# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



2017 RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS





#### **OUR MISSION**

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.

Advance research to improve patients' outcomes and save lives.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** -

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#### PICTURED ON FRONT COVER:



# Leadership

The Brain Aneurysm Foundation is fortunate to have a Medical Advisory Board composed of neurologists, neurosurgeons, interventional neuroradiologists, and other brain aneurysm specialists from leading medical centers around the globe. We are privileged to have their continued expertise and support, and are grateful for their time and dedication.

The Brain Aneurysm Foundation is also grateful for the service of our Board Members and Executive Committee. The members of these groups give very generously of their time, talents, and expertise to help the foundation fulfill its mission.

#### **MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD**

#### **Executive Director and Founder**

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North Shore University Hospital

Carlos David, MD

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Stephen Lewis, MD | Perth, Australia

R. Loch Macdonald, MD, PhD | St. Michael's Hospital

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Ajith Thomas, MD | Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

John A. Wilson, MD | Wake Forest Baptist Health

Gregory J. Zipfel, MD | Center for Advanced Medicine Washington University

Mario Zuccarello, MD | University of Cincinnati

# A Word From



#### The Executive Director

As you will read in this Annual Report, 2017 was a period of phenomenal progress and promise, thanks in great part to the dedication and determination of you, our passionate supporters. You should be proud of what we have accomplished together, and confident that we will achieve even more in the years ahead. There's no stopping us!

Last year saw a number of exciting new initiatives and achievements, many of which are described on the following pages.

One of the most exciting was our first statewide Brain Aneurysm Awareness Day at the Massachusetts State House during Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month in September. With your help, our goal is to hold Brain Aneurysm Awareness Days in all 50 states in the coming years.

Last year, we held our first scientific session during our annual Research Symposium, and distributed \$445,000 in grants to 14 researchers, whose photos adorn our cover. Funded entirely by donations, this was the largest amount ever awarded by the Brain Aneurysm Foundation!

Also, we welcomed Boston Bruins defenseman Kevan Miller as our first national spokesperson, and held our first annual Champion Awards event in Boston, which was replicated in New York state and perhaps will be held elsewhere in 2018.

We also welcomed new members to our Board of Directors (Jeffrey B. Harvey) and our Medical Advisory Board (Drs. Stanley Berman and Edward R. Smith), further adding to the deep expertise of these dedicated groups of volunteers.

These are just some of the many highlights of 2017. I hope you enjoy reading about how together we are making a difference and moving ever closer to a world without death or disability from brain aneurysms.

With deep appreciation for all you do,

Christine

**Christine Buckley** 



#### The Medical Advisory Board Executive Director

The 14 women and men on the cover of this annual report are researchers whose work may change the future for people with a brain aneurysm. Their research ranges from discovering the genetic causes of brain aneurysms, developing novel ways to diagnose brain aneurysms early, determining which patients with an unruptured aneurysm need treatment, reducing brain injury following rupture, and evaluating the effectiveness of new therapies.

All of them are able to pursue their important work because of you, our dedicated and determined supporters, who give so generously of your time and resources. Thanks to you, this year we were able to award research grants totaling \$445,000 — the largest amount ever awarded by the foundation and 43 percent more than last year! — to these deserving researchers.

Since its inception, the foundation has distributed more than \$2.1 million in research grants, making us the largest private funder of brain aneurysm research in the United States. We are also pleased to report that in 2017, seven new BAF Chairs of Research, which are established with a gift of \$10,000 or greater, were created.

Whether you organized or took part in a local awareness-raising event, established a Chair of Research, or joined us in Washington for our annual Advocacy Day, we are extremely grateful for your support. Thanks to you, we are making steady progress toward our shared goal of reducing deaths and disabilities from brain aneurysms.

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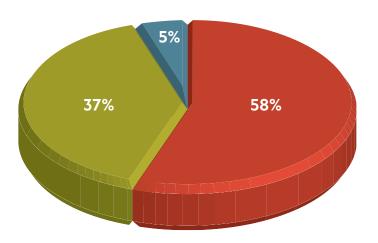
Christopher S. Ogilvy, MD

# Financial Summary

Since 1994, when the Brain Aneurysm Foundation was established as a public charity, our funding has been targeted to provide critical awareness, education, support, advocacy, and research funding to reduce the incidence of brain aneurysms, promote early detection, and improve patient outcomes.

