

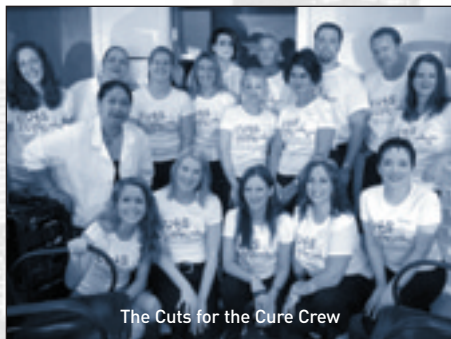
## BOSTON CURE PROJECT *gets beautiful* AND STEPS OUT ON THE TOWN

AT THE FIRST ANNUAL "CUTS FOR THE CURE" AND ITS FIRST EVER "MS SOCIAL"

The Boston Cure Project received quite a pampering from About Face Hair Design of Norfolk, Virginia and the more than seventy-five people who turned out to support and take part in the First Annual "Cuts for the Cure" on Sunday, July 27.

The event, which raised \$3,650 in support of Boston Cure Project's work to determine the causes of MS, featured a day of haircuts, manicures, facials, and massages, each for a minimum contribution of \$20 per service. New hair-dos, painted fingernails, and happy, fresh faces were reportedly seen leaving the salon in droves.

The idea for the event came about when Janelle Hamilton, owner and manager of About Face, heard that one of her best clients had a granddaughter who suffered from MS. That client is Phyllis Kaplan, Norfolk resident and grandmother of Anna Peabody, a teenager from Acton, Massachusetts, who was diagnosed with MS when she was only 15. Janelle had been involved with cut-a-thons previously and offered to host one, in Anna's honor, to raise money for the Boston Cure Project.



The Cuts for the Cure Crew

International, turned up to donate their time and talent. They worked from 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. cutting hair and providing beauty treatments in half-hour segments. They even donated tips.

After several months of preparation, planning and poster-ing, Janelle, most of her staff, and facialists from Patrice LaFont Skincare



Stylist Lori Holloran & Cuts for the Cure organizer Janelle Hamilton snip away!

Local restaurants contributed an array of fabulous food and tasty treats throughout the day. Clockwork Design Group

donated graphic design work for one of our coolest event logos to date, giving staff and volunteers the opportunity to don especially snazzy pink and purple tee-shirts for the occasion.

**What could be better than a head-to-toe makeover? Knowing that the money you pay for your day at the salon will benefit a great cause!**

One hour before the close of the event, local radio DJ, Pasquale Giovanni, stopped by to crank out some tunes and keep the well-groomed crowd entertained. By the end of the day, we were all looking and feeling great as a result of every-one's hard work.

One week later, the Boston Cure Project moved the fun northward back to the Bay State, hosting its first ever "MS Social" on the evening of August 4.

Held at the Watch City Brewing Company in Waltham, this now-recurring event is a networking opportunity for people with MS, their friends, and their family members. There is no cost to attend. It is not a fundraising event, support group session, or educational seminar – it's simply a chance to meet other people affected by MS and hang out in a fun, informal social setting.

The August 4 event attracted more than 40 people, far more than the small, intimate gathering of 10 or so people we expected. Due to popular demand, we've already planned additional MS Socials. Look for details about them on our Web page, [www.bostoncure.org](http://www.bostoncure.org), where you can also sign up to receive notification of all our fun events by email or by post.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Once again, we've had a busy past quarter. We had our first out-of-state fundraiser – Cuts for a Cure – our first in a series of MS Socials, a class on MS Genetics, and by the time this reaches you we'll have had a few more events including a golf tournament, and a concert. Be sure to RSVP for our 3rd Annual Boston Cure Party if you can make it on Saturday November 22nd at the MIT Faculty Club.



The Cure Map and Tissue Bank are progressing nicely as you can read in the Cure Map Update section. It's been very pleasing to see announcements from the NIH, Congress, and the NMSS urging a move in the direction of large-scale multidisciplinary collections of tissue to look at autoimmune diseases and MS in particular. We've been urging this path since our inception, and are happy to see that others who are in a position to contribute are reaching this conclusion as well.

