



THE ADVOCATE

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DISABILITY
EXAMINERS

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2018

Upcoming Events:

June 18-22:

National Disability Professionals Week

August 11-15: NADE 2018 National Conference (Arlington, VA)

Registration is available-ACT FAST TO GET EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT!!!

<http://www.nade2018.org/attend/register>



Congressional visits were May 21-24th and were a success!

Submit your photos/newsletters for the contest at the national conference to Sara Winn at sara.b.winn@ssa.gov.

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NADE PRESIDENT

I want to begin by saying **Thank You** to the membership for entrusting me as the NADE President this year. I also want to thank the NADE Board for their continued support throughout this year as well. It takes a team to be successful and your NADE Board has been hard at work this year, assuring issues pivotal to the enrichment of DDS employees is understood and striven for.

President-Elect, Dr Sharon Bland-Brady, Legislative Director, Jeff Price and myself represented NADE in the annual Capitol Hill Visits, May 21-24. Jeff and I were fortunate enough to be able to visit with the DC DDS that Monday afternoon and we would like to say thank you CADE, the DC NADE Chapter, for the warm welcome and lunch. We had to opportunity to meet with all the DC DDS staff and answer questions about NADE and the benefits of becoming a member. The rest of the week, Sharon, Jeff and myself worked long days meeting with both houses of Congress as well as meetings with the Social Security Advisory Board, GAO, OMB and the National Academy of Social Insurance. The three of us met with members from the National Academy of Medicine where I was honored to give a presentation on the intricate details of disability case development and the three of us answered questions from the Academy's members. In all our meetings we stressed the Top Issues for NADE which were discussed during our Mid-Year Board Meeting, with the top issue being Budget and hiring.

I encourage each chapter to embrace NDPW the week of June 18-22 with the theme "Detective DDS Solves the Case". I cannot wait to hear about all the creative activities that are planned for that week. Don't forget to submit your chapter activities for the NDPW Competition to Marcia Golden by July 13, 2018.

I am super excited about the National Training Conference August 12-15, 2018 in Arlington, VA. The final agenda is available on the conference website at www.nade2018.org. Don't forget early bird registration ends June 29. Kyle Lawrence and Betsy Slease, Co-Chairs for the National Training Conference have worked hard with the NADE Board to secure excellent speakers for a top notch training event. See you in Arlington!

Jennifer P



Doctors hunt for hidden cancers with glowing dyes

By Associated Press/March 14, 2018



Dr. Sunil Singhal (center right) views a monitor to look at a tumor in his patient, made visible with the use of a special camera and fluorescent dye. *Matt Rourke/AP*

PHILADELPHIA — It was an ordinary surgery to remove a tumor — until doctors turned off the lights and the patient’s chest started to glow. A spot over his heart shined purplish pink. Another shimmered in a lung. They were hidden cancers revealed by fluorescent dye, an advance that soon may transform how hundreds of thousands of operations are done each year.

Surgery has long been the best way to cure cancer. If the disease recurs, it’s usually because stray tumor cells were left behind or others lurked undetected. Yet there’s no good way for surgeons to tell what is cancer and what is not. They look and feel for defects, but good and bad tissue often seem the same.

Now, dyes are being tested to make cancer cells light up so doctors can cut them out and give patients a better shot at survival.

With dyes, “it’s almost like we have bionic vision,” said Dr. Sunil Singhal at the University of Pennsylvania. “We can be sure we’re not taking too much or too little.”

The dyes are experimental but advancing quickly. Two are in late-stage studies aimed at winning Food and Drug Administration approval. Johnson & Johnson just invested \$40 million in one, and federal grants support some of the work.

“We think this is so important. Patients’ lives will be improved by this,” said Paula Jacobs, an imaging expert at the National Cancer Institute. In five or so years, “there will be a palette of these,” she predicts.



Ryan Ciccozzi is taken to surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. *Matt Rourke/AP*

Making cells glow

Singhal was inspired a decade ago, while pondering a student who died when her lung cancer recurred soon after he thought he had removed it all. He was lying next to his baby, gazing at fluorescent decals.

“I looked up and saw all these stars on the ceiling and I thought, how cool if we could make cells light up” so people wouldn’t die from unseen tumors, he said.

