

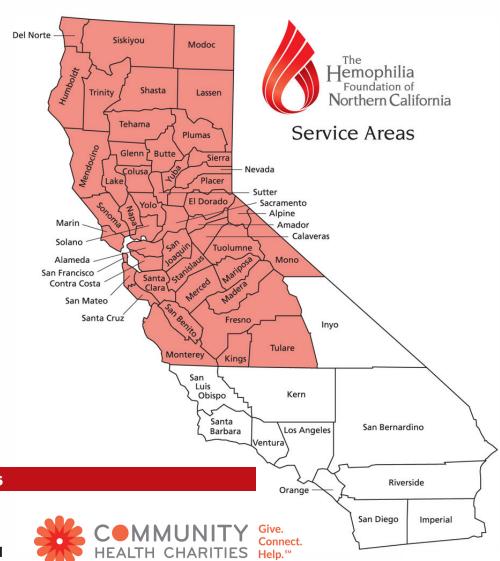
NEWSLETTER OF THE HEMOPHILIA FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA · SPRING 2015

# Expanding our influence

he Hemophilia
Foundation of
Northern California
is proud to add 21 new counties to our service area as the
official National Hemophilia
Foundation chapter affiliate
this year, effective March 1.
We also continue our member
status with the Hemophilia
Federation of America.

Our mission: To serve the needs of people impacted by bleeding disorders through enhancing quality of life by providing support, education, outreach, advocacy and research through our affiliated national foundations.

There are many nonprofits that serve our bleeding disorders community in California, across the nation and around the world. We look forward to serving our foundation's mission and having further reach to make an impact hand in hand with our sister organizations.



#### **Partner organizations**



NATIONAL HEMOPHILIA FOUNDATION

www.hemophilia.org









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# Baxter's BioScience is expected to become Baxalta in mid-2015.

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#### DONATE YOUR VEHICLE TO SUPPORT NHF AND HFNC

Donate your car, boat, motorcycle, truck or other vehicle to NHF's Vehicle Donation Program. Visit NHF at www. hemophilia.org and click the "vehicle donation program" link, or call 1 (855) NHF-4-CAR. A representative will explain all of the details — including how to schedule free pick-up service that's convenient for you.

#### HFNC IS GOING GREEN!

Help HFNC reduce waste and cost by receiving *Infusions* via email. If you would like to make the switch, please email Patrick Dunlap at patrick. dunlap@hemofoundation.org.

Creating
a Lifeline of
Community
and Support

#### NEWS



## Website gets a facelift



FNC is pleased to announce that our website recently got a much-needed facelift, bringing hemofoundation.org a modern, interactive look for those seeking more information on our porgrams and services.

"This dramatic upgrade to our website brings us up to the standard set by Northern California," HFNC Executive Director Patrick Dunlap said. "These changes will make it easier for our community to get the updates they need on our programs and services."

The still-evolving site now features links for each of the many programs offered by HFNC, sections dedicated to advocacy and fundraising, and a live calendar of upcoming events.

We welcome your feedback on the new site and hope you find this improvement to be helpful to your family as you navigate the bleeding disorders world.

#### Spread a smile with HFNC and Amazon

amazon smile

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id you know you can support HFNC with your purchases on Amazon.com at no cost to you? Simply go to http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1638703 and log in with your existing

Amazon username and password and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to HFNC. Be sure to replace your Amazon. com bookmark with smile.amazon.com to ensure all your purchases get credit!

Help

# Female Factor flourishing

By Ashley Gregory and Christa Parra

n the summer of 2013 a few mothers, wives, caregivers, carriers and women with von Willebrand's Disease and other bleeding disorders began getting together to supporting each other through the difficulties we face taking care of ourselves and loved ones. with and without a bleeding disorder. Through these meetings, we discovered the issues and challenges we face as minorities in the bleeding disorders community and saw an opportunity to fill a need for support and fellowship.

Out of those first gatherings was born the idea of The Female Factor Group, Our name is meant to include every female in the bleeding disorders community, and we learned that even if we aren't affected with a bleeding disorder, we have one thing in common: is self care of mind, body and soul. Until the group was formed, these needs weren't being addressed within our community and amongst ourselves.

