



BRAIN ANEURYSM FOUNDATION

Raising Awareness. Ending Fear.™

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2nd annual 5K Walk/Run for the Griffin Brain Aneurysm Movement (GBAM)

Event is part of Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month activities

(Hanover, MA—September 15, 2016) The family and friends of the late Jacquelyn Griffin will gather at LaSalle Park in Metairie on September 24, 2016 to raise money to fund research of and support for those affected by brain aneurysms. The event is being co-sponsored by Tulane Health System and the Massachusetts-based Brain Aneurysm Foundation, the national voice of those living with or impacted by brain aneurysms, which affects 1 in 50 people leading to an estimated 30,000 ruptures annually.

On August 17, 2005 Jacquelyn Griffin, or Jackie as she was known to friends and family, passed away from damage caused by a ruptured brain aneurysm. Shortly before her passing she retired from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). She was heavily involved in the church as a member and Minister of Music at Pentecost Baptist Church, and was well known in New Orleans for her involvement and dedication to gospel choirs throughout the city.

“Part of our goal with the GBAM event is to help educate our community on the warning signs and risk factors associated with brain aneurysms,” explains Quintrell Griffin, Jackie’s daughter and event organizer. “Not many people know that women and African Americans are two times more likely to have a brain aneurysm. It’s important to get the word out there and spread awareness.”

The 2nd annual 5K/Walk for the Griffin Brain Aneurysm Movement (GBAM) will be held at LaSalle Park, 6600 Airline Drive, Metairie, LA 70003 on Saturday, September 24, 2016 at 9 a.m. Registration opens at 8:00 a.m.

“Events such as this one in Metairie are what allow us to fund the research that is leading the way,” said Christine Buckley, executive director of the Foundation, which was started in 1994 at Massachusetts General Hospital and is now based in Hanover, MA. “There is so much to be done for those impacted by brain aneurysms, and with the help of people, like the family and friends of Jackie Griffin, we are able to be at the forefront of this work.”

The money raised from these events will be distributed through the Foundation. The globally recognized organization recently hosted its 10th annual Research Grant Symposium in Atlanta, GA, at which \$310,000 in grant money was awarded to 11 recipients whose research is impacting this disease. The Foundation has three missions: to help support families and those who have suffered a brain aneurysm; to advance cutting edge medical research; and, to be the advocacy voice of the brain aneurysm community in Washington.

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 is unique in that it has a Medical Advisory Board of Directors, which is made up of more than three-dozen 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. The Foundation recently announced that two leading physicians joined the medical advisory board: 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.

It has been a busy year for the Brain Aneurysm Foundation. The organization received national attention, including on May 11, 2016, when it 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 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.

In April 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.

The Foundation also 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>

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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 at Massachusetts General Hospital 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**