylene) to PD.

An important milestone was the recognition of **Braak hypothesis** introduced in 2003. Post mortem studies have revealed a specific pattern of the spread of PD pathology in the brain. Recognition of PD pathology at multiple sites outside the brain has raised a lot of interest in the possibility of the origin of PD pathology from outside the brain, such as the colon.

In the last two decades we have seen extraordinary advancement in the understanding of PD, it is very hopeful to see ongoing extensive research to further garner insight into the cause of PD, which in turn would help develop improved treatment strategies.



Butte County Chico – 1st Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. Sycamore Glen Ret. Community 1199 Diablo Ave., Chico, CA 95973 Terry Donnelly 650-743-6871 tmdonnelly68@gmail.com Bob Murray 530-321-6157 ordferry@yahoo.com

Oroville — 1st Thursday, 1:30–3 p.m. *Trinity Presbyterian Church* 2350 Foothill Blvd., Oroville, CA 95966 **Carol Rawlins 530-282-0499**

El Dorado County

El Dorado Hills — 2nd Tuesday, 12 p.m. Rolling Hills Church Multipurpose Bldg, West End of Complex, Rm 8 800 White Rock Rd., El Dorado Hills, CA, 95762 Donna Rixmann 916-712-9642 donna@yogapeace.net

Larry Alver 916-933-2465 Idalver@sbcglobal.net

El Dorado Hills/Folsom Caregiver

Luncheon* — 3rd Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Round Table Pizza, 2793 East Bidwell St., Folsom, CA 95630 Larry Alver 916-933-2465 Idalver@sbcglobal.net

Placerville — 1st Tuesday, 1:30–3 p.m. Senior Center Dining Room 937 Spring Street, Placerville, CA 95667 Peggy Kline 408-309-1125 pegkline103@gmail.com

Lake County

Lake County — 2nd Monday, 2–3:30 p.m. United Christian Parish 745 N. Brush St., Lakeport, CA 95453 Phil Myers 707-263-4624 phillip.e.myers@att.net

Regional Support Groups

For additional information, visit www.panctoday.org

Napa County

Napa Young Onset Group — 4th Sunday, 3 p.m. Covenant Presbyterian Church 1226 Salvador Ave., Napa, CA 94558 Joe Burger 707-266-6156 ieburger99@gmail.com

Nevada County

Grass Valley – 2nd Friday, 1:30 p.m. Atria Grass Valley 150 Sutton Way, Grass Valley, CA 95945 Nancy Lockwood 530-272-7950 nmlockwood@aol.com

Truckee – 3rd Friday, 1 p.m. Tahoe Yoga and Wellness Center 10710 Donner Pass Rd Truckee Ellen Roumasset 650-759-3666 dr.eroumasset@gmail.com

Placer County

Auburn Caregivers Luncheon* – 2nd Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. Awful Annie's Cafe 13460 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA 95603 Karen Hancock 530-885-0950 karen@ hancockonline.net

Lincoln — 3rd Tuesday, 10 a.m. Granite Springs Church 1170 E. Joiner Pkwy., Lincoln, CA 95648 Gary High Gwhigh@wavecable.com

Roseville — 1st Tuesday, 1:30–3 p.m. Maidu Community Center 1550 Maidu Dr., Roseville, CA 95661 Harry Butler 916-837-3366 hapbutler@comcast.net Website: rosevillepsg.weebly.com

West Roseville — 4th Tuesdays, 11:00-12:00 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church 2351 Pleasant Grove Blvd. Roseville, CA 95747 Ken and Arlene Fujino 916-474-3489 kfujino1@msn.com

Sacramento County

Arden/Arcade — 3rd Thursday, 10 a.m. Arden Christian Church 4300 Las Cruces Way, Carmichael, CA 95864 Keith Tronson 916-395-2771 keithtronson@sbcglobal.net Jim Morris 916-359-4859 jimor1940@gmail.com Carmichael/Sacramento Area Young Onset

Support Group — 1st Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Carmichael Presbyterian Church 5645 Marconi Ave., Carmichael, CA 95608 Mary Beth Arjil 530-409-4118 marjil@sbcglobal.net Tony Wong 916-730-6303 acwong60@gmail.com

Carmichael/Eskaton Support Group – 2nd Thursday, 10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m. 3939 Walnut Ave., Carmichael, CA 95608 Ron von Rajcs 916-715-3920 evc.psg@yahoo.com

El Dorado Hills/Folsom Caregiver Luncheon*-

3rd Thursday, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Round Table Pizza, 2793 East Bidwell St., Folsom, CA 95630 Larry Alver 916-933-2465 Idalver@sbcglobal.net

Elk Grove — 3rd Wednesday, 10 a.m. Senior Center of Elk Grove 8230 Civic Center Dr., Elk Grove, CA 95757 Myron Jantzen 916-686-4555 mpjantzen@aol.com

Folsom — 4th Monday, 10 a.m. Folsom Senior and Arts Center 48 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630 Donna Rixman 916-712-9642 donna@yogapeace.net Cathy Johnson 916-791-2426

Gold River Lewy Body Dementia Caregiver/Care Partner Meeting (Collaborative Group) — 2nd Thursday, 10 a.m. Eskaton Lodge Gold River 11390 Coloma Rd., Gold River, CA 95670 Denise Davis 800-272-3900 denise.davis@alz.org

Natomas Area — 2nd Thursday, 10–11:30 a.m. Adventure Christian Church 1500 N Market Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95834 Irene Duggan 916-710-6912 parkinsons1018@gmail.com

Northeast Area — 4th Thursday, 1 p.m. St. Marks Unified Methodist Church, Room E-24 2391 St. Marks Way, Sacramento, CA 95864 Sean Tracy 916-482-7014 sstfam@winfirst.com

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Don't see a support group in your area? Let us help you start one!