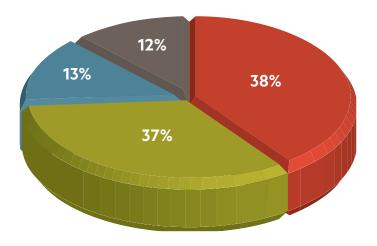
The foundation has no endowment; every dollar we raise is deployed to advance our mission to create wider awareness of brain aneurysms; to provide support for those affected by brain aneurysms; and to educate patients, their families, and the medical community about brain aneurysms. From year to year, the foundation strives to maintain its low overhead through vigilant governance of expenses and constant review of nonprofit best practices and methodologies.





#### **REVENUES - \$1,430,748**

- **Events** \$830,232
- Donations by Individuals \$529,916
- Corporate Donations \$70,600



#### **EXPENSES - \$1,260,811**

- Education/Support/Awareness \$480,117
- **Research** \$470,556
- Management and General \$162,900
- Fundraising \$147,238





Some of the 2017 research grant recipients at the BAF Annual Research Symposium in Durham, North Carolina, with BAF founder Christopher S. Ogilvy, MD (seated, second from left), and keynote speaker L. Fernando Gonzalez, MD (standing, second from left).

Each year, the Brain Aneurysm Foundation awards grants for research focused on early detection, improved treatments, and technological advances that will ultimately improve the outcomes for patients with brain aneurysms

In 2017, the Brain Aneurysm Foundation awarded \$445,000 in research grants to 14 recipients, the largest amount awarded in one year to date. Since its inception, the foundation — the largest private funder of brain aneurysm research in the nation — has distributed more than \$2.1 million in research grants.

The Research Grant Committee is led by the foundation's Medical Advisory Board president Robert Rosenwasser, MD, of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. The committee reviews all grant applications to identify those of the greatest merit that align with the foundation's mission.

# 2017 Research Grant Awards and Recipients

#### Cynthia Lynn Sherwin Chair of Research - \$25,000

\$25,000 AWARDED TO -

Steffen-Sebastian Bolz, MD, PhD

Governing Council of the University of Toronto

Surge Protection: Blocking Catecholamine Signaling in Subarachnoid Hemorrhage Prevents Secondary Hypertension and Reduces Brain Injury

Debbie Feiger Chair of Research - \$10,000 Rostini "Tini" Gomez Chair of Research - \$10,000

\$20,000 AWARDED TO

Aichi Chien, PhD

University of California, Los Angeles

Individualized Aneurysm Growth Prediction and Follow-Up Management

Timothy P. Susco Chair of Research - \$25,000 Andrew David Heitman Foundation Chair of Research - \$10,000

\$35.000 AWARDED TO

David Y. Chung, MD, PhD

Massachusetts General Hospital

Impact of Spreading Depolarizations and Subarachnoid Hemorrhage on Brain Connectivity

Andrew David Heitman Foundation Chair of Research - \$10,000 Ellie Helton Chair of Research - \$5,000 1in50 Chair of Research - \$5,000

\$20,000 AWARDED TO -

Adam A. Dmytriw, MD, MSc

University of Toronto

International Comparison of Endovascular Flow Diverters for the Treatment of Anterior Circulation Aneurysms

Kristen's Legacy of Love for Kristen Shafer Englert Chair of Research - \$20,000

BIDMC Brain Aneurysm Institute Chair of Research - \$10,000

Christopher C. Getch, MD Chair of Research (Sponsored by the CV Section) - \$5,000

\$35.000 AWARDED TO

Sylvain Doré, PhD

University of Florida

Is CO-Releasing Molecule a Potent Tool for Attenuating Vasospasm and Providing Neuroprotection after Subarachnoid Hemorrhage?

