



**BRAIN ANEURYSM
FOUNDATION**

Raising Awareness. Ending Fear.™

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brain Aneurysm Foundation Announces Its Inaugural New York Champion Awards

U.S. Representative Yvette Clarke to receive Community Advocate Champion Award, May 10

HANOVER, MA, May 7, 2018 – The Brain Aneurysm Foundation (BAF) will celebrate its first annual New York Champion Awards on May 10, 2018 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the New York Athletic Club, NY. Becky Quick, co-anchor of CNBC’s “Squawk Box” and anchor of “On the Money,” will emcee the event.

The Brain Aneurysm Foundation is the globally recognized leader in brain aneurysm awareness, education, support, advocacy, and research funding. The 2018 Champion Awards will honor various members of the community who strive to educate others about the risks and symptoms of brain aneurysms.

New York Champion Award honorees include:

- **Yvette Clarke, U.S. Representative, Community Advocate Champion**
- **Mark Hoffman, CNBC Chairman, Media Champion**
- **David Chalif, MD – Northwell Health, Physician Champion**
- **Lauren Sherwin, Volunteer Champion**
- **Sharon Epperson, CNBC Senior Personal Finance Correspondent, Survivor Champion**

“We are proud to honor so many great supporters of our organization,” said Christine Buckley, executive director of the Brain Aneurysm Foundation. “It’s our goal to bring people together and raise awareness for a disease that affects one in 50 people in the United States, often leading to death or lifelong disabilities.”

U.S. Representative Yvette Clarke (D-NY) and her colleague U.S. Representative Patrick Meehan (R-PA) introduced the “Ellie Helton, Lisa Colagrossi, Teresa Anne Lawrence, and Jennifer Sedney Focused Research Act” (“Ellie’s Law”), on March 21, 2017.

The bill seeks much needed federal funding for brain aneurysm research. Currently the federal government spends 83 cents per year on brain aneurysm research for each person afflicted with a brain aneurysm. “Ellie’s Law” would provide \$5 million each fiscal year, for five years, to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) to

conduct or support further comprehensive research on brain aneurysms, studying a broader patient population diversified by age, sex, and race.

Brain aneurysm survivor and CNBC Senior Personal Finance Correspondent Sharon Epperson will be recognized for her tireless efforts to raise awareness following a life-threatening ruptured brain aneurysm in late 2016. Epperson has been a great champion for the foundation, as she has publicly shared her personal story, not only raising visibility for a rather unknown disease, but bringing attention to the importance of being financially prepared for unexpected life-altering events.

“My health crisis showed me how critically important it is to prepare for the worst and have a financial plan. Not doing so can result in a financial disaster, for yourself and your loved ones. The best way to explain that to viewers, readers and listeners is to tell my story,” said Epperson.

In the United States one in 50 people have an unruptured brain aneurysm. Each year, an estimated 30,000 people suffer a brain aneurysm rupture, 40 percent of which are fatal. Of those who survive, about 66 percent suffer some permanent neurological deficit. Women are more likely to suffer from a brain aneurysm than men and African-Americans are twice as likely as Caucasians to experience a rupture.

Support of the honorees and fundraising efforts allows BAF to amplify its work to end the suffering of brain aneurysm disease for patients and their families.

ABOUT THE BRAIN ANEURYSM FOUNDATION

Founded in Boston and now based in Hanover, Massachusetts, the Brain Aneurysm Foundation is the globally recognized leader in brain aneurysm awareness, education, support, advocacy and research funding.

The foundation’s mission is to provide information about and raise awareness of the symptoms and risk factors of brain aneurysms to prevent ruptures and subsequent death and disability; work with medical communities to provide support networks for patients and families; and advance research to improve patients’ outcomes and save lives.

Established in 1994, the foundation is led by Executive Director Christine Buckley and has a Medical Advisory Board that comprises more than 30 of the nation’s foremost aneurysm experts — neurologists, neurosurgeons, interventional neuroradiologists and other brain aneurysm specialists — from the country’s leading hospitals and universities.

For more information about the Brain Aneurysm Foundation, visit bafound.org.

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