

GGC Regenerative Medicine Committee

2021 – 2024

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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As one of the General Grand Chapter Committee Members for Regenerative Medicine, I have organized a fundraising cruise to Alaska for all of us. The cruise will take place July 24 - 31, 2023 with a representative from WFIRM (Wake Forest Institute of Regenerative Medicine) aboard. Peg Reiterman, PGM Ohio is Chair of our Committee and, as a travel agent, has agreed to handle all reservations. A flyer and reservation form are attached. Please give the flyer wide distribution in your jurisdiction. All are invited to take this exciting and informative journey.

Many of you may be like I was and not know anything about regenerative medicine. A short explanation is that just like a starfish regenerates a lost leg, regenerative medicine uses your body to replace or restore function to damaged or diseased tissues and organs and provide treatments for some of the diseases and injuries currently classified as untreatable. It is Science Fiction made real. We are truly excited regarding the partnership between WFIRM and the Order of the Eastern Star and we sincerely thank Sister Glenda and Brother Lon for their clear endorsement of this amazing project.

Remember when we were all wearing masks, staying at home, getting the vaccines and trying to act normal? Well, the doctors, scientists, researchers, and lab technicians at WFIRM were working. The doors were locked to the institute, but the research never stopped. You see, their mantra is “NEXT IS NOW”, always dedicated to finding a cure, not just a treatment.

And perhaps that is the big difference. FINDING A CURE, NOT JUST A TREATMENT. With over 300 employees on site, representing up to 64 different countries all within ONE BUILDING in Winston-Salem, NC, their passion for helping all human beings throughout the world, is never ending.

* In Boston, a young woman named JoAnn, is in shock. She has just been told that she has diabetes and will have to go on insulin or medication. She now faces a future which could include neuropathy, blindness, amputation…..she knew diabetes ran in her family but she’s only 35. What does that mean for her life? And more importantly, what does this mean for her children?
* In Portland, a single Mother of two waits in line for her time in dialysis. She is one of 113,000 people nationwide, on the organ transplant list waiting for a kidney. She is worried. Worried because she is a single mother and she has to keep a job so she can feed her children, now 8 and 10. She wonders how long she will have to wait and IF there is a kidney out there that will be a match for her body. As she settles slowly back into her chair for another 4 hour dialysis session to stay alive, she prays again “PLEASE GOD, LET THAT NEW KIDNEY COME SOON”

At the WFIRM, they hear stories like these every day. As Dr. Atala says, “ these stories break our hearts.” The scientists at WFIRM feel compelled to help.

SO ENTERS REGENERATIVE MEDICINE…..THE WORLD OF HOPE…..

The idea of using YOUR OWN STEM CELLS TO REPLACE OR REPAIR INJURED OR DAMAGED BODY PARTS IS AMAZING…Remember, your own body won’t reject your own stem cells!!

Say it is a kidney you need…..suppose we could use your own stem cells to grown a new one? Rejection or toxic side effects from drugs would never be an issue because the kidney would be YOURS. Grown in your own body…using your own stem cells, your own DNA! Imagine a world where there is no need for a transplant list!

Picture a fire fighter who rushed into a burning building only to find himself engulfed in flames. Now, just imagine a world where those burns can heal….by getting new skin, made of one’s own stem cells and printed on a 3-D bioprinter.

Imagine no more diabetes because we can use stem cells and gene therapy to heal the pancreas!

Imagine a world where stem cells could be used to increase the effectiveness of cancer drugs or stop the development of Parkinson’s or Multiple Sclerosis…..

Imagine a world where hearing aids are no longer necessary because they can replace the hair follicles in your ears using your own stem cells!

THE KEY WORD IS IMAGINE…..the list goes on and on and REGENERATIVE MEDICINE is the HOPE and it’s HERE and NOW!!

Please join us on the Quantum Leap for Regenerative Medicine Alaskan Cruise and help us raise funds for this critical research.

Fraternally,

Charles H, Jones, GGCCM

OTHER REGENERATIVE MEDICINE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (TEAM RM)

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ATTACHMENTS: Alaska Cruise Flyer and Reservation Form