Shirley Dudek Demmer Chair of Research - \$25,000 Andrew David Heitman Foundation Chair of Research - \$20,000

\$45,000 AWARDED TO

William T. Gibson, MD, PhD

University of British Columbia

Functional Approach to Missense Mutations in THSD1, A New Aneurysm Gene

#### Strode Family Chair of Research - \$15,000

Nebraska's Hope for a Better Tomorrow Chair of Research - \$15,000

\$30.000 AWARDED TO -

Michelle A. T. Hildebrandt, PhD

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Genetic Predictors of Unruptured Intracranial Aneurysm Growth Behavior and Quantitative Imaging Biomarkers

# Northwell Health - North Shore University Hospital Brain Aneurysm Center Chair of Research - \$30,000

Andrew David Heitman Foundation Chair of Research - \$10,000

\$40.000 AWARDED TO

Brian L. Hoh, MD

University of Florida

Studying IL-6 and IL-17 in the Cerebral Aneurysm Development of VCD mice

#### TeamCindy Escape from Alcatraz Chair of Research - \$40,000

\$40,000 AWARDED TO -

Koji Hosaka, PhD

University of Florida

Mechanism of Aneurysm Progression and Healing: Telomere and Telomerase Activity in Cerebral Aneurysm

#### Cami Clark Chair of Research - \$30,000

\$30,000 AWARDED TO

Daisuke Kudo, MD, PhD

University of California, San Francisco

Contribution of Microbiota to the Pathophysiology of Intracranial Aneurysm

#### Terry A. Kersting Chair of Research - \$15,000 1in50 Chair of Research - \$5,000

\$20,000 AWARDED TO -

John A. Oates, MD

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Inhibition of Lipid Peroxidation and Cerebral Vasospasm by an Acetaminophen-Based Regimen in Patients with Subarachnoid Hemorrhage

#### Fight Like Frank Chair of Research - \$15,000

TeamCindy Escape from Alcatraz Chair of Research - \$5,000

\$20,000 AWARDED TO -

William "Caleb" Rutledge, MD

University of California, San Francisco

Role of ADAM17 and Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Pathway Signaling in Aneurysm Rupture

#### Ellie Helton Chair of Research - \$40,000

\$40,000 AWARDED TO -

Deanna Sasaki-Adams, MD

University of North Carolina School of Medicine

Novel Magnetic Resonance Imaging Sequence to Characterize Inflammatory Changes in Aneurysms in a Proven Rabbit Model and Assess Therapeutic Effect of Aspirin

Carol W. Harvey Chair of Research - \$25,000 Dawn Brejcha Chair of Research - \$10,000 Robert Sutherland Chair of Research - \$10,000

\$45,000 AWARDED TO -

Vincent M. Tutino, PhD

State University of New York at Buffalo

Feasibility of Detecting Brain Aneurysm Biomarkers in Whole Blood on a Diagnostic Platform



Our first ever
"1 in 50 Chair of Research"
was established in 2017 thanks,
in part, to a matching gift from
generous donors.



# **Education and Awareness**

The Brain Aneurysm Foundation provides current, accurate information about brain aneurysms, treatment options, and recovery to patients and families, healthcare professionals, and the general public. Whatever the question or concern, people throughout the world turn to the Brain Aneurysm Foundation for reliable answers and information.

Through our active presence on social media, we also raise awareness about brain aneurysms, with the goal of educating the public about symptoms and risk factors and generating support for federal policies and funding that will benefit those affected by brain aneurysms.

In 2017, we further increased awareness by welcoming Boston Bruins defenseman Kevan Miller as our first national spokesperson. We also hosted an event at the Massachusetts State House during Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month in September, which culminated with landmarks across the state being illuminated in red throughout the evening. Our goal is to hold similar events in many other states across the nation in the coming years.

# "I felt like I got hit in the head by a baseball bat."



Massachusetts survivor Tom Tinlin, a Brain Aneurysm Foundation volunteer

That is how Massachusetts resident Tom Tinlin describes what it felt like when his brain aneurysm ruptured in April 2017. Just days earlier, the married father of two and then-administrator for the Highway Division of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, had been told by his primary care doctor that his persistent, painful headaches were probably due to stress. Accustomed to a high-stress job, Tom was doubtful, but trusted his doctor.

Fortunately, Tom's wife, Heather, was with him when the aneurysm ruptured and was able to rush him to Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, where he received lifesaving treatment. After 12 days in the hospital, Tom went home. His recovery has been steady and smooth, in part because of his sense of humor, support from family and friends, and realistic expectations.