A dye called ICG had long been used for various medical purposes. Singhal found that when big doses were given by IV a day before surgery, it collected in cancer cells and glowed when exposed to near infrared light. He dubbed it TumorGlow and has been testing it for lung, brain and other tumor types.

He used it on Ryan Ciccozzi, a 45-year-old highway worker and father of four from Deptford, N.J., and found hidden cancer near Ciccozzi’s heart and in a lung.

“The tumor was kind of growing into everything in there,” Ciccozzi said. “Without the dye, I don’t think they would have seen anything” besides the baseball-sized mass visible on CT scans ahead of time.

Singhal also is testing a dye for On Target Laboratories, based in the Purdue research park in Indiana, that binds to a protein more common in cancer cells. A late-stage study is underway for ovarian cancer and a mid-stage one for lung cancer.

In one study, the dye highlighted 56 of 59 lung cancers seen on scans before surgery, plus nine more that weren’t visible ahead of time.

Each year, about 80,000 Americans have surgery for suspicious lung spots. If a dye can show that cancer is confined to a small node, surgeons can remove a wedge instead of a whole lobe and preserve more breathing capacity, said On Target chief Marty Low. No price has been set, but dyes are cheap to make and the cost should fit within rates hospitals negotiate with insurers for these operations, he said.

Big promise for breast cancer

Dyes may hold the most promise for breast cancer, said the American Cancer Society’s Dr. Len Lichtenfeld. Up to one-third of women who have a lump removed need a second operation because margins weren’t clear — an edge of the removed tissue later was found to harbor cancer.

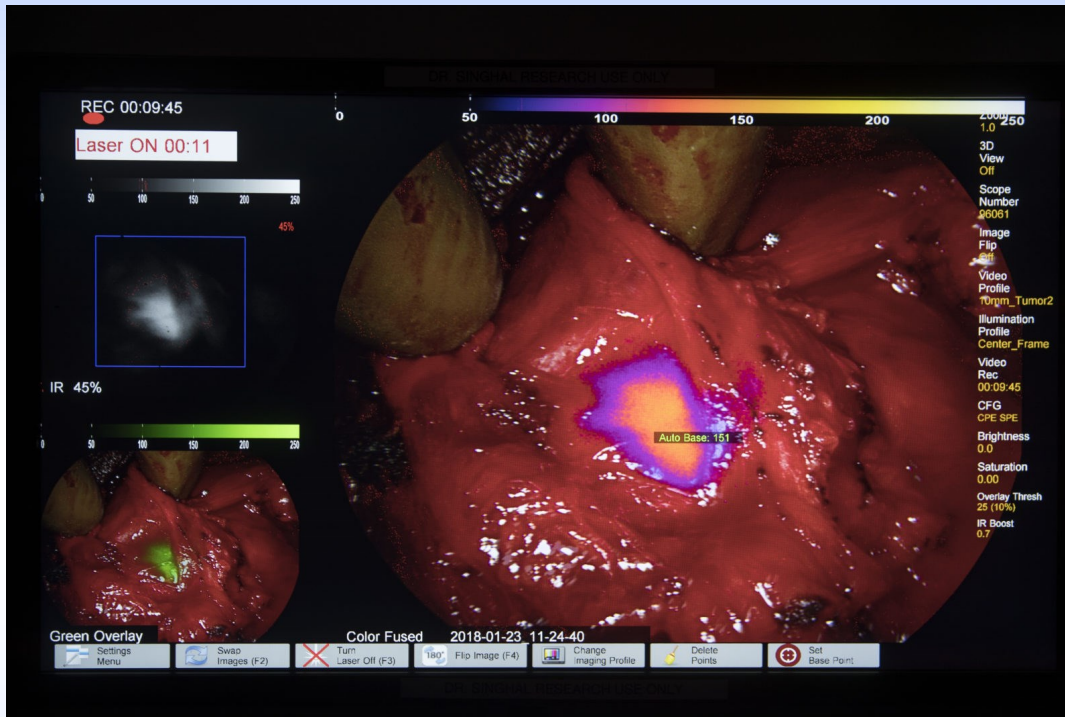
“If we drop that down into single digits, the impact is huge,” said Kelly Londy, who heads Lumicell, a suburban Boston company testing a dye paired with a device to scan the lump cavity for stray cancer cells.