As always, you can learn more about the Boston Cure Project at [www.bostoncure.org](http://www.bostoncure.org), and if you have any questions you can get in touch with me at [art@bostoncure.org](mailto:art@bostoncure.org) or 781-788-0880.

Regards,

Art Mellor  
President & CEO  
**Boston Cure Project, Inc.**

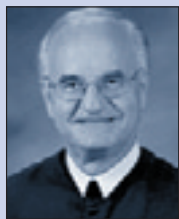
2

## GEORGE PEABODY ESTABLISHES FAMILIES WITH MS COMMUNITY

Board of Director member George Peabody has launched a new program for the Boston Cure Project: Families with MS. Families with MS is a new community for children, parents

and those connected by love to Multiple Sclerosis. Learn more about it at [www.familieswithms.org](http://www.familieswithms.org), and keep an eye out for more news about it in future newsletters!

## MARATHON PRIEST SUPPORTS BOSTON CURE PROJECT



**Our savior, Father Bernard Marton**

Father Bernard Marton is a 62-year-old Cistercian monk, priest, teacher, and counselor at the Cistercian Preparatory School in Irving, Texas. This summer, Father Bernard surprised us all by signing up to participate in our "Sense of Purpose" program and proceeding to raise **more than \$10,000** (and counting!) of funding for our research into the causes of MS. Friends, family members,

colleagues, and former students all rallied to support his participation in the LaSalle Bank Chicago Marathon on October 12, sponsoring him with donations of up to \$1,000 in size.

Father Bernard humbly remarks, "giving people with MS hope for their future is all the reason I need to raise contributions to help fund research. I am grateful to all of you who support my efforts and MS research."

A former Headmaster, Father Bernard has been with Cistercian Preparatory School for thirty-five years and has been actively

involved with his community throughout that time.

A native of Hungary, he grew up in the midst of war and political strife. His family fled the country for several years to escape Communist rule, and returned when he was still a child to a home that was pilfered and destroyed. In 1956, when the Hungarian revolution broke out, he again fled Hungary, living in refugee camps for two years before finally arriving in Irving, the Dallas suburb he has called home for 45 years.

These days, Father Bernard "relaxes" a bit and adds "running marathons for charity" to his impressive list of ongoing humanitarian activities and accomplishments. The Chicago marathon is his ninth full marathon and he tells us his dream is to run the Boston marathon.

For information about how you can participate in Sense of Purpose, visit <http://www.bostoncure.org/senseofpurpose>.

Special thanks to Father Bernard and his many sponsors for their outstanding efforts and generosity.

## WE'VE BEEN BUSY!

As if the MS Social and the Cuts for the Cure event weren't enough, here's what else we've been up to!

**Seminar on "The Genetic Basis of MS: What we know and what we don't know about how genes cause MS"** was held September 20 at MIT. CEO Art Mellor and VP of Scientific Operations Hollie Schmidt reviewed the findings of our newly completed Phases 1 & 2 of the Cure Map for Genetics. They gave an overview of what genes do and how they can cause disease and described the current state of our knowledge about how genes contribute to MS.

### ANNA PEABODY FUND RAFFLE

The Anna Peabody Fund held a raffle to benefit the Boston Cure Project for MS, and it was a huge success! We brought in more than \$50,000, with almost \$30,000 going to benefit the Boston Cure Project after prizes, expenses, and taxes.

The grand prize winner opted for the \$20,000 (US) over the new Acura RSX from Herb Connolly Acura. An additional 10 prizes of \$100 were awarded. The drawing was held on August 20th at the American Legion Hall in Arlington, MA.

Our top ticket sellers included: Arthur Kaplan at 329; George and Nancy Peabody at 236; Charlie Namias at 80; Debbie Mellor at 42; Laura Kesser at 40; Tracey Estabrook at 36; Janelle Hamilton at 31; John Reardon at 30; Rosalind Joffe at 28; and Ru Sweeney at 24.

Our \$100 prize-winning tickets were: #0186, #0276, #0523, #1015, #1089, #1186, #1313, #1529, #1580, #1660.

Our grand prize-winning ticket was #0002, from the very first batch of 3 tickets sold!