As someone who has always volunteered and wants to continue to make a difference, Tom has been helping the Brain Aneurysm Foundation raise awareness so that perhaps others will be spared what he and his family endured.

For instance, Tom played a major role in the successful Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month event held at the Massachusetts State House last September, and also helped get awareness billboards placed on Massachusetts highways. Tom continues to be a valued supporter of the foundation, and in March 2018 received a BAF Champions Award for his many contributions.

"It frustrates me that my experience was avoidable, had my primary care doctor been more aware of the symptoms of a brain aneurysm," says Tom. "My hope is that we can educate more healthcare professionals and the public about brain aneurysms so that fewer people have to suffer or die."

# Sharon Epperson: Why I Support the BAF

On a September morning in 2016, Sharon Epperson was participating in an exercise class when she felt a strange sensation in her head. Almost instantly "I knew something was wrong" says Sharon, a CNBC correspondent and married mother of two who lives in Westchester County, New York.

Unable to drive, Sharon called her husband, who picked her up and took her to a primary care physician, who insisted they go to the local Emergency Department. There, tests revealed that Sharon had suffered a ruptured brain aneurysm. She was transferred to Montefiore Medical Center, where she underwent surgical treatment.

One year following her treatment, Sharon was happy to be able to return to work. But she is the first to admit that she is a changed person. "In the past I was always very driven toward a future goal, but now I live in the moment and relish the fact that I'm alive."

Sharon's recovery, which she says is "still ongoing and may never be 100 percent," has not been easy. "I used to go at 120 percent and just power through if I got tired, but now I may hit the wall at 80 percent and I don't have a second wind, so I need to pace myself," says Sharon. "It's a challenge if you're not used to saying no, and often difficult for others to understand because this cognitive fatigue is invisible."

One activity Sharon always makes time for these days is raising awareness about brain aneurysms and the need for more research. In a recent conversation, she shared some of the reasons she is so passionate about the Brain Aneurysm Foundation's mission.

#### How did you first learn about the Brain Aneurysm Foundation?

After my treatment, I wanted to learn more about the incidence of brain aneurysms and aneurysm ruptures among African-Americans and did a Google search, which led me to the BAF website. There I found out that women are more likely than men to suffer an aneurysm and that African-Americans are twice as likely as whites to have a rupture. I was very impressed with the information on the BAF website, which I found enormously helpful. I did some research [on GuideStar and Charity Navigator] and learned that the BAF is a transparent, fiscally responsible organization with a prestigious Medical Advisory Board and professional leadership. As a longtime financial journalist, it was important to me to know that I was supporting an organization that meets these criteria.

# Have you taken advantage of any of the services offered by the BAF?

Yes. On the website, I found out about a BAF-approved support group in my area. The support group helps me in so many ways. It gives me comfort to realize I'm not alone and that other survivors are also affected by the issues that affect me. The group reminds me to be grateful; I can see that some people are having a much more difficult recovery. The group also helped me deal with issues related to returning to work. The support group is a place where I can feel open, honest, and just be me.



Sharon Epperson, Senior Personal Finance Correspondent for CNBC

You have generously funded a Sharon Epperson BAF Chair of Research, which will provide funds for a researcher. Why is brain aneurysm research so important to you?

Research funding of brain aneurysms pales in comparison to the funding of diseases with similar prevalence and death rates, partly because of a lack of awareness. In particular, the research of brain aneurysms among African-Americans — who are disproportionately affected — is sparse and outdated. I am passionate about supporting research looking at the early detection of brain aneurysms, particularly among women and people of color, which could save many lives.

