



## MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Top Researchers & Clinicians Develop Future Hydrocephalus Research Agenda *Landmark Conference steers direction for future Research Grants***

**Seattle, WA** – The Hydrocephalus Association is co-hosting a trail-blazing research conference in Seattle, Washington, on July 9 – 11, 2012, designed to bring together world-renowned researchers, scientists, NIH representatives, and representatives from biomedical device manufacturers in an effort to advance research on the causes and treatment options for hydrocephalus. The conference will showcase presentations from the leading experts in the field, updating participants on the latest innovations and research findings in hydrocephalus, and engaging them in dialogue to strategize about where the next great breakthroughs will come. The focus will be on research with the greatest potential to impact clinical care.

“We are very excited to have so many experts coming together to focus on new and better ways to treat hydrocephalus patients,” said Paul Gross, chairman of the board of the Hydrocephalus Association. “With this much concentrated effort, we are very optimistic that the outcome will provide the direction and impetus needed to shorten the time it takes to discover new ways to treat the condition. This will have a huge effect on the quality of life for so many patients and their families.”

This conference, entitled *Opportunities in Hydrocephalus Research: Pathways to Better Outcomes*, boasts a speaker line-up of some of the world’s pre-eminent scientists, researchers, clinicians, and engineers who have been studying key aspects of hydrocephalus such as:

#### **Causes of Hydrocephalus**

- How **genetic changes** can cause hydrocephalus, as well as possibilities for genetic interventions and management of congenital defects;
- Expanding understanding of **injury mechanisms** to better minimize the brain damage that accompanies hydrocephalus, possibly via pharmacological interventions.

#### **Enhancements in Diagnosis**

- What **biomarkers** indicate before and after treatment;
- What new and improved techniques in **neuroimaging** can reveal

#### **Treatment Advances**

- Which novel advances in **bioengineering** are likely to reduce the number of surgical revisions;
- How better **surgical approaches** apply to specific types of hydrocephalus.

#### **Outcome Improvements**

- What is known about **neuropsychological** and **neurological** outcomes across the lifespan;
- **Quality of life** concerns.

Plenary sessions will be followed by group discussions in each of these categories to promote audience participation and consensus.

Among those presenting at the conference include noted researchers and clinicians:

