**VOICE: TAKING CHARGE OF YOUR OWN HEALTH**

Though Mary is otherwise healthy at 75, increasing pain when she walks has been diagnosed as advanced Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD). Her doctor explains that to restore blood flow and prevent a possible amputation, she needs bypass surgery or a stent. He also says that while surgery is riskier with a longer recovery, stents have a higher failure rate especially in women.

Mary is shocked at the idea of amputation, confused by the different options and anxious about being able to continue playing with her grandchildren. Her doctor recommends that she joins VOICE, an online tool provided by Vascular Cures to learn more about her condition, track her walking and talk to other patients about their treatment experience. Mary signs up with help from Vascular Cures and her son, pleased that she can use the iPad he gave her for Christmas.

**VOICE – Vascular Outcomes Improvement through Patient Communication and Engagement** is the first centralized, online resource for vascular health management. It enables patients to actively engage, better understand their options, and improve the quality of communication with their doctors.

At her follow-up appointment a few weeks later, Mary is calmer and better informed about the possible outcomes. Based on her priorities, she and her doctor decide to have a stent placed. After the procedure her doctor emphasizes that it is crucial to know her ongoing progress and be alerted to any drastic change in function. He asks that she bring this interim information to all of their visits. Mary begins to track her walking activity, blood pressure and pain. At first she uses her iPad to enter this information but switches to a wearable device because it is easier and automatically integrated with VOICE.

**WHY VOICE?**

- Active patient engagement can drive personalized treatment decisions and improved outcomes
- Patient health tracking allows doctors to see progress – or issues - between visits
- Better communication between patients and doctors can lead to more successful treatments

VOICE is another example of the power of collaboration. It is being designed by both doctors and patients, with an advisory team made up of these plus insurers, patient educators and the companies who develop new products. Our 2014 Wylie Scholar at Wake Forest, Dr. Mathew Corriere, is creating a tool that helps patients share values and preferences with their doctors for shared decision-making. He is a leader in VOICE, sharing our commitment to increasing patients’ ability to partner in their own care. VOICE will be launched by August 2015 and further advances our mission to transform vascular health.

**VOTE FOR US**

We need your help getting rated on Charity Navigator, the nation’s largest evaluator of charities. It’s easy!

1. Go to www.charitynavigator.com
2. Search for ‘Vascular Cures’, and click on the ‘unrated organizations’ tab
3. Click on Vascular Cures and vote. Our place in the queue depends on getting a high number of votes (requests) to be rated!
SOLVING VASCULAR HEALING

We’re not waiting to use the ground-breaking Stoney Vascular Biobank! While medical centers continue to join the Vascular Cures Research Network and enroll new patients, VCRN’s first research project using patient blood samples is already underway. The goal is to identify the causes of hyper-inflammation that can prevent normal healing after opening blocked leg arteries. This may enable doctors to predict which patients are going to have a problem. Healing problems after bypass or stent procedures often lead to repeat interventions with increasingly poor outcomes.

Predicting the problem is the critical first step to targeted therapies. Dr. Michael Conte, our Chief Medical Officer, is also working on new treatments to quell the inflammation, using certain molecules from fish oils. Finally he is exploring a new device that delivers these compounds to reverse the inflammatory process, through a “wrap” applied to an artery after it is opened.

MIRACLE ON ICE AT Circulate!

Jim Craig, former American ice hockey goalie for the gold medal “Miracle” 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team, will be the keynote speaker at Circulate! Vascular Cures’ annual dinner on Saturday, October 10 at the Olympic Club in San Francisco.

The personal loss of his father to an undetected abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA), has led Jim to champion the cause of early detection of vascular disease. While an estimated 15,000 people each year die from AAA in the US, the good news is that the condition is almost always treatable if detected early.

This event is sponsored in part by Gore Medical. For information on sponsorships and reserving a seat please call Clara Roa at 650.368.6022.

WHY INVEST IN VASCULAR CURES

Jim Bancroft, formerly a partner in Bancroft & McAlister in San Francisco and trustee of several local foundations, has been a Vascular Cures Director for 24 years. He is not shy about his strong support for Vascular Cures, “as most of my friends have known for years (if only because I rarely stop talking about it), Vascular Cures is a pioneering organization which has grown into a national and critically important research organization.”

Jim also knows his investment in Vascular Cures has paid off: “After gambling on many startups during my 95 years to date, my carefully considered judgment is that each roll of the dice must have seemed like a good idea at the time. I have been fortunate to know some trusted and respected friends, such as the Vascular Cures team, who have talents in fields which are beyond mine. Such talents can sometimes create valuable, even life-enhancing innovations. I believe that Vascular Cures is an example of this”. We are grateful to Jim for his long term visionary support of Vascular Cures.