Since then, we have organized many events, including educational dinners exploring topics such as pain management, navigating the HTC world, 504's and IEP's, sustainability of our group within the chapter for future generations, how to access better treatment for carriers and patient advocacy. Our roundtable meetings are lively and electric with hot topics. With the recent



addition of 21 new counties in the HFNC service area, we are preparing to offer this much-needed community service into a larger area. Although our meetings are currently in English, we see the need to provide Spanish and Cantonese content.

Many participants have expressed the need to become trained in advocacy, and we are currently seeking grants to provide advocacy training from HCC to enable The Female Factor to attend the legislative days hosted by the Hemophilia Council of California and the National Hemophilia Foundation and meet with lawmakers to effect change in policies and medical care locally and nationwide.

We have recently been made aware of the need for outreach to the younger group

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### Dads group comes to Fresno



By Brent Mascorro

FNC's Dads in Action program recently continued its program expansion with the first ever DIA event in Fresno.

Thirty-five attendees participated in a fun-filled interactive learning day at Fresno State University. An hourlong educational program in the Planetarium led by a university professor kicked off the event. The group then enjoyed lunch and a wonderful bleeding disorder presentation by former HFNC board president and HFA representative Doug Hartsough.

After a great group discussion, the party really started with more than 3 hours of bowling, billiards and music.

Thank you to the Fresno area community members for coming out and participating in a wonderful day of learning and supporting. Dads in Action's next event is April 25th at the Oakland A's game. Contact HFNC office for more information.

### Book on Ryan White on the way

new book on the life of Ryan White is set for release nearly a nearly a quarter-century after the death of the Indiana teenager

> who became an early face of the AIDS epidemic. The

Indiana Historical Society will

host a book launch event April 1 for its new book, "The Quiet Hero: A Life of Ryan White," written by Nelson

White's mother, Jeanne White-Ginder, and Olympic diving champion Greg Louganis, who had befriended White, will attend that downtown Indianapolis event.

White became a national figure during the AIDS scare of the 1980s after suing his Howard County school district for the right to attend

He developed AIDS after receiving a tainted blood transfusion to treat his hemophilia. White died on April 8, 1990, at age 18. \delta



#### Calendar

6 Blood Brotherhood - Santa Rosa Men's Support Group/Peer Support 9 Baxter Facts First - Salinas 13 Board Meeting - call 17 World Hemophilia Day 22 Female Factor - Los Gatos 25 Dads In Action Oakland A's Game - Astros 26 Hemophilia Third Party Event - "Rookies"

1 Baxter Facts First- "True Identity" Oakland

6 Female Factor - Monterey- Biogen 11 Board Meeting - in person 11- 13 HCC Future Leaders - Sacramento 13 Leg Day Sacramento 16 Biogen Spanish Education Day - Fresno 15-17 B-leaders Retreat

June

6 Board of Directors Retreat 14-20 Camp Hemotion

**July** 12 Female Factor - Picnic-Zumba 13 Board Meeting - call 15 or 16 Biogen Idec Hemophilia - Emeryville - Educational Dinner 25 Blood Brotherhood BBQ East Bay

25 Baseball Clinic HFNC

26 First Day HCC Coastal Bike Ride end day August 1

TBD Speeders for Bleeders 31 HFNC Scholarship applications due



# Fog fuels fun-filled weekend

e're accustomed to fog in Northern California, so a thick haze blanketing Camp Arroyo in Livermore didn't dampen spirits for the latest installment of HFNC's annual Family Camp.

This year was bittersweet, hoewer, as it marked the final year under the direction of Diana Virgil, who has been instrumental in the decadeslong process of making the program what it is today.

HFNC also honored Bobbie Steinhart who founded the program in 1990 and was on hand to see the tremendous growth Family Camphas seen since its inception.

A big thank you goes out to the Taylor Family Foundation for donating the use of the site for this event year after year!







#### Family Camp 2015





### New NHF program closes gap

he National Hemophilia Foundation recently announced a new program that will help more people with bleeding disorders be able to attend Annual Meeting.

Connections for Learning provides funding for individuals with bleeding disorders to attend the meeting to gain the relevant experience and practical knowledge they need to better navigate life with a chronic illness.

NHF will provide customized educational experiences and networking opportunities at its Annual Meeting for patients with bleeding disorders who struggle with the management of their chronic illness and lack effective support due to geographic, cultural, social, and/or economic barriers.