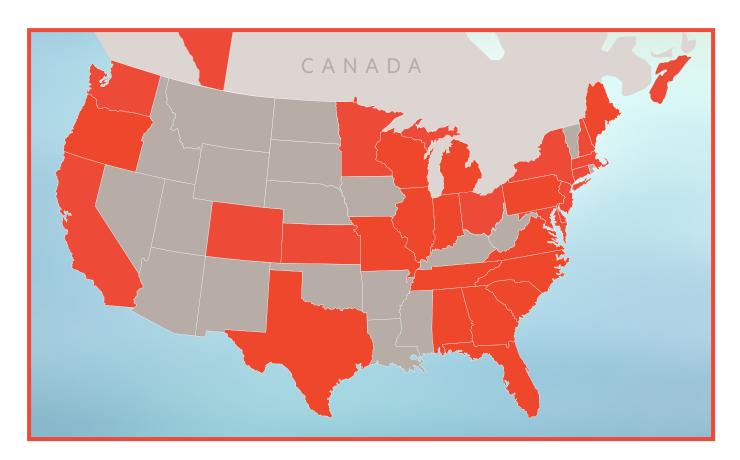
You participated with your family in the TeamCindy 5K Run for Research in New York City last September, raising \$13,000 for the BAF through your efforts. And you attended the BAF Advocacy Day in Washington, DC in March. Why did you decide to participate in these events?

A friend put me in touch with Elaine Schaller, a BAF board member who coordinates the TeamCindy 5K Run for Research, a successful and fun event that honors her daughter, Cindy, who died from a ruptured brain aneurysm in 2007 when she was only 33. Elaine and I have a shared passion for raising awareness, so I decided to participate in the run. It was a wonderful day, and it was so great to talk to other survivors at the event.

I chose to participate in the BAF Advocacy Day as it's critically important to educate legislators at the national level about brain aneurysms so they will support brain aneurysm research and policies that will improve the lives of survivors and caregivers.



A support group provides a continuum of care for survivors, providing vital support to them, their families, and other loved ones throughout their recovery. The Brain Aneurysm Foundation works with hospitals and other healthcare organizations to establish high-quality support groups. There are now more than 75 foundation-approved support groups in the United States and Canada.



#### Our support groups help by:

- Letting people know they are not alone and that others understand what they are going through.
- Offering a confidential setting where members can share emotions, experiences, and challenges with others in similar circumstances.
- Providing a forum for solving problems and sharing ideas.
- Providing reliable health information, reasonable expectations for recovery, and resources.
- Enabling healthcare professionals to educate patients and for patients to educate healthcare professionals about their experiences.
- Helping patients find appropriate resources.

The Brain Aneurysm Foundation also provides assistance and support to survivors and families through our online support groups and via e-mail and telephone.

# Find a Support Group

#### **Northeast**

- Beth Israel Deaconess Support Group, Boston, MA
- Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. MA
- Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA
- Plymouth Massachusetts Group, MA
- The South Shore Support Group, Norwell, MA
- Cape Cod Brain Aneurysm Injury Support Group, Sandwich, MA
- Dartmouth Hitchcock Brain Aneurysm Support Group, Lebanon, NH
- Maine Medical Center Brain Aneurysm Support Group, Portland, ME
- Yale New Haven Hospital, CT
- North Shore University Hospital Brain Aneurysm Center Support Group, Manhasset, NY
- New York Methodist Hospital
   Brain Aneurysm Awareness Group,
   Brooklyn, NY
- New York City Support Group, NY
- Eastern Long Island Brain Aneurysm Support Group, Stony Brook, NY
- Brain Aneurysm Support Group Western New York, NY
- Aneurysm/AVM Support Group at Capital Health Medical Center, Pennington, NJ
- Aneurysm/AVM Support Group at Virtua Voorhees Hospital, Voorhees, NJ
- New Jersey Brain Aneurysm and AVM Support Group, New Brunswick, NJ
- Philadelphia Support Group, PA
- Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the Brain Aneurysm and AVM Support Group, Pittsburgh, PA
- Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, PA

#### Southeast

- Skyline Medical Center Support Group, Nashville, TN
- Vanderbilt University Support Group Nashville, TN
- Atlanta Support Group, GA
- University of Miami Brain Aneurysm Support Group, FL
- Naples-Fort Myers Brain Aneurysm Support Group, FL
- Orlando Brain Aneurysm Support Group, FL
- Deerfield Beach Support Group, FL
- Florida Brain Aneurysm Support Group, Gainesville, FL
- Lee Memorial Health System Support Group, Fort Myers, FL
- Mayo Clinic Support Group, Jacksonville, FL
- Brain Aneurysm Support Group, Birmingham, AL
- Duke Raleigh Hospital Brain Aneurysm Support Group, NC
- Novant Health Neurology, Charlotte, NC
- South Carolina Brain Aneurysm Support Group Greenville. SC

