

News From The Northland

Volume 21, Number 1

January - June 2014



www.HOLSG.org

Tuesday, April 8th 7:00 PM Meeting: Speaker, Sara Beattie

Mrs. Beatti will give an informal presentation on the Kidney Foundation, Talk about Jackson's Experience, and an upcoming benefit.

Tuesday, May 13th: 7:00 PM : Speaker, Ms. Vicki Drake

Ms. Drake discus's food safety, lead paint dangers and the prevention of poisoning . She will be accompanied by a public health nurse and will be available for discussion in a number of subjects.

Tuesday, June 10 th 7:00 PM Meeting: Open Meeting

Open discussion for issues, topics, questions, or concerns that need to be addressed. Our meetings are set up to have a program every other month, and the next month to be an open meeting. This gives us an opportunity to share, ask questions, or discuss situations, news, or upcoming events.

Meeting at Miller-Dwan Medical Center

502 E 2nd Street Duluth, MN

7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Classroom 2 & 3 - Lobby Level

Providing a loving, caring , educational network of support for those waiting or having received an organ/tissue transplant and their families. Web Site: www.HOLSG.org

"News & Notes"

Happy Birthday and Best Wishes:

Congratulations On Another Year!!!

Marlene Anderson	Liver	1/5/2004
David Seim	Kidney	1/8/1996
John Cope	Liver	1/14/2003
Lynn Gressman	Liver	1/15/2003
Eathan Skare	Liver	1/25/1991
Mike Albers	Liver	1/29/1993
Karla Hanson	Kid / Pan	2/2/1977
Dick Huhta	Kidney	2/8/1996
Dennis Trump	Heart	2/22/1990
Beth Bartlett	Heart	2/24/1994
Thomas Peterson	Heart	3/4/1999
Gregg Lind	Islet Cells	3/5/2005
Lois Vidmar	Liver	3/8/2006
Heidi Ash	Heart	3/9/2000
Dick Albert	Heart	3/14/1995
Jeff Brett	Lung / Kid	3/15/2002
Judy Watczak	Liver	3/16/2009
Tyler Jersett	Lung	3/18/2013
Glenn Peterson	Heart/Kid	3/23/2003

Congratulations On Another Year!!!

Jennifer Shober-Nelson	Kidney	4/1/1990
Dan Graves	Heart	4/6/2002
Jerry Johnson	Heart/Kid	4/22/2005
Jessica Winkels-Hagerl	Liver/Kidney	5/1/2011
Paul Wolff	Heart	4/27/2013
Joann Miller	Lung	5/1/2005
Donna Gayhart	Pancreas	5/5/2004
Leroy Lahti	Kid/Pancreas	5/5/2005
Joel Stutsman	Kidney	5/7/2004
John Moline	Lung	5/7/2011
Carol Weiberg	Liver	5/15/1989
Robbie Christman	Liver	5/18/1993
Marge Kruchoski	Heart	5/21/1993
Cindy Zoldak	Kidney	5/21/2009
Kathryn Foss	Lung	5/22/1999
Katie Pfeffer	Kidney	5/26/2007
Colleen Trapp	Heart	5/29/2007
Nancy Bubalo	Liver	5/31/1996
Marle Ryan	Liver	6/12/2001
Rick Benson	Kidney	6/15/1995
Walter Gault	Liver	6/15/2002
Brian Solseth	Kid/Pancreas	6/23/2009

FDA Expected To Approve New Gentler Cure For Hepatitis C.

The Food and Drug Administration is expected to approve the first in a new class of drugs that can cure the leading cause of liver failure and liver cancer. The disease is hepatitis C, a slow moving but deadly virus that infects more than 3 million Americans. The new treatment is a once a day pill that can cure at least 85% of victims without the need for injections of interferon, an immune stimulant that causes severe side effects. The first of the new hepatitis C drugs is Gilead Science's sofosbuvir. It interferes with the virus' replication without much affecting cell metabolism. The interferon free treatment of two strains of the virus in combination with ribavirin are expected to be approved soon. An advisory panel also recommended approval of sofosbuvir for the most common and difficult to treat strain of hepatitis C called genotype-1, but in this case it needs to be used with interferon. Other research is being conducted to use sofosbuvir without interferon. Over the past 8 years one patient endured two grueling six month treatments with interferon that failed to clear the virus from his blood. Interferon which is intended to get patients immune system to attack the virus, also commonly causes fatigue, nausea, diarrhea, anemia, and depression. Two years ago the patient got into the sofosbuvir study with ribavirin. The patient said "It was like a miracle pill." "I had no side effects at all. Fifteen months after taking the treatment there is no sign of the virus in his blood. Unfortunately the new drugs won't come cheap. The price of sofosbuvir hasn't been set yet but it's expected to cost around \$90,000 for a course of treatment. That's going to spark a lot of discussion who should be treated at what stage of infection.

Presentations:

November 6: Denfeld DE, Tom Saburn
Essentia Health (7 Sessions): T. Saburn, D. Nygaard, Glenn Peterson, Tom Griffin.
December: Kiwanis Club, T. Saburn, Beth Sandstrom
December 9: Cloquet DE, Tom Saburn, Beth Sandstrom
February 11: Denfeld DE, Tom Saburn
February 14: Lake Superior College Physical Therapy, Tom Saburn
March 1: Women's EXPO, DECC: Gloria Mattakat, Beth Sandstrom, Jim and Barb Kreminski, Tom Saburn, Joni Plante, Kathy Hein, Heather Krisiak, Dorothy Johnson.
March 12: Solon Springs Health Fair, Tom Saburn, Dorothy and Jerry Johnson, Kathy Hein, Glenn Peterson.
March 25, WITC Health Fair: Dorothy and Jerry Johnson, Kathy Hein, Glenn Peterson.

Cares and Prayers:

For the family of Mara Krisiak who passed away on January 13, 2014. For the family of Joe Merritt who passed away on March 14, 2014.

Get Well: Mary Jacobson, John Moline, and Jackie Jensen.

Transplant Patients May Be Aided By New Technique

An experimental technique seems to be freeing some kidney transplants from having to take anti-rejection drugs. Researchers transplanted certain cells from the kidney donor's bone marrow along with the new organ. Five of the eight transplant recipients were off the drugs two and a half years later. The idea is that if a sort of twin immune system takes root, it can allow the patient's body to accept the organ and not attack it. Scientists call it chimerism. Transplant patients usually must take multiple immune suppression pills for life to prevent rejection of their organ. Those drugs cause lots of side reactions. Other scientists are attempting to tap bone marrow to induce immune tolerance with varying results. The scientific approach transfuses a special mix of bone marrow cells including blood producing stem cells and another type of cell called "facilitating cells" that are thought vital for a successful transplant. The Mayo clinic has recently been approved to use bone marrow stem cells to grow new heart cells to replace damaged heart cells.

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NEWS FROM THE NORTHLAND

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