

The Fox Valley Brain Tumor Coalition was founded in 2001. As a non profit organization its purpose is to offer educational, emotional, and financial support to those affected with brain tumors.

All monies received from donations and fundraisers go entirely toward assisting brain tumor patients with the costs of treatment and supporting the efforts of new therapies.

The Fox Valley Brain Tumor Support Group meets the third Thursday of each month and is open to brain tumor patients and their families.

For more information, Contact David Bond, APNP, CNRN (920) 882-0818 or 1-888-231-5236

This newsletter was created for informational use only. The opinions contained are those of the authors. You should always consult with your doctor.

Meeting Notice

Date:
Thursday, August 19th, 2010

Time:
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Place:
NeuroSpine Center of Wisconsin
5320 Michaels Drive Appleton

Synapse

ISSUE 55

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Phase I and I/II Clinical Trial Results on DCVax Immune Therapy:

Recently released data from phase I and phase I/II clinical trial results for the DCVax immune therapy for newly diagnosed glioblastoma patients, showed that 33 percent of participating patients reached 4-year survival with treatment following surgery, and 27 percent reached or exceeded 6-year survival. Median survival among participants enrolled in the trial was 3 years, compared to 14.6 months for patients receiving current standard of care treatment – surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. The DCVax-Brain treatment is a personalized vaccine, made up of a patient's own dendritic cells, designed to stimulate a patient's immune system to fight cancer. [Read a news release on the clinical trial results from Northwest Biotherapeutics, Inc.](#) [Read more information on the DCVax clinical trial, which is active, but not recruiting.](#)

Magnetic Nanoparticles and Ultrasound Tested for Treatment of Brain Tumors

The sophisticated biological systems that protect our brains and keep them running also make it difficult for doctors to treat brain tumors. But a new three-pronged attack developed by researchers could help doctors get past our bodies' defenses.

The method involves ultrasound beams to open up the blood-brain barrier (essentially gates that guard the contents of our brains against toxic materials), magnetized nanoparticles coated with an anti-cancer drug, and a magnetic field to guide those tiny particles to the tumor.

So far, the researchers have tested the method on rats that have a genetic propensity to develop brain tumors. They found they could deliver a drug concentration approximately 15 times higher than through traditional in-vivo methods, and that the rats survived 66 percent longer than untreated rats.

The typical way to treat brain tumors today involves a craniotomy, in which the cranium is cut open so that the tumor can be surgically removed, said study co-author Kuo-Chen Wei, chief of the brain tumor division at the Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Taiwan.

From the Editor Brian Burns

On-Line registration is now open for the 2010 Journey of Hope at www.fvbtc.org

We are in need of items for the silent auction. Please include a value and the name of the donor so we may thank them.

The Synapse was created to share our questions, experiences, and services with other members as we learn and grow together. Please contact me if you have a contribution or have a particular subject you would like to have addressed.

Submissions must be received no later than 10 days prior to the support group meeting to be included in that month's Synapse. Please include a phone number where I can reach you. You may remain anonymous.

You may contact me via the Fox Valley Brain Tumor Coalition website
www.fvbtc.org/contact/

Or via conventional mail

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Because the tumor cannot be completely removed, the surgeon must administer radiation and anti-cancer drugs to the tumor region following the craniotomy. The problem is that not enough of the anti-cancer drugs can be delivered to the tumor without damaging healthy brain tissue. (Anti-cancer drugs are extremely toxic to human tissue, which is why they work to kill off the cancerous tumors.)

As a result, the treatment is short-term, and the tumors typically come back, Wei told TechNewsDaily.

This new approach could possibly get enough drugs to the tumor to zap it for good, Wei said.

Breaking into the brain without cutting open the skull, and then delivering toxic materials to a tumor wedged inside it, was no easy task.

The researchers injected tiny air bubbles into a vein leading to the

rats' brains, then applied focused sound waves, which expanded the air bubbles, causing them to push against the brain barrier to create tiny openings for the nanoparticles to enter, Wei explained.

Once the particles were in the brain, a magnetic force was applied to guide them to the tumor. The researchers watched the process and its outcome using a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner.

For this method to be ready to treat brain tumors in humans, the researchers will need to fine-tune each of the technologies, Wei said. This shouldn't take long, he said – maybe four or five years before clinical trials.

Wei and his colleagues detailed their findings online Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

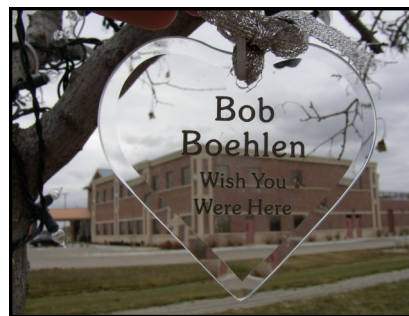
Member Services

Handmade "Caring Cards"

Contact Jolene for a special member greeting from the Fox Valley Support Group

Jolene Smaney
7984 Prausa Ln.
Oconto Falls, WI 54154
jjasmaney@centurytel.net
Subject Re:CCC

Engraved glass ornaments for the Tree of Life are available through Appleton Trophy



Are you or someone you know going through a medical crisis? Do you need support and guidance to get through the medical crisis? Community Benefit Tree is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization that assists individuals and their families within the community to educate, support, provide resources and financial assistance. Since 2004 we have helped hundred of families survive their crisis and and get the support they need.

www.communitybenefittree.org

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