**MS Social #2** – On Monday October 6th we held our second MS Social at the Watch City Brewing Company, Waltham, MA.

**Tee-Off to Cure MS: Boston Cure Project's First Annual Golf Tournament** – Wednesday, October 8th, 2003 we held our first annual golf tournament at the illustrious Nicklaus Course at Pinehills Golf Club in Plymouth, MA. The event was co-sponsored by Old Colony Sports. Every foursome or best-ball team was playing for a family member or colleague with MS. Old Colony Sports "signed" local sports celebrities to play, including Wilbur Wood, the Hall of Fame Baseball player who invented the knuckleball.

## AND WE'RE GONNA STAY BUSY!

For directions and more details on each event, please see our web site [www.bostoncure.org](http://www.bostoncure.org).

**Sing to Cure MS: The Boston Cure Project Halloween Concert** – A concert of classical music to benefit the Boston Cure Project for Multiple Sclerosis; Sunday, October 26th from 3-5 PM; The Pleasant Street Congregational Church, 75 Pleasant Street, Arlington, MA 02474; Dress is casual but festive; Children and adults are welcome to attend in costume; \$25 for adults and \$10 for children under 12 at the door. Tickets purchased before 5pm on October 24 are \$20 for adults and \$8 for children under 12. Tickets are available. Contact Randi Kestin at 508/226-7760 or [cupid@mit.edu](mailto:cupid@mit.edu) for details.

**MS Social #3** – Keep an eye out for our next MS Social this winter!

### Please join us for our Third Annual Boston Cure Party For Multiple Sclerosis

Saturday November 22nd, 2003

(the Sat *before* Thanksgiving weekend)

6:30pm, special lecture at 6:00pm

MIT Faculty Club, 50 Memorial Drive, 6th Floor,

Cambridge, MA 02139

Dress is Cocktail Attire

There will be a silent auction during the party.

There is no cost for this event, but we do ask for an RSVP for planning purposes.

At 6:00pm Dr. Michael Racke, Vice Chairman for Neurology Research and Director of Neuroimmunology Research at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, will deliver a lecture on the immunology of MS.

At 6:30pm our reception begins, including hors d'oeuvres, dessert, beverages, and cash bar.

There will be a presentation by Dr. Gerald Fischbach, Dean of the Columbia Medical School and former Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, followed by updates on the Tissue Bank effort by Dr. Tim Vartanian and the Boston Cure Project year in review by President Art Mellor

Again, please RSVP on our website ([www.bostoncure.org/rsvp](http://www.bostoncure.org/rsvp)) or call 781-788-0880.

**For directions and more details, please see our web site [www.bostoncure.org](http://www.bostoncure.org)**

## HOW CAN I HELP?

These friends of Boston Cure Project found creative ways to express their support!

### SCARE TACTICS

Boston Cure Project volunteers Nancy Costello and Karla Nelson both will hold Halloween soirees that raise funds for Boston Cure Project.

### WEDDING BLESSINGS

Keith Bregman & Lauren Blankstein decided to give a more meaningful wedding favor to their guests by making a contribution to Boston Cure Project in lieu of a traditional favor. They were inspired by their best man Michael Frech, who will be running the Philadelphia Marathon to benefit Boston Cure Project through the Fitsense Sense of Purpose Program.

# IS AUTOIMMUNITY

## RESPONSIBLE FOR MS?

By Hollie Schmidt

If you've ever looked for information on the causes of MS, chances are you've come across the statement that MS is an autoimmune disease – a disease inflicted by the immune system in an attack on the body's own tissues. Given the prominent role of inflammation in the disease, this may seem quite reasonable and credible. However, the phenomenon of autoimmunity is not well understood, and the term "autoimmune disease" is often applied on the basis of assumptions and indirect evidence. So rather than taking statements about autoimmunity at face value, it's worth going a little deeper to better understand this type of immune response and its role in MS.

### DEFINING AUTOIMMUNITY

The immune system is complex, powerful, and versatile. It has to be, given that its function is to help protect us from a wide variety of potentially harmful foreign agents. Normally, the full power of the immune system is not unleashed against our own tissues, which is good because such an action would significantly impair the functioning of whatever tissue is targeted. (Just think of how efficiently the immune system can disable transplanted organs if the right immunosuppressive drugs aren't given!)