A device called MarginProbe is sold now, but it uses different technology to examine the surface of tissue that’s been taken out, so it can’t pinpoint in the breast where residual disease lurks, said Dr. Barbara Smith, a breast surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital.

She leads a late-stage study of Lumicell’s system in 400 breast cancer patients. In an earlier study of 60 women, it revealed all of the cancers, verified by tissue tests later.

But it also gave false alarms in more than a quarter of cases — “there were some areas where normal tissue lit up a little bit,” Smith said.

Still, she said, “you would rather take a little extra tissue with the first surgery rather than missing something and have to go back.”



A monitor displays a tumor in a patient, made visible with the use of a special camera and fluorescent dye. *Matt Rourke/AP*

Other cancers

Blaze Bioscience is testing Tumor Paint, patented by company co-founder Dr. Jim Olson of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and Seattle Children’s Hospital. It’s a combo product — a molecule that binds to cancer and a dye to make it glow.

“You can see it down to a few dozen cells or a few hundred cells,” Olson said. “I’ve seen neurosurgeons come out of the operating room with a big smile on their face because they can see the cancer very clearly.”

Early-stage studies have been done for skin, brain and breast cancers in adults, and brain tumors in children.

Avelas Biosciences of San Diego has a similar approach — a dye attached to a molecule to carry it into tumor cells. The company is finishing early studies in breast cancer and plans more for colon, head and neck, ovarian and other types.

Cancer drugs have had a lot of attention while ways to improve surgery have had far less, said company president Carmine Stengone.

“This was just an overlooked area, despite the high medical need.”

— Marilynn Marchione

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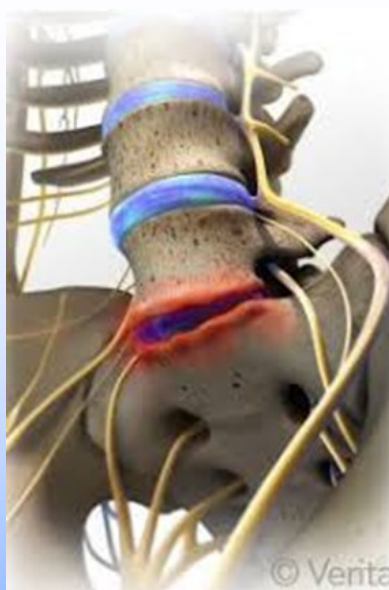
Stem Cell Therapy as a tool for back pain management: the effect on the opioid epidemic

By Sharee Brown

Since the 1990s, there has been an awareness of the possibility that stem cells could restore and repair the human body. Most of the research focused on diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and heart disease. However, recently researchers are finding and realizing the possibilities that stem cells can be used effectively as a pain management application for a far more common condition of chronic pain. More specifically, back pain.

Stem cells are undifferentiated, this means they have not yet transformed to perform a particular function. Therefore, they have the potential to develop into a wide range of other cells. Stem cells have the ability to help repair tissues, muscles, blood, bones and organs, adding growth and theoretically replace missing parts. Stem cells can be harvested from adults, so the debate about use of embryonic stem cells is not an issue. Bone marrow cells, usually collected from the back of the hip, are the most studied in pain management research.