NHF is committed to providing \$100,000 in funding for the Connections for Learning Program. Already the Colburn Keenan Foundation has agreed to generously match every donation dollar for dollar up to \$25,000 raised. To help launch the program before this year's Annual Meeting, we have been challenged to raise the first \$7,500 by the end of March.

For more information, visit hemophilia.org.

# Gene therapy proves effecitve in canines

sing gene therapy to produce a mutant human protein with unusually high blood-clotting power, scientists have successfully treated dogs with the bleeding disorder hemophilia, without triggering an unwanted immune response. In addition, the "turbocharged" clotting factor protein eliminated pre-existing antibodies that often weaken conventional treatments for people with hemophilia.

"Our findings may provide a new approach to gene therapy for hemophilia and perhaps other genetic diseases that have similar complications from inhibiting antibodies," said the study leader, Valder R. Arruda, M.D., Ph.D., a hematology researcher at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP).

Arruda and colleagues published their animal study results in the print edition of Blood on March 5.

Hemophilia is an inherited bleeding disorder that famously affected European royal families descended from Queen Victoria. Most commonly occurring in two types, hemophilia A and hemophilia B, the disease impairs the blood's ability to clot, sometimes fatally. When not fatal, severe hemophilia causes painful, often disabling internal bleeding and joint damage.

Doctors treat hemophilia



with frequent intravenous infusions of blood clotting proteins called clotting factors, but these treatments are expensive and time-consuming. Moreover, some patients develop inhibiting antibodies that negate the effectiveness of the infusions.

For more than two decades, many research teams, including at CHOP, have investigated gene therapy strategies that deliver DNA sequences carrying genetic code to produce clotting factor in patients. However, this approach has been frustrated by the body's immune response against vectors--the non-disease-causing viruses used to carry the DNA. Those responses, which defeated initial benefits seen in experimental human gene therapy, were dose-dependent: higher amounts of vectors caused more powerful immune responses.

Arruda and colleagues therefore investigated gene

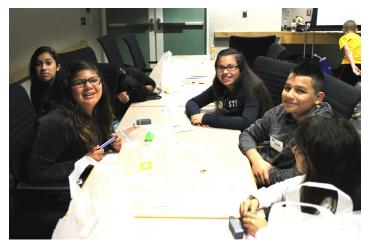
therapy that used lower dosages of vector (adenoassociated viral-8 vector, or AAV-8 vector) to produce a more potent clotting factora variant protein called FIX-Padua.

Arruda was part of a scientific team in 2009 that discovered FIX-Padua in a young Italian man who had thrombosis, excessive clotting that can dangerously obstruct blood vessels. A mutation produced the mutant clotting factor, called FIX-Padua, named after the patient's city of residence. This was the first mutation in the factor IX gene found to cause thrombosis. All previously discovered FIX mutations lead to hemophilia, the opposite of thrombosis.

FIX-Padua is hyperfunctional--it clots blood 8 to 12 times more strongly than normal, wild-type factor IX. In the current study, the

Continued on page 21

#### **Family Education Day**



# Community gathers to strengthen bonds

amilies from all over Northern California gathered at Oakland Children's Hospital on March 15 for HFNC's annual Family Education Day.

New to the event this year was the first appearance

of the "Powering Through" series in Northern California. Organized and moderated by community member Patrick James Lynch — the brains behind the popular "Stop the Bleeding" web series — the panel included hemo mom Lauren Barbounis, community member and volunteer Ben Martin and Olympic track and field star Jeremy Dodson.

The trio conversed with Patrick about overcoming challenges, whether related to bleeding disorders nor not, and answered a few questions from the audience.

The rest of the day was filled with educational breakout sessions to targeted groups, including men, women, teens and children.

Thanks to all those who attended, especially the large group that made the trip up from Fresno on two buses!



## Delicious fundraising

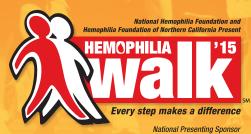
FNC's 11th annual Crab Feed was our most successful yet, raising more than \$40,000 for the foundation thanks to huge

ticket sales and a successful auction. And of course, the crab was delicous!

See some of our photo booth pics on pages 15.