However, just as any physiological system is subject to failure, it is possible that the immune system could somehow go astray and attack one or more body tissues to cause a disease. One example of an autoimmune disease is experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE), a demyelinating disease resembling MS that can be induced in rodents and non-human primates. In EAE, activated T cells specifically target myelin fragments (antigens) in the central nervous system, resulting in inflammatory lesions similar to those found in MS.

Proving that a disease is caused by autoimmunity requires a great deal of rigor. Simply finding individual cells capable of targeting self-antigens isn't enough – even healthy people harbor these cells but somehow they are normally kept in check and do not lead to disease. First, the damage produced in the disease must be shown to result from the activities of immune cells or molecules. Second, the target of these cells or molecules must be shown to be a self-antigen rather than a foreign antigen. Therefore, an inflammatory immune response to a bacterial infection that results in a lesion would not be an autoimmune reaction, because self-molecules are not the primary target. The autoimmune basis of EAE was proven by showing that the transfer of myelin-reactive T cells from an animal with EAE is sufficient to induce the disease in a previously healthy animal. Naturally,

this type of experiment cannot be conducted on people, which makes demonstrating that a human disease has an autoimmune origin especially difficult.

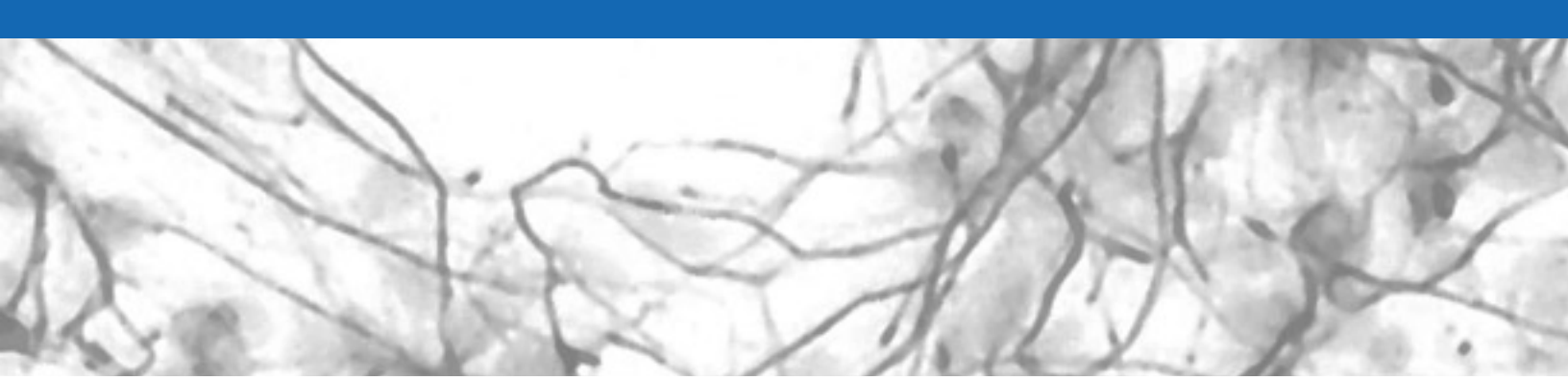
### AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES – A CLASS TO CONTEND WITH

According to the NIH, over 80 diseases are considered "autoimmune," including lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, and type 1 diabetes. However, due to experimental, not to mention ethical obstacles, it is usually difficult to prove that a disease meets the strict definition of autoimmunity as given above. Therefore, the term "autoimmune disease" is more a label than a rigorous definition. These diseases are presumed to be autoimmune on the basis of indirect or circumstantial evidence, such as the increased presence of autoreactive antibodies or T cells or inflammatory factors in the vicinity of the damaged area. For example, lupus is considered an autoimmune disease because it is characterized by the build-up of immune complexes containing autoantibodies and self-molecules in the affected tissues.

Autoimmune diseases can either affect a single organ (such as Graves' disease, which affects the thyroid gland), or have a more systemic effect (such as scleroderma, which can affect multiple tissues such as the skin, kidneys, and heart). These diseases often share a number of clinical characteristics, which further supports their being grouped together. For instance, most are chronic diseases, many affect more females than males, and many tend to manifest themselves in adulthood.