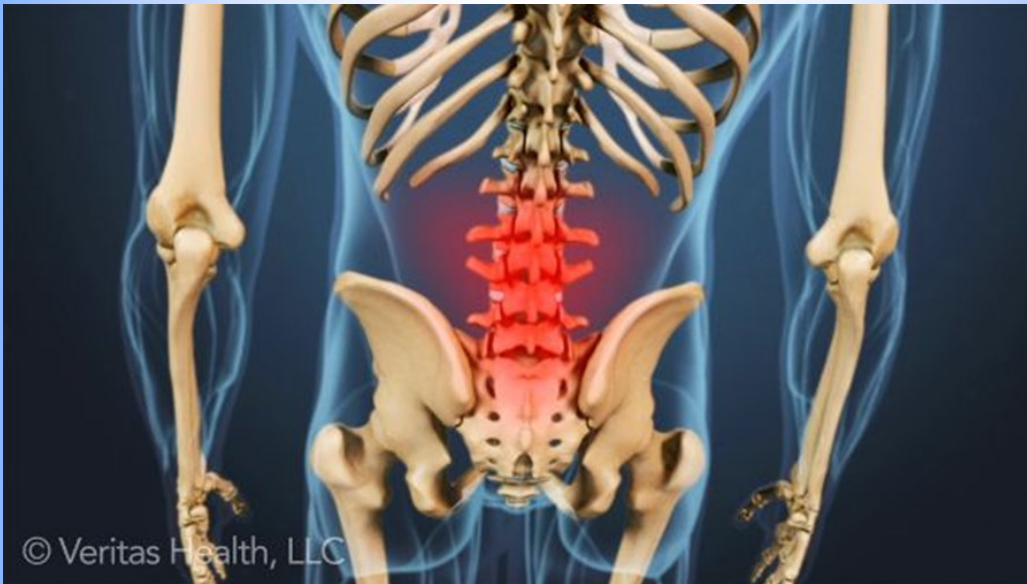
It is the restorative and repair ability of stem cells that make their application to pain management an exciting treatment solution for conditions such as degenerative disc disease and disc herniation. Disc degeneration whether from injury, wear and tear or aging, cause the disc between the vertebrae to shrink or tear, weakening their cushioning power. This in turn can lead to a herniation or rupture of the disc which then presses painfully against the trapped spinal nerves.



A stem cell treatment could finally bring relief to millions of people with chronic lower back pain. In addition to working to reduce pain and inflammation usually associated with these conditions, research shows the stem cells also work to repair and regenerate the damaged regions. If it works, the injection could become a crucial tool for curbing the opioid epidemic currently killing thousands in the US.

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According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse overdoses from prescription, opioids have quadrupled since 1999, and opioids accounted for 33,000 deaths in 2015 alone. Many of those deaths occurred because of people becoming addicted to opioids after use of prescription drugs such as oxycodone, hydrocodone or methadone to relieve lower back pain. This is a common health issue, which affects around 28 million people in the US and accounts for around half of all opioid painkiller prescriptions.

Stem cell therapy might change that. Although most of the stem cell research done has used non-human test subjects, the results have been encouraging. In one such study of the firm Mesoblast in Melbourne, using sheep in experiments, the cells completely rebuilt damaged vertebral discs. MRI scans found that the cells seemed to rebuild damaged discs in humans as well. One injection of the cells was enough to help around half of those treated to experience no back pain for two years. Some participants in the ongoing clinical trials have now been free of pain for three years.



According to Dr. Silviu Itescu the chief executive of Mesoblast and its portfolio of regenerative medicine and stem-cell therapy products going through trials in areas including treatment of heart failure and chronic lower back pain stated, "In 100 patients, we've shown substantial improvements in function and pain relief that last two years or more,"

"If we're successful in [our] larger trial currently under way, we can hopefully keep people away from opioids,"

Still there remains a guarded sense of optimism by some because most importantly, the longer-term risks related to stem cell injections are unknown. Will these stem cells eventually cause harm to the body or lead to other unintended complications? It is noted that cell mutation seen when using embryonic stem cells has not been observed with the use of bone marrow cells.

While there are many other companies and organizations studying the safety and long-term effectiveness of stem cells for pain management treatment, the data for now shows this is a promising route for back pain relief in the not too distant future that could potentially signal an ending of the current opioid epidemic.

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Zeckser, Jeffrey, Michael Wolff, Jason Tucker, and Josh Good win. "Multipotent Mesenchymal Stem Cell Treatment for Discogenic Low Back Pain and Disc Degeneration." *Stem Cells International* 2016(January 11, 2016.doi:10.1155/2016/3908389

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis>

Calling for Candidates for the Election of the 2019 NADE Officers

Hello NADE members,

Once again, it is that time of year to start thinking about increasing your participation in the greatest professional organization for disability determination adjudicators and examiners in the United States. This is a call for 2019 NADE officer nominations.

Are you a member of NADE who is committed to the growth of the Disability Determination community? Are you willing to use your time, your energy and hard work to promote NADE's mission? This is a call for all able-bodied members to step up and take some time to serve on the NADE Executive Board.

