

President's Letter

Our major initiative in 2018 to help address our research needs was the establishment of the Foundation's Myocarditis Biobank. In January of 2019 we finalized the legal and administrative requirements for the establishment of the Biobank. The Biobank will be the only repository to contain Myocarditis specific blood samples for research and clinical data. We are fortunate to have the backing of leading professionals and institutions around the world implementing this effort. As noted in an article in Newsweek in March 2019, of "The 10 Best Hospitals in the World", the Myocarditis Foundation is affiliated with and works closely with 5 of these 10 best hospitals.

Our Biobank funding will support the efforts in three specific areas:

In the U.S.:

1. For the Adult Myocarditis samples, we will initially be working with 6 major institutions around the country who will be supplying the Biobank with adult myocarditis patient blood samples.
2. For the Pediatric Myocarditis samples, we will initially be working with 4 major pediatric institutions on obtaining pediatric myocarditis blood samples.

In Europe:

3. The Foundation will fund a Retrospective Study of thousands of samples from premier institutions in Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Spain and the Netherlands. These samples will bring a diversification of demographics for research analysis.

Additional mission driven initiatives included:

- We have continued our educational program for Emergency Room Nurses and Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. It is a critical component to inhibit Myocarditis' evasiveness with early detections. Seminars have been developed and are currently being implemented. The numbers of front-line caregivers that we have educated between last year and early this year is well over 4,000. Nurse Practitioners play an ever-important role in the need for myocarditis education as many are filling the void left from physicians who are no longer going into General and Family Medicine and who are opting to specialize in various specialties.
- Our active online community has grown to over 225 contacts in a multitude of countries around the world where people can interact with others affected by the disease and gain additional support from each other.
- Our Family Support Meeting in June of 2018 was attended by over 50 family members.
- The Foundation funded a Fellowship Research Grant for a Post-Doctoral Myocarditis Researcher and we also co-funded a Fellowship Research Grant with the American Heart Association. We believe that the research will be pertinent to finding answers on myocarditis and fast tracking a cure for the disease.

We ended the year with a Gold Star Rating by the GuideStar Foundation who encourages transparency of non-profits. In expanding our presence, we achieved these goals with an 11% Administrative Expense Ratio.

Joseph C. Rumore
President
Chairman, Board of Directors