P E P NEWS

Newsletter of the Parkinson Education Program of Greater Cleveland

JUNE 2008 **Marilyn Brandt, Editor**
Steve Derman, Co-Editor

BIO

Carol Baglia became certified by the Buteyko Institute of Breathing and Health to teach in August 2003 after extensive training. She has also obtained licensure, certification and registration as a traditional respiratory therapist. She graduated with honors from college and was awarded the Outstanding Respiratory Therapy Student in 2004.

Carol is passionate about letting people know that they have options available to them in responsibly managing their respiratory health care.

JULY MEETING

CAROL BAGLIA, CBP, RRT

Correct Breathing Concepts LLC
Buteyko Institute of Breathing & Health

BREATHING TECHNIQUES FOR PD"

Wednesday, July 2, 2008 – 2:00-3:30 PM
Cleveland Heights Recreation Center
One Monticello Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, OH

Last names A through M please bring light refreshments.

CELL-BASED THERAPY SHOWS PROMISE IN PATIENTS WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE

(Excerpted from *Science Daily*)

A novel cell therapy using retinal pigment epithelial (RPE) cells attached to tiny gelatin bead microcarriers implanted in the brain can improve the symptoms of patients with moderate to advanced Parkinson's disease. Rush University Medical Center neurosurgeon Dr. Roy A. Bakay and colleagues from Emory University, Atlanta found the therapy Spheramine was well-tolerated and patients experienced improvement in PD symptoms (tremor, rigidity, slowness of movements, and impaired balance and coordination).

The pilot study was initiated at Emory University Hospital and followed six patients with moderate to advanced PD to investigate the safety, tolerability, and efficacy of the Spheramine implantation. The full patient group has been evaluated for four years and several have been monitored six years. Bakay and colleagues report long-term improvement or stabilization of symptoms, maintained for a minimum of two years after Spheramine implantation. They note no Spheramine-related serious adverse events were reported and that the most frequent adverse effect was postsurgical headache, which spontaneously resolved within one to two weeks.

The RPR cells, which are normally found in the back of the eye, are cultured under standardized conditions and attached to the microscopic beads prior to implantation. The microcarriers are necessary for the cells to survive in the brain. The implanted cells serve as a new potential source of levodopa to enhance dopamine production where it is most needed.

The patients were selected based on disease stage, levodopa responsiveness, and severity of PD symptoms while off medication. An even distribution of Spheramine was surgically implanted into the more affected side of the brain, and patients left the hospital a few days later.