



**\* Next Two Meetings \***

**Friday, July 26, 2024 10:00 am – noon (In Person ONLY)**

***“What to Know About Hospitalization and Rehab with Parkinson’s”***

**Fabio Danisi, MD, Neurologist, Movement Disorder Specialist; MidHudson Regional Hospital**

**Friday, August 23, 2024 10:00 am – noon (In Person ONLY)**

***“How to Maintain Physical Therapy with Parkinson’s***

**Julie Fineman, PT, EdD; Dir, Clinical Studies, Physical Therapy Doctoral Program;  
Marist College**

Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church, 1168 Rt. 55 (East parking lot)  
*(across from Arlington High school)*  
(Light refreshments)



**No August newsletter. Postcard reminder only.**

## Our New Website Is Now Live!

Have you explored the new face of our *Parkinson's Disease Support Group of the Mid-Hudson Valley*? Go to [www.midhudsonparkinsons.org](http://www.midhudsonparkinsons.org) to see expanded information on Parkinson's, our history, meetings, resources, Walk Over Water, Board members and much more. Share! Enjoy!



### Mark Your 2024 Calendar – Monthly Meetings

**July 26** – “*What to Know About Hospitalization/Rehab with Parkinson’s*” **Fabio Danisi, MD**; Neurologist, Movement Disorders Specialist, MidHudson Regional Hospital (A few free copies of the Parkinson’s Foundation *Hospital Safety Guide* will be available.) Learn to maximize your experience and be your own advocate.

**August 23** – “*How to Maintain Physical Therapy with PD*” – **Dr. Julie Fineman**

**September 27** – *Discussion/Sharing*

**October 25** – “*Conversations Caregivers Need to Have*” - **Shannon White**

**November 8** – *Discussion/Sharing*

**December 13** – *Holiday Festivities*

### Special Events:

**September 8, 2024** – Annual “*Walk over Water,*” Walkway Over the Hudson 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

We are now meeting at our easily accessible new venue, the ***Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church (FPUPC), 1168 Rt. 55 Lagrange.*** Coming into Lagrange from Poughkeepsie on Rt. 55, go past the Arlington High School entrance on your left and the church on your right to the East parking lot. The entrance is at the far end of the lot, but, once in the lot, you can drive up very close to the building. Coming off the Taconic, you go towards Poughkeepsie and enter the parking lot just past the *Daily Planet* and the entrance to Tops Market. Handicapped rest rooms are across the hall from the meeting room, which is right inside the entry.

**NOTE: 2024 DUES (\$15/INDIVIDUAL; \$20/COUPLE)**

(Mail checks to: **PDSGMHV P.O. Box 304 Lagrangeville, NY 12540**)



Parkinson's News Today is strictly a news and information website about the disease. It does not provide medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. This content is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of your physician or another qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition. Never disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read on this website.

**(Editor's note:** The following news "shorts" came from *Parkinson's News Today*. Please note that mention of current trials or research "discoveries" are not to be taken as recommendations. These reports are merely to help keep you informed of Parkinson's in the news. Always consult your neurologist regarding medications.

## Aspen wins \$8M to advance Parkinson's stem cell therapy

Grant will support ongoing Phase 1/2a trial that's using patients' own cells  
by [Andrea Lobo](#) | May 20, 2024



Aspen Neuroscience has been awarded an \$8 million grant to advance the clinical development of [ANPD001](#), its investigational stem cell therapy that's designed to replace dopamine-producing nerve cells lost in [Parkinson's disease](#).

The grant, funded by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), will support the ongoing Phase 1/2a clinical trial that's evaluating the treatment in people with Parkinson's disease. The trial is assessing the use of patients' own cells . . .

## Parkinson's gene therapy increases brain GCCase in nonhuman primates

CAP-003 may restore enzyme high enough to prevent alpha-synuclein buildup  
by [Margarida Maia, PhD](#) | May 30, 2024



Low to moderate doses of CAP-003, a gene therapy in the pipeline from [Capsida Biotherapeutics](#), increased levels of glucocerebrosidase (GCCase), an enzyme that's missing or faulty in some people with [Parkinson's disease](#), in the brain of nonhuman primates.

Given as a one-time infusion into the vein, or intravenously, CAP-003 may be able to restore GCCase enough to prevent the buildup of unwanted proteins, such as the [alpha-synuclein toxic clumps](#) that cause Parkinson's to develop and progress.