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#### Saturday, May 2, 2015

**Registration Check-In Time:** 9:00am

**Walk Start Time:** 10:00am **Distance:** 5K (3.1 miles)

**Location:** Cesar Chavez State Park

11 Spinnaker Way Berkeley, CA 94710

Walk Chairs: Bobby Wiseman

and Elizabeth Seaton

# SAVE THE DATE

Join us to support the Hemophilia Walk! We will walk to raise critical funds for the bleeding disorders community. Your fundraising efforts are greatly appreciated!

For more information, please visit www.hemophilia.org/walk or contact:
Bryan Anderson, Local Walk Event Manager,

at 510.658.3324 or

HFNCwalk@hemofoundation.org.

www.hemophilia.org/walk
Participate. Volunteer. Donate.

#### **Plant-Based Inhibitor Therapy Continues to Bloom**

cientists from the University of Florida in Gainesville (UF-G) and the University of Pennsylvania (U-Penn) continue to investigate an experimental, plant cellbased approach to preventing inhibitors and allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) to clotting factor therapies in people with hemophilia. An update on their progress was published online, December 16, 2014, in Scientific American, a division of Nature America,

Lead investigator Henry Daniell, PhD, director of translational research at the U-Penn School of Dental Medicine, and Roland W. Herzog, PhD, a molecular biologist at UF-G, have, for several years, been working on a technique that involves encapsulating an orally administered "toleranceinducing protein" such as factor IX (FIX) within plant cell walls. When ingested, the bio-encapsulated protein safely travels through the stomach before reaching the small intestines. The plant cell wall shields the FIX from being prematurely broken down by stomach acid. Eventually, microorganisms eat away the cell wall, gradually releasing the protein.

Building on earlier studies (2010) that successfully used bioengineered tobacco plant

cells to prevent inhibitors and anaphylaxis in mice with hemophilia B (FIX deficiency), Daniell and Herzog are now turning to freeze-dried lettuce leaf cells engineered to trigger a high concentration of FIX. Each lettuce leaf cell contains approximately 10,000 chloroplasts, each structured in such a way to hold very large volumes of the FIX protein. Chloroplasts are subunits of plant cells, most often known as crucial components of photosynthesis. Although these chloroplastrich plant cells are not equipped to prevent bleeding--plants are unable to make human clotting factors biologically active--they have

shown an ability to induce tolerance in the immune system to FIX. Researchers have been developing this novel therapeutic approach for several years to create potential vaccines against malaria and cholera, and genetically engineered insulin to help prevent diabetes.

Daniell and Herzog recently took the next step and tested this approach in two dogs with hemophilia B. They fed both dogs their normal food along with the engineered lettuce cells converted into a green powder form. There have been no reports of anaphylaxis or

Continued on page 15





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#### A Better Approach to Infusion Care



#### **Shelley Jajeh**

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#### 11th Annual Crab Feed



Continued from page 11

inhibitors in the mice from the earlier study or in the dogs that recently received the plant-based therapy. "So far, it's going very well," reported Daniell. If this novel oral therapy continues to prevent treatment complications in animal models, the next step will be to replicate that success in human clinical studies.

Source: Scientific American, December 16, 2014



## **Brothers**Healthcare

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- Ofrecemos todo tipos de factor con todas las herramientas medicinales que necesite, directamente entregado a usted, en sus manos, y en su casa.
- Somos abogados por nuestra comunidad, educadores, voluntarios, y hasta un consejero para su hijo(a).



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- · Control and prevention of bleeding in patients with hemophilia A
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References: 1. ALPHANATE® (antihemophilic factor/von Willebrand factor complex [human]) Prescribing Information. Grifols. 2. CSL Behring. Humate P Package Insert. August 2013; 3. Octapharma. Wilate Package Insert. January 2012; 4. Kedrion. Koate-DVI Package Insert. August 2012.



For more information: **Grifols Biologicals Inc.** Tel. 888-GRIFOLS (888-474-3657)

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Continued from page 4

of carriers experiencing bleeding symptoms, VWD and other bleeding disorder affected girls that would benefit from education and support and have discussed ways to connect and provide guidance to them through Mother/ Daughter events and an outreach program sponsored by

The Female Factor.

If you would like to attend any of our upcoming events, please RSVP with Lonnie at Lonnie.wood@hemofoundation.org. If you would like to be on our information distribution list please email your contact information to Christa and Ashlev at hfncffg@hemofoundation.org.