#### **West Coast**

- UW Medicine Brain Aneurysm Survivor Support Group, Seattle, WA
- Swedish Cerebrovascular Support Group, Seattle, WA
- Oregon Brain Aneurysm Support Group, Portland, OR
- Bay Area Aneurysm and Vascular Malformation Support Group, San Francisco, CA
- Sacramento Support Group, CA
- Brain Aneurysm/AVM Support Group, Newport Beach, CA
- Los Angeles Brain Aneurysm Foundation Support Group Support, CA

#### **Mid-Atlantic**

- Delaware Brain Aneurysm Support Group, Newark, DE
- Baltimore Brain Aneurysm Foundation Support Group, MD
- Falls Church Brain Aneurysm Support Group, VA

#### **Midwest**

- Goodman Campbell Brain and Spine
   Aneurysm Support Group, Indianapolis, IN
- Madison Area Cerebral Aneurysm Support Group, WI
- University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System Dept. of Neurosurgery Support Group, IL
- Chicago Northwest Suburban Brain Aneurysm Support Group, IL
- The Neurosciences Institute at Central DuPage Hospital Brain Aneurysm Support Group, Winfield, IL
- Loyola University Medical Center Brain Aneurysm Support Group Maywood, IL
- St. Joseph's Hospital Support Group, St. Paul, MN
- The University of Michigan Brain Aneurysm and AVM Support Group, Ann Arbor, MI
- Tri-State Brain Aneurysm Support Group Cincinnati. OH
- Brain Aneurysm Support Group, St. Louis, MO
- Post Brain Surgery Support Group, Springfield, MO
- Brain Aneurysm Support Group, Kansas City, KS
- Ohio Brain Aneurysm and Awareness Support Group, Columbus, OH
- Spine and Brain Imaging Center Support Group, Franklin, WI
- Mayo Clinic Support Group, MN
- Northwestern Medicine Brain Aneurysm and AVM Support Group, Chicago IL

#### **Southwest**

- Littleton Colorado Brain Aneurysm Foundation Support Group, CO
- Brain Aneurysm Support Group at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, Houston, TX
- San Antonio Support Group, TX

#### Canada

- Nova Scotia Support Group, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- Brain Aneurysm Support Group, Calgary, Alberta



# Advocacy

Raising awareness among state and federal legislators about brain aneurysms and advocating for increased brain aneurysm research funding and policies that help patients and families is an important part of our mission. We have made significant strides, and will continue to work hard for patients and families until we achieve all of our goals.

On March 29, 2017, the Brain Aneurysm Foundation led a delegation of 123 people from 18 states to meet with legislators on Capitol Hill for our 6th annual Congressional Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill.

This was the largest turnout to date, demonstrating the growing commitment among those impacted by brain aneurysms to advocate for policies aimed at improving

and saving lives. The delegation included survivors and caregivers, family members who lost loved ones to brain aneurysms, healthcare professionals, foundation board members, and BAF corporate partners.

The busy day, during which delegation members met with 200 legislators, helped raise awareness of brain aneurysms and encourage support of Ellie's Law (H. Res. 1648), named for Ellie Helton, a teenager who died of a brain aneurysm. This bill would provide \$25 million (\$5 million per year over five years) in federal funding for brain aneurysm research.

The foundation thanks everyone who participated, with a special nod to its pro bono government affairs counsel Arnold & Porter for helping make Advocacy Day a success.



U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren with brain aneurysm advocates on Capitol Hill.