Because CAP-003 is designed to head toward the brain, it may also avoid many of the unwanted side effects of gene therapy, according to the company, which plans to move the therapy into clinical testing next year.

## Cell therapy bemdaneprcel gets FDA RMAT status

Designation paves way for more trials, potential early review  
by [Patricia Inácio, PhD](#) | June 3, 2024



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted regenerative medicine advanced therapy (RMAT) designation to bemdaneprcel, a cell therapy BlueRock Therapeutics, a subsidiary of Bayer, is developing to treat Parkinson's disease.

RMAT designation is granted to therapies that have shown potential to treat serious or life-threatening conditions. It provides a series of benefits, including early talks with the FDA about trial design, and potential for priority review of an eventual application seeking approval. . .

Parkinson's is caused by the loss of dopaminergic neurons, the nerve cells responsible for producing dopamine, a chemical messenger important for motor control. The loss of dopamine causes the disease's typical motor symptoms, such as tremors, muscle rigidity, and slowness of movement, as well as nonmotor symptoms.

While levodopa and its derivatives are the mainstay treatment for Parkinson's by providing cells, Bemdaneprocel, previously known as BRT-DA01, is designed to generate new dopaminergic neurons after being transplanted into the brain, specifically the putamen, a region involved in motor control. The cell therapy uses human embryonic stem cells to generate dopamine-producing cell precursors. The transplanted cells are expected to restore motor and non-motor function. . .

Data obtained one year after the transplant showed that the cell therapy was safe and well-tolerated, without any serious side effects reported. Brain imaging scans showed that the transplanted cells produced dopamine, leading to an easing of motor symptoms and off time reduction.

These improvements were maintained 1.5 years after treatment, with cells surviving in the brain even after patients stopped a one-year immune-suppression regimen.

"We are excited about the positive data from the bemdaneprocel [Phase 1] clinical trial and believe it has great potential to help patients living with Parkinson's disease regain functions they have lost to the disease," said Seth Ettenberg, PhD president and CEO of BlueRock Therapeutics. . .

## Genetic ancestry's contribution to Parkinson's, brain disorders shown

Study underscores need to consider role of immune, blood vessel cells

by Patricia Inácio, PhD | June 3, 2024



A first-of-its kind study has identified key genes in the brain that explain why Black Americans have a lower incidence of Parkinson's disease, but are at heightened risks for other brain disorders, including stroke and Alzheimer's.

"This landmark work enriches our understanding of the role of genetic ancestry in the brain, opens new avenues for the development of ancestry-aware therapeutics, and paves the way for more equitable personalized medicine," Daniel Weinberger, MD, director and CEO of the Lieber Institute and the study's lead scientist, said in a press release.

It's the first study from the African Ancestry Neuroscience Research Initiative (AANRI), a collaborative endeavor involving the Lieber Institute, which is located at the Johns Hopkins Medical Campus in Baltimore, and area African American community leaders, including Morgan State University, a historically Black public university. . .

## Ultrasound device used in mice may be DBS tool for Parkinson's disease

Implantable ImPULS was shown to activate dopamine-making nerve cells

by Marisa Wexler, MS | June 7, 2024



Researchers have developed an implantable device, dubbed ImPULS, that can stimulate brain cells using high-frequency sound waves, or ultrasound, in mice.

The researchers said they hope the device may be useful for deep brain stimulation in people with disorders such as Parkinson's disease and as a research tool to better understand the disorders. The device's development was detailed in *Nature*

Communications in “An implantable piezoelectric ultrasound stimulator (ImPULS) for deep brain activation.”

“Brain stimulation has been one of the most effective, yet least understood, methods used to restore health to the brain. ImPULS gives us the ability to stimulate brain cells with exquisite spatial-temporal resolution and in a manner that doesn’t produce the kind of damage or inflammation as other methods,” Steve Ramirez, an assistant professor at Boston University and co-author of the study, said in a news release. . .

Deep brain stimulation, or DBS, is an established intervention that’s used to help control symptoms of Parkinson’s. It involves inserting a small device called an electrode into the brain that can provide electrical stimulation to nerve cells. By stimulating cells, DBS helps normalize brain signaling, thereby easing disease symptoms.

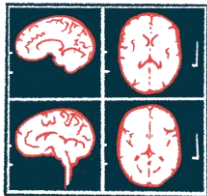
A major drawback of implanted electrodes is that they are vulnerable to corrosion, which in the long term can make them less effective or not to function. Also, scar tissue forming around the implant can interfere with the electrical impulses.

