Vascular Cures—Pioneer and Patient Advocate

Vascular Cures has led research innovation for many years. Our extraordinary Vascular Cures Research Network and Stoney Vascular Biobank are incredible examples of the power of collaboration instead of competition.

But new discoveries only benefit patients if they can get new treatments. We are now pioneering a new initiative to change the system of vascular healthcare. Improving patient outcomes involves researchers, companies who develop new products, doctors, insurers, healthcare systems, the FDA and investors/donors. When these groups only look at the problem in terms of their own interests, progress is slowed, costs skyrocket and patients suffer. Once again, collaboration is the key to change.

The new Vascular Care to Cure Continuum (VC3) takes an overall systems approach. We are establishing a network of Key Innovation Leaders to create novel collaborative models that share resources and lead to an end-to-end solution to improve vascular health. We are launching VC3 at the Vascular Innovation Summit on April 28 in San Francisco.

What do Serena Williams, Sharon Stone, Senator Mark Kirk & Harold Ramis have in common?

All of them have had vascular disease – diseases of the blood vessels outside the heart that account for nearly half the deaths from cardiovascular disease. Serena Williams was 29 when she was diagnosed with a pulmonary embolism. Sharon Stone was 43 when she suffered a ruptured aneurysm. Senator Mark Kirk was 49 when he had a debilitating stroke. Harold Ramis, 69, recently passed away from complications from vasculitis.

Vascular Cures’ work is more urgent than ever. There is an oncoming epidemic of vascular disease that will lead death and disability, due to skyrocketing diabetes, aging and obesity. According to the latest American Heart Association (AHA) update, total direct medical costs for cardiovascular disease are projected to increase by 130% in the next 18 years. Peripheral artery disease alone affects over 8.5 million Americans and 200 million people worldwide, an increase of 25% in the last decade.

Vascular Cures represents the millions of patients suffering from vascular diseases for whom there are inadequate treatment options.

The AHA 2014 Update:

- 45% of cardiovascular deaths are due to problems outside the heart.
- Peripheral Artery Disease affects ~8.5 million Americans.
- Between 2012 and 2030, direct medical costs of cardiovascular disease are projected to increase from $396 billion to $918 billion.
Alive Today Because of Vascular Research

When Jim was little, he was happily playing kickball, hide-and-seek and swimming much like any six year old. And then at his first grade physical, his parents were told that he had extremely high blood pressure. It turned out he was born with a problem that prevented his aorta, a major blood vessel in the body, from developing properly.

His parents were offered a devastating option—a new type of surgery which had never before been done in humans and only had a 5% survival rate. These innovative doctors successfully rebuilt his aorta and blood vessels. But when Jim was a sophomore in high school, he needed surgery again because the vein grafts that had replaced his aorta were failing.

Since then he has needed four more surgeries, because his body’s own healing process keeps creating scar tissue that re-blocks the vessels.

The Vascular Cures Research Network’s first project addresses the issue of abnormal scarring after surgery. With your support we will enable the development of better treatments for millions of patients like Jim.

Two New Centers in the Vascular Cures Research Network—Thanks to You!

The Vascular Cures Research Network (VCRN) and Stoney Vascular Biobank continue to expand. In addition to UCSF and the San Francisco VA, the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and the University of Florida have joined VCRN.

Our goal is to have 2,000 patients enrolled by early 2017—creating the first national vascular biobank to accelerate personalized vascular medicine. We will partner with healthcare providers and industry to develop new tests and treatments for patients.

You are helping to build a unique platform to accelerate discovery and clinical trials for vascular disease. VCRN is a collaboration of medical centers sharing research, patient biosamples and data. As a 501 (c) 3 with a 30 year track record, our ability to build the Vascular Cures Research Network depends on your contributions. Our goal is to add 4 more centers in 2014 and another 5 in 2015.

Please help us reach that goal!

Leader in Health Care Innovation Joins the Board

Ed Yu joined Vascular Cures Board of Directors in December. Ed is a Principal (Partner) in PwC’s Health Industries Strategy practice and leads the Healthcare Innovation & Business Design Competency. He has over 30 years of experience in strategy, innovation, product development and operations across genomics, medical technology, diagnostics, therapeutics, payer, provider, and high technology sectors.

Save the Date

Vascular Cures Annual Gala
Saturday, September 6, 2014
The Olympic Club
San Francisco, CA