Proceeding on the assumption that a faulty, self-targeting immune system and not some other chronic factor is responsible for these diseases, scientists are trying to determine the series of events that lead to the initiation of autoimmunity. One theory is that autoimmunity can be triggered by a foreign antigen, such as a viral or bacterial protein, that resembles a self-antigen. The antibodies and T cells that bind to the foreign antigen also bind to the self-antigen and continue to target it even after the foreign antigen has been eliminated. As an example, it is thought that rheumatic fever is caused by antibodies generated to fight a streptococcal infection that are also capable of reacting with heart tissue. Another possible trigger might be an infection that damages the body's tissue, releasing self-antigens that the immune system somehow associates with harm and therefore targets.

Why do certain people develop autoimmune diseases while others in the same environment don't? That isn't well understood, but the tendency of suspected autoimmune diseases



to cluster in families indicates a potential genetic basis. Scientists are now starting to combine data from multiple diseases to see whether there are any “autoimmune genes” that increase risk.

### **IS MS AN AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE?**

As with the other autoimmune diseases listed above, MS has been classified as autoimmune based on circumstantial evidence, the most significant of which is the presence of autoreactive T cells, antibodies and inflammatory proteins in demyelinating lesions. Supporting evidence for autoimmunity in MS is provided by the results of a clinical trial for an altered peptide ligand based on MBP; in this trial, increases in MBP-reactive T cells were linked to increased exacerbations and MRI activity in some participants. Other factors suggesting that MS may be autoimmune include differences in immune system characteristics between people with MS and controls, such as antibodies in the cerebral spinal fluid of people with MS that create oligoclonal bands, and the fact that certain immunomodulatory treatment regimens have been shown to have ameliorate the disease in some way.

However, these indications do not by themselves conclusively prove that MS is the result of a defective immune system. It is possible that the immune responses seen in MS plaques are a secondary response to damage caused by other persistent factors such as toxic agents or pathogens. A study of lesion patterns in MS brain tissue samples found a set of plaques whose features were more characteristic of an oligodendrocyte disorder than an immune attack on myelin. While T cells and macrophages were present in these lesions, they may constitute a response to the damage rather than the primary cause of the damage. MRI and pathological analysis of cortical (gray matter) lesions also suggests that inflammation and cellular infiltration have a reduced significance in these plaques, suggesting that some other factor is responsible for the damage.

Unlike in other autoimmune diseases, no specific immune system characteristic has been identified as a defining presence in MS. For instance, in myasthenia gravis, the majority of people affected have antibodies against the acetylcholine receptor molecule. However, the antibodies found in cerebral spinal fluid in MS do not appear to be specific for one

antigen. Nor has any particular autoreactive T cell or targeted myelin antigen proven to have a strong and consistent association with MS compared with controls. As for the effect of immunomodulatory treatments, the mechanisms by which these treatments exert their benefit are not well-understood and may not necessarily relate to suppression of autoreactive elements. The fact that the pathology of EAE resembles that of MS is often given as evidence that MS is likewise autoimmune in nature, but these are different diseases and may develop via completely different pathways.

### **AUTOIMMUNE OR NOT – DOES IT REALLY MATTER?**

Given that the evidence supporting autoimmunity as the basis of MS is still incomplete, should we call MS an autoimmune disease and does it matter?

On one hand, there are benefits from classifying MS as an autoimmune disease. Grouping it with other diseases that share numerous characteristics may help raise its visibility, under the assumption that there is strength in numbers. It may also draw scientists to explore important disease pathways that MS has in common with other disorders.

On the other hand, applying the label of “autoimmune” may hinder MS research to the extent that it firmly pins the blame on a malfunctioning immune system, and thereby discourages non-immunological lines of inquiry. Given how difficult it would be to obtain classical proof that autoimmunity is

responsible for MS, what may be most helpful in resolving this issue is a better understanding of the events taking place at the onset of the disease and in the formation of new lesions. Studies that follow and analyze people at risk of developing MS may identify changes in the immune system or other areas that precede the onset of MS. Further studies of brain and spinal cord tissue as well as advanced imaging techniques that let us track the presence of individual cells and molecules at different points in time will also be instrumental in determining the sequences of events that take place in the central nervous system in MS. With this information, we may finally understand the true role of autoimmunity in MS and be much better equipped to conquer this disease.