To get around this, researchers designed an implantable device that uses ultrasound rather than electricity to stimulate neurons. The device is a thin fiber that vibrates to produce ultrasound at a specific frequency that can activate nearby nerve cells. . .

## **PET tracer shows promise for early diagnosis of Parkinson’s: Study**

Imaging agent allows visualization of alpha-synuclein clumps

by [Patricia Inácio, PhD](#) | July 3, 2024



An imaging agent for positron emission tomography (PET) scans allowed researchers to visualize, for the first time, abnormal alpha-synuclein protein clumps in the brains of living patients with Parkinson’s disease, a study showed.

By detecting a hallmark feature of Parkinson’s found in relatively lower abundance in the brain compared with protein clumps in Alzheimer’s and other conditions, the new tracer may be able to diagnose Parkinson’s much earlier and provide important clues as to how a person is responding to treatment in the clinic and in clinical trials...

The study, “Imaging  $\alpha$ -synuclein pathologies in animal models and patients with Parkinson’s and related diseases,” was published in *Neuron*. . .

## **Therapeutic Parkinson’s vaccine safely inhibits alpha-synuclein**

Twelve of 13 patients who completed dosing developed blood antibodies

by [Lindsey Shapiro, PhD](#) | June 27, 2024

UB-312, a therapeutic vaccine candidate from [Vaxxinity](#), safely led to antibodies being produced that could target toxic clumps of the alpha-synuclein protein in people with Parkinson’s disease, according to final published data from a Phase 1 clinical trial.

Having detectable antibody levels against alpha-synuclein in the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) was associated with greater reductions in alpha-synuclein and improvements in being able to perform daily motor activities. CSF surrounds the brain and spinal cord. . .

The study, “Target engagement and immunogenicity of an active immunotherapeutic targeting pathological  $\alpha$ -synuclein: a phase 1 placebo-controlled trial,” was published in *Nature Medicine*. The research was funded by Vaxxinity with support from The Michael J. Fox Foundation.

## **Buntanetap found to halt cognitive decline in early Parkinson’s trial**

Daily treatment also improved motor function in patients, new data show

by [Steve Bryson, PhD](#) | July 8, 2024



Six months of once-daily [buntanetap](#) halted cognitive decline among people in the early stages of Parkinson’s disease, and improved cognition in those with mild dementia.

That’s according to new data from a Phase 3 trial (NCT05357989), which showed that the therapy candidate, developed by [Annovis Bio](#), also improved motor function in patients with a diagnosis more than three years prior, as well as in those with postural instability and gait difficulties. . .

## **WEBINARS/Resources**

### **Parkinson Foundation Webinars**

“**Trouble with Zzz’s: Sleep Challenges with Parkinson’s**” May 8, 2024

For people with Parkinson’s, sleep is critical — as the brain and body need more time to restore. Explore common sleep issues associated with Parkinson's, how it affects sleep quality, and ways to get a better night's sleep with PD.



Watch each past one-hour Briefing at [www.parkinson.org/webinar](http://www.parkinson.org/webinar), click on Expert Briefing and then again on Expert Briefing in the paragraph that comes up. **NEW!** These webinars now have closed captioning. For *Mindfulness Mondays*, *Wellness Wednesdays*, and *Fitness Fridays* go to: [www.parkinson.org/pdhealth](http://www.parkinson.org/pdhealth). Not online? Have a question? Call: **Helpline at 1-800-4PD-INFO.**

### **Michael J. Fox Foundation -Third Thursdays Webinars:**

“**Finding Your Way: Working through Emotions in Early Years with Parkinson’s**”  
Thursday, September 21 (archived)

In this replay of a popular webinar, our expert panelists will discuss ways to manage emotions and navigate the early years of a Parkinson’s diagnosis. We’ll feature reflections from a person recently diagnosed in addition to people who have been living with the disease for years. We’ll also cover the valuable role people recently diagnosed can play in research. **Watch previous Third Thursday Webinars at [www.michaeljfox.org/webinars](http://www.michaeljfox.org/webinars)**

### **Davis Phinney Foundation – Live Well Today Webinar Series**

Interested in topics like: Depression, Memory, Mood and Parkinson’s; Exercise, Freezing and Gait; Emerging Therapies; Women and Parkinson’s; or non-Motro Symptoms Medications? Try going to the David Phinney Foundation website for a list of recorded and upcoming hour long webinars on these topics and many more.