The Nominations & Elections committee is now accepting nominations from all eligible members for the offices of President-Elect; Secretary; and Treasurer. If you intend to announce your candidacy for one of these offices, please submit a brief summary of your NADE experience, and DDS experience.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the General Membership meeting during the upcoming 2018 National Training Conference in Arlington, Virginia with elections to follow.

Please review the NADE website (www.NADE.org) for further information about the duties and responsibilities of each office.

The Nomination & Elections committee includes:

Erin P. Vincent
Ayanna Conley
Melinda Gunn
Stephanie Wilson



INTENTION TO RUN FOR NATIONAL OFFICE

SABRINA STERNSCHUSS-RD MID ATLANTIC



I have been a Disability Examiner for 9 ½ years and have been with the Washington DC DDS for 4 years. I have been a member of NADE for 2 years and since joining, I have been very active within my chapter. The first year I was a member, I served as the CADE Social Chair and I was a member of the National Awards committee. I am currently the CADE president, and would like to become more active within the National Board.

GINA SCHWARTZ-RD-GREAT PLAINS

I have worked for the Montana DDS for 10 ½ years. I started as an adjudicator in September 2017. I later became a Senior Adjudicator and held this position for over 5 years. I am currently a Hearing Officer.

I have been a member of NADE for over 3 years. My first year I served as the MTNADE secretary. My second year I was President-Elect, and I am currently the President of our chapter. I attended last year's NADE training conference in Detroit and was voted in as the President of the Great Plains Region. I would like to become even more involved in NADE by becoming the Regional Director of the region.



TRISH CHAPLIN-TREASURER



I would like to announce my candidacy for election of the Treasurer position for 2018-19. I have been with my DDS in St. Louis for the last 16 years and have been an active NADE member for just as long. I am the current Great Plains Regional Director and interim Great Lakes Regional Director and have served as the Council for Chapter Presidents Chair. I have served as my local Treasurer for more years than I can count as well as Great Plains treasurer when the position was required. I have also served as the Missouri State President for 2 years as well as my local president. I have served as the NADE Awards committee Chair. Outside of NADE and the DDS, I have helped my partner with his businesses with QuickBooks and accounting over the past several years. I am dedicated to NADE, having been on the Board for several years in a few different positions, which I think puts me in a great position to be your next Treasurer. With an excellent mentor, I have the

recipe for success!! I would greatly appreciate your support for 2018-19 NADE Treasurer.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you in Arlington!

THADE's Annual Bunny Drive

As Spring comes in each year, it brings with it warmer weather, longer days, and green leaves, but at NCCDDS each year it brings in an invasion of soft, furry little critters to help brighten the day of children. Annually, THADE works in conjunction with other departments to collect stuffed animals to be delivered at Easter to children in area hospitals. The Community Service committee organizes the drive for within our agency. "Bunny" boxes are placed throughout the building, and employees are encouraged to bring in new stuffed animals to bring smiles to the faces of children who are spending the holiday in hospitals. This year's menagerie gathered in the Administrative offices to prepare for distribution. Swans, sloths, giraffes, and unicorns, were included in this year's collection of 84 fluffy creatures, as well as more traditional Easter stuffed animals such as bunnies, chickens and ducks. Over the years, thousands of stuffed animals have been taken to children, and THADE looks forward to many more years of helping spread smiles to the children and families that are spending Easter in the happiest of places.



THADE ORGAN DONATION

April 2018 was Organ Donation Awareness Month at the NC DDS. The first two weeks, DDS staff received emails providing information about donation and debunking myths and misconceptions on who can donate and what can be donated. There were also trivia questions to get people looking into organ donation. The third week, the DDS welcomed a guest speaker from Donate Life NC, Jessica Fournier, who is a program assistant with their organization. She was able to present information on how to become an organ donor. She also shared her personal experience of receiving a donated heart several years ago. She had a medical condition that was affecting the heart muscle resulting in the need for a transplant. She has worked with the NC Heart Association and the Organ Donation groups in the state. The final week of April featured two sign up days for staff interested in registering or getting more information about the registry. THADE members showed their support of Organ Donation by wearing blue and green on April 13. Anyone needing more information on organ donation can visit www.donatelifenc.org



OADE Community Service Update

The Ohio Association of Disability Examiners (OADE) sponsored an outreach effort to collect, assemble, and distribute 100 care packages to homeless women and girls. The care packages consisted of feminine hygiene products, baby wipes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, and lotion. A team distributed the packages to local homeless camps and women's shelters.