#### Making a change in the world

begins by making a change in your community! Apply to be an intern through the Bayer Hemophilia Leadership Development Program and begin to learn how to be the change YOU want to see in the world.

Students enrolled full-time in college who are touched by hemophilia can apply now for the opportunity to:

- Engage in leadership training and hands-on business projects
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- Meet with healthcare public policy professionals to experience first-hand how effective advocacy relations impacts legislative decisions
- Be responsible for developing a project that will be presented to Bayer Senior Management

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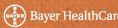
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The Hemophilia Council of California (HCC) is a state-wide organization serving people with bleeding disorders. This program teaches young men and women with bleeding disorders how California government works, insurance and state programs that support their care, education and career, and how to inform others about their disease.

- Meet with legislators at the California State Capitol
- Learn self-reliance and leadership skills
- Free of charge for the youth participants
- We encourage young women to participate!



Hemophilia Council of California 4629 Whitney Ave., Suite 1 Sacramento, CA 95821 Our next

#### Future Leaders Program

will be held

May 11-13, 2015

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#### More info: www.hemophiliaca.org

For questions, contact Heidi Scanlan at the Hemophilia Council of California Phone: (916) 498-3780 • Fax: (916) 498-3782 • Hccassist@aol.com



· Education & events

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Continued from page 8

researchers thus needed to strike a balance--to relieve severe hemophilia in dogs, by using a dose strong enough to allow clotting, but not enough to cause thrombosis or stimulate immune reactions.

"Our ultimate goal is to translate this approach to humans," said Arruda, "by adapting this variant protein found in one patient to benefit other patients with the opposite disease."

The current study tested the safety of FIX-Padua in three dogs, all with naturally occurring types of hemophilia B very similar to that found in people. Two of the dogs had never been exposed to clotting factor, and had never developed antibodies. The gene therapy injections changed their hemophilia

from severe to mild, with no bleeding episodes for up to two years. They did not develop inhibitory antibodies, nor was there evidence of thrombosis.

The third dog, named Wiley, already had inhibitory antibodies before receiving the gene therapy. Wiley also experienced safe and effective treatment of hemophilia, persisting over a sustained period-- three years. The treatment also eradicated the inhibitory antibodies, the first time this occurred in an animal model with pre-existing antibodies.

Another set of preclinical safety studies in mice supported the safety and efficacy of gene therapy using FIX-Padua. Arruda added that larger studies are needed in dogs with pre-existing inhibitors, to confirm these encouraging early results.





## July 25 - August 1, 2015 San Francisco to San Diego Be a Rider • Sponsor a Rider





Hemophilia Council of California 4629 Whitney Ave. Suite 1 Sacramento, CA 95821 The ride begins on Saturday, July 25 with a kick-off dinner in San Francisco and concludes with a homecoming BBQ in San Diego on Saturday, August 1. Registered riders embark on a seven-day journey along California's majestic Highway 1 for an experience like no other.

The Hemophilia Council of California (HCC) is a collaboration of the four hemophilia chapters serving California. HCC's mission is to support the four California hemophilia chapters and to imporve the quality of life of people with bleeding disorders. Help us raise awareness by joining the ride!

#### More info: www.ccr4h.org

For questions, contact Heidi Scanlan at the Hemophilia Council of California Phone: (916) 498-3780 • Fax: (916) 498-3782 • Hccassist@aol.com



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- A NAVA Guide to connect you to information and resources specific to your needs
- A NAVA Partner to help you set and achieve life goals—career, education, relationships, and more
- A NAVA Mentor who's walked in your shoes and can share their own experiences
- NAVA.baxter.com to access events, resources, and articles tailored just for you!

Enroll now at nava.baxter.com or 1-855-322-NAVA (6282).

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Creating
a Lifeline of
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and Support

Information and Resources included with your Infusions newsletter are for informational purposes only and do not constitute any endorsement or recommendation of or for any medical treatment or product by The Hemophilia Foundation of Northern California (HFNC). With regard to medical information, HFNC recommends that any and all medical treatment you receive or engage in be discussed throroughly and frankly with a competent, licensed, and fully informed medical practitioner, preferably your Hemophilia Treatment Center providers. Opinions expressed in articles in the newsletter are not necessarily those of Infusion's editorial staff or the HFNC.

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