For more videos, books, articles, and blogs on Parkinson's see:

- **American Parkinson Disease Assoc.** at [www.apdaparkinson.org](http://www.apdaparkinson.org)
- **Davis Phinney Foundation** at [www.dpf.org](http://www.dpf.org)
- **Michael J Fox Foundation** at [www.michaeljfox.org](http://www.michaeljfox.org)
- **Parkinson's Foundation** at [www.parkinson.org](http://www.parkinson.org) or call their **Helpline** at 1-800- 473-4636.

## MEMBER NEWS

### Our "Walk Over Water" Fundraiser Needs You!

Last year we learned that Parkinson's is now the **fastest growing neurological disease** – with someone being diagnosed **every six minutes!** What can YOU do right now? Make copies of the green solicitation letter sent earlier, or pick up a bunch at the June meeting, or call Nancy at 914-475-2793 or email [nredkey@aol.com](mailto:nredkey@aol.com) to get extra copies mailed to you. Make your list of family, friends and businesses and start mailing out your letters. See below for handy tips. You and your friends can also give **online** at: [www.movingdaywalk.org/communitywalkwalkoverwater](http://www.movingdaywalk.org/communitywalkwalkoverwater). Take a look for a current total. Let's keep the momentum going!

We will again be presenting the "**Nina Liu Tiger Award**" to the person who brings in the most gifts during our fundraising campaign leading up to the Walk. Might you be the winner? Remember, every journey begins with just one step and every fundraiser begins with just one gift.

DO WHAT YOU CAN - WITH WHAT YOU HAVE - TO HELP CHANGE THE PD WORLD



### Letter Writing Tips for Success

- Add a personal line or two to the letter.
- Enclose a return envelope **ADDRESSED TO YOURSELF**. A quick way to address the return envelope is to use the freebie labels you get in the mail from other groups – American Cancer Society, Audubon, etc.)
- Even better, put a stamp on the return envelope.
- Sign your name and mail.
- Mail returned checks to: **PDSGMHV P.O. Box 304, Lagrangeville, NY 12540** or bring them to a meeting.
- Remember **ALL** checks get made out to the **Parkinson's Foundation**. This way they don't go through our books. We make a spreadsheet and send them in batches to the Foundation.
- And **don't forget your own gift!**



## **STRETCHING CLINIC - Special Opportunity**

The new FREE stretching clinic at **Marist College**, just for people with Parkinson's, has announced the next open dates. Each session is one-on-one, tailored to you. Your personal appointment can be made through the link below:

**Saturday, July 27th <https://calendly.com/juliefineman/pd-stretch-clinic-saturday-7-27-24>**

You can also contact Dr. Kristin Mende at **Kristin.Mende@marist.edu** for more information and how to join. This is run out of the Doctoral Program for physical therapists at Marist College.

### **Don't like to exercise alone?**

Anne Olin is offering classes on **Tuesday mornings from 10-11:30 am** at the Town of Ulster Senior Center, #1 Town Hall Drive, Lake Katrine NY 12249. Classes are geared for all levels and spouses and partners are welcome. Sitting, standing, balance and gait exercises are included, all done to musical accompaniment. The Senior Center is a lovely, bright new building with an entrance ramp and lots of parking. Contact **Anne at (845) 679-6250**

### **Attention PDSGMHV Care Partners!**

Did you know that we have an online **Care Partners Support Group** that meets the first Thursday of every month at 5:30pm? This group is facilitated by PDSGMHV member and peer councilor Alex Passas. If you'd like to be on the list for monthly invitations, you can contact Alex directly at **passasalex@gmail.com**.

### **Need some Equipment?**



To donate or borrow, you can call Nancy Redkey at **914-475-2793** or email [nredkey@aol.com](mailto:nredkey@aol.com). We currently have a variety of commodes, walkers, wheelchairs, and other adaptive accessories. The latest donation is a brown leather "**lift chair**". Call 914-475-2793 for more information. Also, just in, another **hospital bed**. Call for more information.

Parkinson's Disease Support Group of the Mid-Hudson Valley is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization.

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

914-475-2793

**NOTE:** *If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please call or write Nancy Redkey at 914-475-2793, [nredkey@aol.com](mailto:nredkey@aol.com), or PDSGMHV | P.O. Box 304 | Lagrangeville, NY | 12540.*