The Capital Area Disability Examiner (CADE) Chapter has been very busy this year!!! This year started off with a very successful School Supply drive, where we supplied the local school with several sets of book bags, notebooks, pens and paper! We received thank you letters from the students who were recipients of the supplies.

Followed by a Christmas Toy drive where we provided more than 20 children throughout the District with new toys!



We also participated in a Charity Walk for March of Dimes as well as several fundraisers. We raised over \$600 for the March of Dimes.



We also are very excited to announce that we were able to increase our chapter by 60% this year! In addition, we had the unique honor of hosting the NADE President, Jennifer Pounds, and Legislative Director, Jeff Price during the week that they were visiting for Congressional visits. It was extremely beneficial to the chapter and office to have NADE representation. CADE is very appreciative of the support from NADE leadership. We look forward to NPDW week and recruiting more members!

The Alabama (AADE) Chapter “Adopts” Family Connection Charity

Our Chapter found out about a truly wonderful nonprofit organization, Family Connection, Inc. who helps mentor homeless teens and at risk youth in our area. The organization provides a place for the homeless teens to come in off the street and receive services such as bathing, food, counseling, and job opportunities. The nonprofit helps place the homeless teens in facilities and apartments, assists them with reclaiming their lives, and often reunites them with their families. The organization also has a campus for at risk youth where they mentor younger children and teens and provide services to keep these children from becoming homeless teens. Our chapter was so impressed with this organization and we wanted to help. The AADE Chapter decided to “adopt” Family Connection, Inc. as our main charity this year. We started off by collecting personal care items for the organization in the fall of 2017 and after collecting for a couple of weeks, our chapter donated about 8 to 10 copier paper boxes full of items to the charity. In December, the Chapter sponsored a silent auction with the proceeds going to Family Connection, Inc. charity. We also gathered personal care items and individually wrapped snacks to fill 100 backpacks. One of our chapter members donated the backpacks and the chapter members and DDS staff donated personal care items, snacks and notes of encouragement. One of our chapter members donated enough socks to include a pair in each backpack. During the chapter holiday luncheon for our members, we invited a speaker from Family Connection, Inc. to join us. The presentation was very informational and heartbreaking to say the least. I think our chapter members totally understand the ongoing need in the homeless community and are thankful to be able to assist the charity with their mission of keeping teens off the streets, helping to find them housing and jobs, and reuniting them with their families. We had several pans of extra food, which was donated to the charity. Our chapter was pleased to donate \$600.00 in addition to several care package items to our adopted family, Family Connection, Inc. We have continued to support the charity this spring by donating left over books and magazines to the organization. We were told the teens were so excited to see magazines newer than those from the 1990’s and new books to read. In addition, some of our chapter members have donated clothing and household items to assist the charity. Our chapter has several more opportunities planned to lend support of all types to this worthwhile organization.



The Importance of Organ Donation

by Kathy Officer-Fogie

Improving the quality of life is a basic human desire for most of us. Many of us do so much for others already as Disability Adjudication Services employees, parents, caregivers and through any number of roles we have in our communities. Yet, some find a way to do more.

One of those wonderful public servants has worked at the GADDS for thirty-four and a half years. Ms. Glenda Dunn, Operations Assistant, has also served in several positions within GADE and NADE over the years despite her struggle with kidney disease requiring chronic dialysis for five years. While this treatment maintained her life, she knew a kidney transplant would dramatically improve her quality of life. Especially if it allowed her more time to love and be loved by others, including her son.

Piedmont Healthcare published a documentary of how one altruistic living donor gave a kidney just for the sake of giving. He received nothing tangible or monetary in return but one could argue he did, in fact, receive something. You decide what it was as you watch the documentary, "[7 Days: A week in the Life of Organ Transplantation](#)" (Piedmont Healthcare, 2017). Mr. Baumgartner told Raschel Stephenson, Producer, in part, "I didn't expect anything. I was just giving something. I felt blessed to just meet them and be involved." His donation was part of a paired exchange program where a person on the organ transplant list recruits another person (pair) to enroll in the living donor program. This information allows doctors and networks such as LifeLink to use large databases to identify matching donors and recipients across a large geographical area. His donation of a kidney directly improved the lives of twelve recipients across the nation and exponentially impacted all those that share in their lives. The documentary also shows the emotional toll of the process on the recipients, transplant team, doctors and their families as they find the best way to improve the lives of as many as possible. Just one gift made such an amazing impact!