**Just as any physiological system is subject to failure, it is possible that the immune system could somehow go astray and attack one or more body tissues to cause a disease.**

# CURE MAP UPDATE

We are close to completing Phase 2 of the Genetics track of the Cure Map. There is one more document in review, two being finalized, and only one more to be written. We held a seminar reviewing our results to date regarding MS genetics. The materials from that class are available in the "Past Events" section of our web site. As we complete the documents for the Cure Map, we post them at [www.bostoncure.org/curemap/docs.php](http://www.bostoncure.org/curemap/docs.php).

Our large-scale, multidisciplinary blood, tissue, and data bank is also moving forward. We have completed the con-

tent, layout, and formatting of the questionnaire and other forms for our study. Our application to the Institutional Review Board of our first site, the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, has just been completed and will have been submitted for approval by the time you receive this newsletter.

Assuming our application is accepted, we will negotiate a contract with the hospital and will then be able to begin recruiting people to participate. We will make announcements through our email mailing list as these steps take place.

## CONGRATULATIONS CORNER

Congratulations to Anthony O'Shea for winning the heart of our own Melissa Baker, Boston Cure Project's Development Manager. Melissa and Anthony were married in Tralee, Ireland, on August 30th. Our best wishes to the happy couple!



Newlyweds Anthony & Melissa O'Shea in Tralee, Ireland  
(Photo by Art Mellor)

More happy tidings: congratulations to Brian Del Vecchio and Theresa Hahn on their new precious package: beautiful Renata Isabella Del Vecchio, born August 19th!



Theresa Hahn & her *gioiello bello*, Renata Isabella Del Vecchio  
(Photo by Brian Del Vecchio)

### VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are a precious resource! These generous folks have been giving their time to Boston Cure Project in late Summer/early Fall.

#### VOLUNTEER STAFF

Debbie Mellor – *Contributor Acquisition*  
Susan Mellor – *Administrative Assistant*  
Stephanie Sisto – *Intern*

#### ADVISORS

Ralph & Freda Warrington

#### CUT-A-THON

Amanda Arter  
Becca  
Briezy Bessell  
Carly  
Diane Carrara  
Joy Franks  
Pasquale Giovanni  
Melody Gonzalez  
Brian Hamilton

Janelle Hamilton  
Johnny Higgins  
Lori Holloran  
Arthur & Phyllis Kaplan  
Nancy Kaplan  
Patrice LaFont  
Michael Leite  
Debbie Mellor  
Sue Mellor

Mary Ann Nordwall  
Anthony O'Shea  
Anna Peabody  
George Peabody  
Katie Peabody  
Orania Wolf

#### MS SOCIAL

Jen Downing  
Stephanie Sisto  
Alan Weinberg

#### BOSTON CURE PARTY

Lisa Desautels  
Aaron Donaghey  
Stephanie Forrand  
Debbie Mellor  
Liz Novack

#### DIAGNOSIS BROCHURE

Elizabeth Dean-Clower

Robin Dolan  
Molly Corbett  
David Flannery  
Dr. Maggie Harling  
David Holzman  
Cynthia King  
Kelly McGowan.  
Dr. Lisa Paine  
David Shute

#### FITSENSE SENSE OF PURPOSE PROGRAM

Tom Blackadar/Fitsense  
Mike Ervolini  
Mike Frech  
Billy Harless  
Father Bernard Marton

#### JULY APPEAL

Brian Mellor  
Sue Mellor  
Amanda Rossi  
Lynn Vesey

#### NEWSLETTER

Savannah Bashaw  
Marcie Lascher  
Sue Mellor  
Krista Milne  
Nikki Rivera

#### APF RAFFLE

Bill Babcock  
Tom Blackadar  
Steve Bowler  
David Dines  
Keff Dolan  
Rob Donaldson  
Brian Doniger  
Rob Drake  
Tracey Estabrook  
Glen Glater  
Jill Graynor  
Janelle Hamilton  
Maggie Harling  
Adam Hayes  
Lew Hollerbach  
David Isenberg  
Rosalind Joffe  
Arthur and Phyllis Kaplan  
Laura Kesser  
Paul Lynch  
Kim Lytle  
Harvey Mades  
Ruth Mades  
Jill McGaffigan  
Brian Mellor  
Debbie Mellor (also Teva event)  
Sue Mellor  
Krista Milne  
Joanne Minassian