Contact us at 916-357-6641 or panc@panctoday.org

Post DBS Patients

See class schedule, location and contact information at www.panctoday.org

Sacramento Caregivers Lunch Bunch*

(Collaborative Group) – 3rd Tuesday, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Ettore's 2376 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95825 Anne Spaller 916-728-9333 aspaller@deloro.org

Sacramento Men's Group Suspended pending further notice.

South Area — 2nd Thursday, 1 p.m. Asian Community Center 7334 Park City Dr., Sacramento, CA 95831 David Teraoku 916-685-4162

San Joaquin County

Lodi — 1st Monday, 10 a.m. Grace Point Church 801 S. Lower Sacramento Rd. Lodi, CA 95242 Ron and Maureen Olsen 209-745-1011 molsen@softcom.net Robbin and Pat Bray 209-269-1080 braywaves@gmail.com

Lodi Caregivers Group* -

3rd Monday, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Grace Point Church 801 S. Lower Sacramento Rd. Lodi, CA 95242 Call for directions/information Jean Whitted 209-368-2809 bjwhitted@hotmail.com

Stockton – 2nd Thursday, 1:30 p.m. O'Connor Woods West Hall 3400 Wagner Heights Rd. Stockton, CA 95209 Mary Ann Behrens 209-477-6496 mbehrens64@gmail.com

Tracy/Parkinson Support Group of Tracy -

2nd and 4th Mondays, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. St. Paul's Lutheran Church 1635 Chester Ave., Tracy, CA 95376 Kathy Clark 209-879-3108 classieladyat63@yahoo.com

Shasta County

Redding — 2nd Friday, 1:00 p.m. Social Time; 1:30–3 p.m. Meeting; 3–3:30 p.m., Shasta Shout – speech therapy First United Methodist Church 1825 East Street, Redding, CA 95350 Kim Hawkins 530-945-7628 Kim.reddingpsg@gmail.com

Sierra County

Loyalton — 1st Friday, 1:30 p.m. Golden West Restaurant Main Street, Hwy 49, Loyalton, CA 96118 Betty Ferguson 530-993-4002 fergi45@gmail.com

Solano County

Benicia — 2nd Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. 201 Raymond Dr., Benicia, CA 94510 Brad Miller 707-515-9216 bradfordmiller807@gmail.com

Vacaville Parkinson's Support Group -

4th Wednesday, 1:30–3 p.m. *The McBride Senior Center* 91 *Town Square Place, Vacaville, CA* 95688 Brenda DeMartini 707-330-1551 brendaldemartini@gmail.com

Sonoma County

Sonoma County — 1st Saturday, 1 p.m., Feb/Mar/Apr/May/June/Oct/Nov 2nd Saturday, 1 p.m., Aug/Dec NO meetings in Jan/Jul/Sept. *Christ Church United Methodist* 1717 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95405 Nancy Wilson nlbwilson.41@gmail.com Marc Alexander 707-431-8767 malexander109@comcast.net

Stanislaus County

Modesto – 3rd Wednesday, 1:30–3:30 p.m. Jan.–Nov. (No meeting in July) *Trinity United Presbyterian Church* 1600 Carver Rd., Modesto, CA 95350 Paul Vantress 209-526-6184 modestoparkinsons@gmail.com

Sutter County

Yuba City – 2nd Monday, 1 p.m. Sutter Medical Foundation 969 Plumas St., Suite 208 Yuba City, CA 95991 Janice Herbert 530-673-3064 tricountyparkinsons@gmail.com

Yolo County

Davis – 3rd Thursday, 1:30 p.m. Davis Senior Center 646 A Street, Davis, CA 95616 Sue Curry 530-304-9927 smcurry@sbcglobal.net

Davis Care Partners Group* –

2nd Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. Davis Senior Center 646 A Street, Davis, CA 95616 Karen Eagan 530-564-4323 kareneagan747@gmail.com

Woodland — 4th Tuesday, 1 p.m. (No meeting Jul/Aug) Woodland Comm. and Senior Center 2001 East Street, Woodland, CA 95776 Bernadette Murray 530-661-1950 bemurray2008@gmail.com

PANC Advisory Support Group Facilitators and attendees should be aware that not all medications, treatments or theories about Parkinson's disease are 'right' for every person. If presentations or discussions within your Group raise issues in your mind regarding your personal condition or treatment plan, you are advised to bring those questions to your treating physician for further exploration prior to making any changes in your medications or routines.

* Caregiver / Care Partner meeting.



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ANNUAL CONFERENCE



PARKINSON ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S Annual Educational Conference

Saturday, October 26, 2019

Registration & Exhibits Open 8:30 a.m.

Conference 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

McClellan Conference Center 5411 Luce Avenue Sacramento, CA 95652

Deadline to register: October 18, 2019. Register at www.panctoday.org