# 2

# **2017 Special Events**



4th Annual Kristen's Legacy Of Love



Falmouth Road Race for Brain Aneurysm Awareness



1st Annual Bergen County Battles Brain Aneurysms Walk



5th Annual Brooklyn Walk for Brain Aneurysm Awareness

#### \$50,000 or greater

16th Annual Arterial Challenge, Boston, MA 9th Annual Long Island Jones Beach Walk, Wantagh, NY 4th Annual TeamCindy 5K Run for Research, New York, NY 3rd Annual Ellie Helton Memorial 5K and Fun Run, Cary, NC 5th Annual TeamCindy Escape from Alcatraz, San Francisco, CA

#### \$40,000 - \$49,999

4th Annual Philadelphia Aneurysm and AVM Awareness Event, Philadelphia, PA 5th Annual Sharp Race Towards Brain Aneurysm Awareness, Papillion, NE

#### \$30.000 - \$39.999

2nd Annual Golf Tournament in Memory of Cami Clark, Mesa, AZ 11th Annual Brain Aneurysm Foundation Research Grant Symposium, Durham, NC Jolie's Laugh for a Cause Event, West Harrison, NY 4th Annual Kristen's Legacy of Love, Seaside Park, NJ

#### \$20,000 - \$29,999

4th Annual Pittsburgh Brain Aneurysm Run/Walk, Pittsburgh, PA
1st Annual Brains Matter at UNMH - Brain Aneurysm Awareness 5K, Albuquerque, NM
10th Annual Brain Aneurysm Race for Awareness - Susco 8K, Reston, VA
3rd Annual Fight Like Frank, Philadelphia, PA
Falmouth Road Race for Brain Aneurysm Awareness, Falmouth, MA

#### \$10.000 - \$19.999

4th Annual Teeing off for Terry Golf Tournament, Wentzville, MO 7th Annual Delaware Brain Aneurysm 5K and Wilson Walk, Newark, DE 7th Annual Bunny Hop, St. Mary's, PA

Friends for a Cause, Elmhurst, IL

2nd Annual Florida Brain Aneurysm Awareness Walk in memory of Eileen Marie Holub, Fort Myers, FL 6th Annual Debbie Feiger Memorial Softball Event, Wilimette, IL

6th Annual BAF Night at the Boston Pops, Boston, MA

2nd Annual Chicago Brain Aneurysm Awareness Walk, Oak Brook, IL

1st Annual Bergen County Battles Brain Aneurysms Walk, Westford, NJ

8th Annual Brejcha Memorial Softball Tournament, Escondido, CA

2nd Annual Brains for Betty, Montclair, NJ

#### \$5,000 - \$9,999

1st Annual California Brain Aneurysm Volleyball Tournament, Pittsburg, CA 2nd Annual Migliore 5K, Henrico, VA

1st Annual Minneapolis Brain Aneurysm Awareness 5K Fun Run, Minneapolis, MN

5th Annual Brooklyn Walk for Brain Aneurysm Awareness, Brooklyn, NY

5th Annual Awareness to Gain ~ Walk for your Brain, Waukesha, WI

2nd Annual Connecticut Walk, West Hartford, CT

6th Annual Laughter is the Best Medicine, Saugus, MA

7th Annual Guest Bartender Fundraiser, Greenville, DE

7th Annual Denny's Drive for Early Detection, Front Royal, VA

Yoga Vie, Lompac, CA

#### \$1,000 - \$4,999

Aaron's Angels Brain Aneurysm Awareness Walk, Galesburg, IL
2nd Annual Aneurysm & AVM Awareness Train Event, Methuen, MA
5th Annual Appreciation for Life 5K Walk/Run, Braham, MN
4th Annual Rockin 4 a Cause Fundraising Event, Potomac, MD
Brain Aneurysm Foundation Champion Awards, Boston, MA
5th Annual Brain Aneurysm Walk/Fun Run in Memory of Lissa Anne Been, Arnold, MO
Team Smitty's Race for Awareness, Syracuse, NY
Ist Annual Enriquez Family Poker Run for Awareness, Bakersfield, CA
Jeans Day Events



# **Top Fundraisers**

The Brain Aneurysm Foundation is very grateful to our wonderful fundraisers of 2017! Their fundraising efforts greatly contribute to the success of the events as well as the mission of the Brain Aneurysm Foundation.