The GADDS staff gathered together across the state during a Lunch & Learn opportunity in April to recognize BlueGreen Day and watched the documentary together in an effort to raise awareness and recognize the impact of Glenda's life to the GADE family.

You too can add to the impact of your life by registering to be an organ donor or considering living donor options. LifeLink reports there are more than 119,000 people waiting for a life-saving transplant in the United States with another added every ten minutes. Although it may seem to be a major surgery, when asked about how she felt after donating her kidney to Glenda, Lisa Kanter said, "what kidney?"

What else can you do? You can volunteer your time and talents to organizations that promote the importance of organ donation such as [LifeLink Foundation](#) (LifeLink Foundation, Inc., 2018). Their volunteers staff community health fairs, speak at public venues to explain the process and perform valuable administrative duties. It's another way to do just a little more to improve the lives of others and you may find the gift of altruism returns far more than you ever thought possible. May you all be as touched by this amazing example of people helping people just for the sake of improving the quality of life as I was. Thank you Glenda for your willingness to share your journey.

References:

[YouTube]. (2017, September 5). *7 Days: A Week in the Life of Organ Transplantation* [Video File]. Retrieved from <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&escr=s&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjPxbW8xIrbAhWxrFkKHRcsBOoQtwIIKzAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3Do11P9IBPyZE&usq=AOvVaw3WiAtUbtj8R2Yq8i9txqSM>

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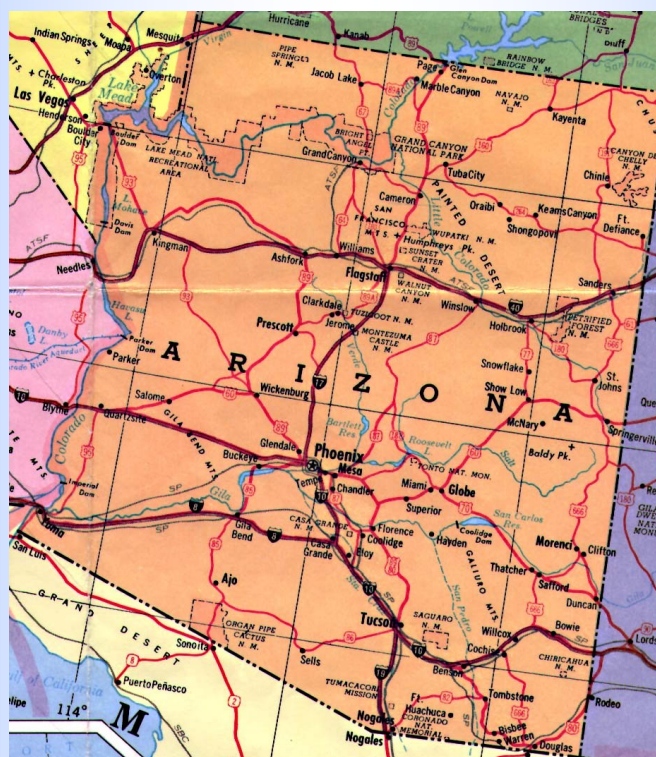
ARIZONA CHAPTER AADE

By Amber Barnes



Arizona has re-started their NADE Chapter!

They began with 2 active members in January 2018, the chapter is now approaching 35 members! It is unknown when we last had an active chapter of 4 or more people, it has been several years. AADE is enthusiastic about NADE and our chapter. We are looking forward to engaging with the rest of NADE as well as advancing NADE in the Arizona DDS's.





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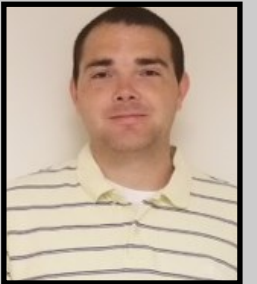









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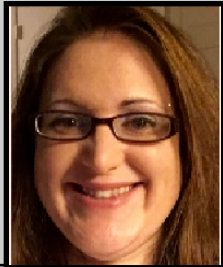


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