Julia Montgomery  
Charlie Namias  
The Peabody-Kaplan Family  
Lorraine Peabody  
Greg Pelosi  
Jill Renwick  
Stephanie Sisto  
Ru Sweeney  
Mark Tavitian  
Amanda Viciana  
H. Daniel Way

#### SING TO CURE MS

Nancy Burstein  
Marion Leeds  
Carroll  
Randi Kestin  
David Schreiber

#### SLOAN TIGER TEAM

John Capello  
Emeka B. Iffih  
Jeff Kim

#### SCAVENGER HUNT

Debbie Mellor  
Sue Mellor  
Lisa Sargeant

#### OTHER

Keith Bregman & Lauren Blankstein (*wedding favors*)  
Nancy Costello

(*halloween party*)  
Mark Halliday (*Solicitation Video*)  
Chris Harding (*PSA Contacts*)  
Bill Herron (*Database Transfer Project*)  
Rosalind Joffe (*State by state membership drive*)  
Gary Magnant (*Personal Appeal*)  
Krista Milne (*PR*)  
Karla Nelson (*halloween party*)  
Sujit Purkayastha (*Cure Map & India group set-up*)  
Leora Schiff (*MS & Genetics Seminar*)  
Stephanie Sisto (*NMSS Research Spending Analysis & MS Social*)  
Belinda Vandervoort (*Drug Treatments for MS Mapping*)

## BOSTON CURE PROJECT FOR MS: HEADLINE NEWS *By Krista Milne*

Cranking up its educational and fundraising activities, the Boston Cure Project launched several fun firsts that caught the attention of the media.

The Boston Cure Project/Fitsense “Sense of Purpose” program gained huge momentum as both Father Bernard Marton and Billy Harless crossed finish lines to fund MS research. Father Marton recently completed the Chicago Marathon, and news coverage of his efforts appeared in the *Dallas Morning News* and the *Texas Catholic*. Articles on Billy Harless’ efforts, (who headlined in our Summer newsletter) appeared in *Mslog.com* and various local Virginia newspapers. Want to show appreciation for these runners’ ongoing efforts? You can send a contribution to the Boston Cure Project via US mail or online.

This October we “Teed-off to Cure MS” at the award-winning *Pine Hills Country Club*. News on the Tee-off appeared in: *The Boston Globe*, *Yahoo! Finance*, the *Newton Tab*, the *Brookline Tab*, the *Eagle Tribune*, the *Concord Journal*, 95.9 WATD, and MSFYI. News on “Sing to Cure MS,” a classical concert with a Halloween theme, appeared in the *Arlington Advocate*, the *Beacon*, the *Longwood Opera website* and in other classical media.

The *Concord/Acton Beacon* also featured Anna Peabody, an individual with MS and a Boston Cure Project volunteer. Art Mellor was featured in a summer edition of *Bio-IT World* for his entrepreneurial expertise put to use in co-founding the Boston Cure Project for Multiple Sclerosis.

Thanks in advance for forwarding me any Boston Cure Project news you see, [kmilne@bostoncure.org](mailto:kmilne@bostoncure.org)

## SCIENTIFIC BOARD OF ADVISORS PROFILE: DR. DAVID SIMON



Scientific Board Member  
Dr. David Simon

Dr. David Simon (M.D., Ph.D.) is an assistant professor of neurology at the Harvard Medical School and a staff physician at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC). Dr. Simon received his Bachelor’s degree in biology from Johns Hopkins University and his graduate degrees from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He is a member of the American Academy of Neurology, the American Society for Human Genetics, the Mitochondria Research Society, and several other societies.

### Reason for joining Boston Cure Project Scientific Advisory Board:

I am very impressed with Art Mellor and the entire group of people involved in starting the Boston Cure Project. I support their approach of a methodical evaluation of existing MS research data in order to identify those areas in need of further attention. The current project to establish a blood, tissue, and data bank will create an immensely useful resource for future MS research.

### What prompted you to enter the medical profession?

I am amazed at how the brain works, and what can happen

when it fails. Combining clinical neurology with laboratory research has allowed me to try to help patients using existing therapies, and to work towards the development of improved treatment options in the future.