#### Superstars: \$10,000 or greater

Simon Longbottom Team Beth Israel Deaconess Team Epperson/Farley

#### Major Stars: \$5,000 - \$9,999

Sharon Epperson Frederick Hartman Joggin for the Noggin Team Mount Sinai Theresa's Walking Warriors Pat Trammell

#### Sensational Stars: \$2,500 - \$4,999

Kevin Brennan
Jack Catlin
Kevin Chow
Pamela Duryea
Dylan Slusser #558
Jacob Fikse
David Fisher
Robert Holub
Nicole Hopkins
In Memory of Donna
Frank Judge

Allison Kerns
Pierre Le Leannec
Cole McIlwraith
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"As a neurosurgeon, I care for patients and families who have been affected by aneurysms every day. I have seen the trauma and heartache they can cause. I am inspired by the courage that these patients and families demonstrate, and want to continue this fight in the research domain as well as in the clinical arena."

— Research grant recipient Deanna Sasaki-Adams, MD, University of North Carolina School of Medicine

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"The Brain Aneurysm Foundation is the most prominent, well-respected organization that advocates on behalf of people with brain aneurysms. Brain aneurysm research is relatively underfunded. The foundation seeks to remedy this by increasing public awareness and providing muchneeded seed funding for basic research, which is essential for making progress in the field."

— Research grant recipient David Y. Chung, MD, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital

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"The BAF helps get groups started on making their ambitious projects a reality. Investigators in diagnosis, treatment, intensive care, and laboratory science all come to the BAF with cutting-edge proposals. The result is comprehensive research that touches patients at every stage of the disease."

- Research grant recipient Adam A. Dmytriw, MD, MSc, University of Toronto

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"Donations to the BAF support multiple avenues of research into this complex disease — from genetics, to better imaging, to better understanding of blood flow in the brain, to better surgeries. Together we can solve this devastating disease."

- Research grant recipient William T. Gibson, MD, PhD, University of British Columbia

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"Through our research, we are hoping that one day we can clearly tell which patients with aneurysms are at high risk for aneurysm rupture. We are hoping that we can use drugs, instead of endovascular or open surgeries, to prevent the rupture of aneurysms."

Research grant recipient Tomoki Hashimoto, MD, Barrow Neurological Institute,
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Kam Chavez Robert Chavez "If our research findings [on the neuro-protective role of progesterone] translate to patients, this treatment could be tested in a clinical trial. I care for many patients suffering from this disease and I know that through research, there is a lot more that can be done to improve their outcomes."

- Research grant recipient Gustavo Pradilla, MD, Emory University

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"The goal of our research [in collaboration with BAF grant recipient Aichi Chien, PhD, of UCLA] is to better understand which aneurysms are at risk of growth and ultimately rupture that require treatment compared to those that are at less risk of growth and may be better for a 'watch and wait' approach to avoid complications due to treatment."

Research grant recipient Michelle A.T. Hildebrandt, PhD, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

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"We are hoping to answer the question, 'Who has a brain aneurysm?'

Our research focuses on finding biomarkers in blood that will indicate if a person has an unruptured brain aneurysm and needs to receive imaging. Using this paradigm we hope to help at-risk individuals discover if they have an aneurysm so they can receive lifesaving treatment."

- Research grant recipient Vincent M. Tutino, PhD, State University of New York at Buffalo

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"Using information gathered with help from our BAF grant, we were able to develop a resiliency intervention for patients admitted to the Neuro-ICU and their caregivers ("Recovering Together"), the first program of its kind. We are now testing this program in patients and their caregivers."

- Research grant recipient Ana-Maria Vranceanu, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital

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"We are trying to find the genes that cause familial brain aneurysms. If we find specific mutations in specific families, we will be able to predict who is at risk and who is not, thereby enabling closer monitoring of at-risk family members and offering reassurance to unaffected family members."

— Research grant recipient William T. Gibson, MD, PhD, University of British Columbia

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"Our research is aimed at improving outcomes in survivors of ruptured brain aneurysms. In particular, we are trying to understand why patients who look well after surgically fixing an aneurysm go on to have progressive brain injury and functional decline. This is one of the major questions in the field of neurocritical care."

- Research grant recipient David Y. Chung, MD, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital

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Research grant recipient Vincent M. Tutino,
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The Brain Aneurysm Foundation strives to correctly recognize all donors. We apologize in advance for any errors, omissions or misspellings in this report. Please email office@bafound.org with any corrections.





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