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- Stephen A. Back, MD, PhD** - Departments of Pediatrics and Neurology, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, Oregon
- Mohit Bhandari, MD** - Department of Surgery and Clinical Epidemiology, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario
- William G. Bradley, MD, PhD** – Department of Radiology, University of California, San Diego, California
- Samuel R. Browd, MD, PhD** - Departments of Neurosurgery and Bioengineering, Seattle Children’s Research Center and the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
- Jerold Chun, MD, PhD** - Department of Molecular Biology, University of California San Diego and the Scripps Research Institute (TSRI), La Jolla, California
- Paige T. Church, MD** – Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario
- Thomas J. Clement, MS** – Cardiac Insight, Inc./Aqueduct Neurosciences, Inc., Seattle, Washington
- Marc R. Del Bigio, MD, PhD, FRCPC** - Department of Pathology & Canada Research Chair in Developmental Neuropathology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Maureen Dennis, PhD** - Program in Neurosciences and Mental Health, The Hospital for Sick Children; Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Toronto
- William B. Dobyns, MD** - Seattle Children’s Research Institute & University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
- Dr. Richard J. Edwards** – Neurosurgery Department, Frenchay Hospital, North Bristol NHS Trust, Bristol, UK
- Jack M. Fletcher, PhD** - Department of Psychology, University of Houston, Houston, Texas
- Paul H. Gross** – Chair, Hydrocephalus Association Board of Directors, San Francisco, California, and member of the National Advisory Neurological Disorders And Stroke Council, Bethesda, MD
- Antonio J. Jimenez, PhD** - Departamento de Biología Celular Genética y Fisiología, University of Malaga, Spain
- John R.W. Kestle, MD, MSc** - Primary Children’s Medical Center and the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah
- Abhaya Kulkarni, MD, MSc, PhD, FRCSC** - Departments of Neurosurgery & Neurology, Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario
- David D. Limbrick, MD, PhD** - St. Louis Children's Hospital & Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri
- Barry R. Lutz, PhD** - Departments of Neurosurgery and Bioengineering, Seattle Children’s Research Center and the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
- James (“Pat”) McAllister II, PhD** – Departments of Neurosurgery, Bioengineering & Physiology, Primary Children’s Medical Center and University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah
- Jill A. Morris, PhD** - Program Director, Neurogenetics, NIH/NINDS, Bethesda, Maryland
- Richard S. Morrison, PhD**, Department of Neurosurgery, Centers on Human Development and Disability & Proteomics, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, Washington
- Marc Randolph** – **Keynote Speaker** - Founder of Netflix, Santa Cruz, California
- Norman R. Relkin, MD, PhD** - Cornell Memory Disorders Program & Departments of Clinical Neurology and Neuroscience, New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, New York
- Jay Riva-Cambrin, MD** - Primary Children’s Medical Center and the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah
- Esteban Rodriguez, MD, PhD** - Instituto de Histologia y Patologia, Universidad Austral de Chile, Valdivia, Chile
- Mark Wagshul, PhD** – Department of Radiology and Gruss Magnetic Resonance Research Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York
- Marion L. (“Jack”) Walker, MD** - Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery, Primary Children's Medical Center & University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah
- Benjamin C. Warf, MD** – Department of Neurosurgery, Children’s Hospital Boston, Boston, Massachusetts
- Laurence Watkins, MD** - Victor Horsley Department of Neurosurgery, National Hospital for Neurology and

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Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London, UK

**David A. Watson** – Dave Watson Engineering, San Jose, California

**Michael A. Williams, MD, FAAN** - LifeBridge Health Brain & Spine Institute, Baltimore, Maryland

**Andrew T. Zabel, PhD** - Department of Neuropsychology, Kennedy Krieger Institute, Baltimore, Maryland

A major national research institute has indicated an interest in using the consensus outcome of this conference as direction for a Request for Applications (RFA), scheduled for later this summer, to fund promising aspects of hydrocephalus research. A full announcement is expected shortly.

The Hydrocephalus Association is partnering with the **Seattle Children's Hospital Research Institute**, the **University of Washington**, the **University of Utah Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery**, the **Hydrocephalus Clinical Research Network**, and the **Hydrocephalus Research Guild** to present this conference.

#### **About the Hydrocephalus Association**

The Hydrocephalus Association (HA) is a 501(c)3 charitable organization dedicated to eliminating the challenges of hydrocephalus, a medical condition resulting from an abnormal accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) within cavities of the brain called ventricles. Hydrocephalus affects people of all age groups across the globe. The Association works to meet its mission through the advancement of research, the promotion of advocacy, and the provision of support and education.

Sponsorship opportunities are available and registration information may be found on HA's web page at: <http://www.hydroassoc.org/hydrocephalus-research/research-conference/>.

#### **CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:**

**When:** July 9 – 11, 2012

**Where:** The Westin Seattle Hotel  
1900 5th Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101, United States  
Phone: (206) 728-1000

**What:** *Opportunities in Hydrocephalus Research: Pathways to Better Outcomes*

**Why:** There is a small cadre of researchers working tirelessly to better understand the causes and effects of hydrocephalus in approximately 1 million children and adults in the United States alone. This conference brings these researchers together to discuss the latest work conducted throughout the world in this research field, to explore opportunities for collaboration, and to identify critical areas of investigation that will lead to optimal short- and long-term advancements in the treatment of hydrocephalus. Armed with a broader understanding of the key issues facing hydrocephalus, the research community, patient advocates, and public policy makers can be more strategic in their support of a research agenda which can lead ultimately to finding a prevention or cure.

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