



**BRAIN ANEURYSM
FOUNDATION**

Raising Awareness. Ending Fear.™

269 HanoverStreet
Building 3
Hanover, MA 02339
(781) 826-5556 Phone
(781)826-5566 Fax
Tax ID No. 04-3243864
www.bafound.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Annemarie Lewis Kerwin
Praxis Communications Strategies
617-571-4322
a.lewis-kerwin@praxiscomm.net

Brain Aneurysm Foundation Welcomes two renowned physicians to Medical Advisory Board of Directors

(Hanover, MA—August 10, 2016) Dr. L. Fernando Gonzalez, associate professor of neurosurgery at Duke University, and Dr. Brian Jankowitz, Co-Director, Endovascular Therapy at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, have joined the Medical Advisory Board of Directors of the Massachusetts-based **Brain Aneurysm Foundation**, which raises awareness of and funds to support research of brain aneurysms, a disease that affects an estimated 30,000 people annually.

Dr. Gonzalez, who also is co-director of cerebrovascular and endovascular neurosurgery at Duke University, and Dr. Jankowitz, who also is an assistant professor and director of the neuroendovascular fellowship program at UPMC, join a board of more than three dozen other doctors—neurologists, neurosurgeons, and interventional neuroradiologists—representing the best research hospitals, facilities, and universities throughout the country. The Medical Advisory Board members provide expertise and support to the Foundation in a variety of ways.

“Dr. Gonzalez and Dr. Jankowitz are wonderful additions to our organization. We look forward to working with them,” said Brain Aneurysm Foundation Executive Director Christine Buckley. “The work of our doctors is what sets us apart from other organizations.”

Dr. Gonzalez, graduated from the Universidad Javeriana in Colombia where he also trained in neurosurgery at the Colombian Neurological Institute. After his residency, he immigrated with his family to the United States where he worked in the Microanatomy Skull Base Lab at the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, AZ, under Drs. Robert Spetzler and Joseph Zabramski. Dr. Gonzalez completed a neurosurgery residency at the Institute with a fellowship in cerebrovascular and endovascular surgery and later joined the Neurosurgery Department at Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals in Philadelphia where he became associate professor and director of the Fellowship Program.

In 2014 Gonzalez moved to North Carolina as the co-director of the cerebrovascular and endovascular program at Duke University. Dr. Gonzalez has an academic interest in flow simulation and biomechanics of cerebral aneurysms. He has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. He published an award-winning book on endovascular neurosurgery.

Dr. Jankowitz joined the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Department of Neurological Surgery faculty as an assistant professor in 2010 after completing the department’s seven-year residency program and cerebrovascular fellowship.

He is the only neurosurgeon in Pittsburgh who performs both open and endovascular cerebrovascular surgery. This unique skill set allows unbiased treatment options ranging from carotid stenting versus carotid

endarterectomy, aneurysm coiling versus clipping, and AVM embolization versus resection.

Originally from Montgomery County, Maryland, Dr. Jankowitz received his medical training at Temple University in Philadelphia and an undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame. He has a keen interest in treating ischemic cerebrovascular disease including carotid revascularization, acute stroke interventions, and EC-IC bypass. He believes a combination of open and endovascular means, working synergistically, holds the key to improving outcomes. He works closely with Dr. Tudor Jovin, director of the UPMC Stroke Institute, to evaluate and treat hemorrhagic and ischemic disease in a multidisciplinary cerebrovascular clinic at UPMC Mercy.

Brain Aneurysms by the numbers:

- Six million people in the U.S. have a brain aneurysm, 30,000 of whom will suffer a rupture each year
- Of the 30,000, 60 percent will survive
- Of those who survive, approximately 66 percent will endure permanent neurological deficits that limit their ability to resume a normal life
- The cost of treating brain aneurysms and caring for those who have suffered a rupture nationally is in the hundreds of millions of dollars annually
- 50 percent of those who have a brain aneurysm rupture are less than 50 years old.

The Foundation has received national attention this year, including on May 11 when the Foundation led a delegation of more than six-dozen brain aneurysm survivors, family members of those affected by the disease, advocates and medical professionals from around the country for a Congressional Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. The delegation met with key legislators including Senator Edward Markey (D-MA), Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), and former Representative Renee Ellmers (R-NC). On May 3, 2016, the Brain Aneurysm Foundation participated in the #StrokeTalk as part of National Stroke Awareness Month with the CNN Chief Medical Correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Director Dr. Walter Koroshetz, Million Hearts Executive Director Dr. Janet Wright, and Kaiser Permanente research scientist Dr. Mai Nguyen-Huynh. On April 21, 2016, the U.S. Senate passed by acclamation Resolution 438 naming September as “National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month,” which was introduced by Senators Markey and Ayotte. And on Sunday, April 21, 2016, more than 1,000 people gathered at Boston’s historic Fenway Park to participate in the 15th annual Arterial Challenge, a 5K Run and 3K Walk to fund research.

Earlier this year, The Foundation launched a public awareness campaign featuring a PSA titled “Pleased to Meet You” that was created by the award-winning agency, HQ Creative. Link to the PSA Link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/brainaneurysmfound>

###

ABOUT THE BRAIN ANEURYSM FOUNDATION

The Brain Aneurysm Foundation is the globally recognized leader in brain aneurysm awareness, education, support, advocacy and research funding. Now celebrating more than 20 years’ of service, and led by Executive Director Christine Buckley, the Brain Aneurysm Foundation was established in 1994 in Boston, Massachusetts, with a mission to promote early detection of brain aneurysms by providing knowledge and raising awareness of the signs, symptoms and risk factors; work with the medical communities to provide support networks for patients and families; as well as to further research that will improve patient outcomes and save lives. **For more information about the Brain Aneurysm Foundation, visit www.bafound.org**