### What are you working on right now and why?

My work focuses on the role of mitochondrial dysfunction and acquired mitochondrial DNA mutations in aging and in Parkinson’s disease. I also study genetic factors that may play a role in susceptibility to developing Parkinson’s disease, and I’m involved in clinical trials to identify agents that may slow the progression of Parkinson’s disease.

### What one thing would you most like to figure out?

How to stop the progression of Parkinson’s disease, ideally through mechanisms that could be applicable to other neurodegenerative diseases as well.

### What is your favorite thing to do when you’re not working?

Play with my kids, Jessica (7 years old) and Benjamin (2 years old).

### What is your favorite movie and why?

Dr. Strangelove. It’s a great film in every respect, and addresses issues that continue to resurface in new ways over time.

## Volunteer information, continued

Ralph & Freda Warrington  
*(Personal Appeal)*  
Kevin Wood *(Entelos Project)*

**COMPANIES CONTRIBUTING GOODS OR SERVICES:**  
Acme Foods *(Cuts for a Cure)*

Backstage Café *(Cuts for a Cure)*  
Clockwork Design Group, Inc. *(design)*  
Echo Engineering *(database construction)*

The Ghent Studio of Fine Art *(Cuts for a Cure)*  
Herb Connolly  
Acura, Framingham  
Mail Perfect, Inc. *(mailing services)*

Verizon *(non-profit training funding)*  
Yorgo’s Bageldashery *(Cuts for a Cure)*

If for any reason you’ve been left off this list in error, please let us know so we can include you in our next issue!



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Fax: 781-788-8118  
[www.bostoncure.org](http://www.bostoncure.org)  
[newsletter@bostoncure.org](mailto:newsletter@bostoncure.org)

Have you moved?  
Changed your email  
address? Let us know!  
Send changes in  
contact information to  
[newsletter@bostoncure.org](mailto:newsletter@bostoncure.org)  
or give us a call at  
781-788-0880!

### Change Service Requested

#### ABOUT MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Multiple Sclerosis is a chronic neuro-degenerative disorder of the central nervous system that often results in severe disability including the inability to walk, blindness, cognitive dysfunction, extreme fatigue and other serious effects. MS affects over 400,000 people in the US and 2 million individuals worldwide. The disorder occurs twice as often in women as in men. The cause is not known and there is no known cure.

#### CONTRIBUTE TO BOSTON CURE PROJECT:

**By Check:** make checks payable to Boston Cure Project, Inc., and mail to:

*Boston Cure Project, 13 Belton St. Arlington, MA 02474*

**By Credit Card:** on [www.bostoncure.org](http://www.bostoncure.org), click on the "Contribute" box at the top of the page and follow instructions under the heading "Donations by Credit Card."

**Volunteer Today:** See [www.bostoncure.org](http://www.bostoncure.org) for volunteer opportunities, or call at 781-788-0880, or email at [newsletter@bostoncure.org](mailto:newsletter@bostoncure.org).

**Want a Boston Cure Project T-Shirt?** For any donation of \$25 or more, we will send you a t-shirt upon request. If you offer to send us a picture of yourself in one of our t-shirts at some unusual locale, we'll send you one for free! **Please remember to indicate t-shirt size when making your request.**

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Go to [www.bostoncure.org](http://www.bostoncure.org). Click the "Sign Up" box at the top of the page and follow instructions. You may also unsubscribe using this contact information. **The lists are:**

**bcp-announce** Occasional announcements regarding events, important news, new mailing lists, etc.

**bcp-status** Monthly, more detailed updates of what we have been doing on a regular basis. Includes more information on our week-to-week operations.

**bcp-volunteer** Sign up for this list if you would like to volunteer. We'll contact you as volunteering opportunities arise.

#### MS NEWS WEB SITE: PRODUCED BY BOSTON CURE PROJECT

MS News is the first interactive online source of MS-related news and research updates. MSNews provides a place for the MS community – individuals with Multiple Sclerosis, family members, clinicians, scientists and others to read and submit the latest news and research updates, participate in discussions on MS topics, and stay up-to-date on the issues that affect them most. Available free of charge by visiting [msnews.bostoncure.org](http://msnews.bostoncure.org).

#### Have you moved? Changed your email address?

Let us know! Send changes in contact information to [newsletter@bostoncure.org](mailto:newsletter@bostoncure.org) or give us a call at 781-788-0880!

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