CFA Founder Passes Away

If you have been associated with CFA for very long, you have probably heard the name of Frank Mattern. You may be familiar with the name Tom Mattern as well.

Frank was Tom’s father; and Tom is a large part of the reason CFA exists as a charitable non-profit dedicated to helping young North Dakota people with cystic fibrosis.

When Tom was born and diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, Frank and his wife did what many parents in their shoes have done; they set out to learn as much as possible about their son’s disease. The fact that the medical community told them CF was incurable did not deter Frank. He was a visionary and probably could be described as a little “head-strong.”

Frank’s vision was to help Tom and others with CF to live the best quality of life they could provide and to extend their lives as long as possible. He knew that families trying to fight the battle on their own could not provide the help that might become available if families in the same situation combined their efforts. So he found others in the same “boat” and decided to start a charitable non-profit to help accomplish those goals. Thus began the Cystic Fibrosis Association of North Dakota.

Frank dedicated much of his life’s energy to making sure CFA continued to grow and provide assistance to those who had family members with cystic fibrosis. Unfortunately Tom preceded his father in passing, but not before becoming a lawyer and serving as North Dakota Elections Officer in the Secretary of State’s Office in Bismarck.

Tom passed in 1995. Although Frank’s active participation in the Association had diminished, his interest in “how things are going” continued even though others had stepped forward to serve on the board, to continue CFA fundraising and to direct and oversee the assistance he initiated through CFA program services.

Frank passed away after a courageous battle with cancer on July 17, 2011. He left a family that misses him dearly. He left a charitable non-profit that has assisted so many young North Dakotans with cystic fibrosis through CFA’s medications policy, medical equipment policy, scholarship policy, lung transplantation policy, support group and educational meetings, and more.

Through his efforts, he left us with a legacy to continue and to fulfill. Frank, we’re going to miss you; but now you have time (a lot of time) to spend with Tom, enjoying an eternity with each other where disease can no longer interfere. Well done, Frank, well done.
Golfers were greeted with a virtually windless, cloudless, mid-80’s day on August 5 at the Meadows Golf Course for the 16th Annual Fargo/Moorhead CFA Golf Classic. Thanks to the efforts of Golf Committee co-chairs, David and Lisa Backlund and a great group of volunteers, the number of teams increased from last year, as did the number of tee-box sponsors.

Donors to the event allowed us to continue what has become a tradition for the tournament; all twenty-five teams won prizes. Although those teams that placed higher in the standings naturally received more valuable prizes, everyone went home with some form of recognition for their valuable participation in this event.

Our volunteers were successful in rounding up a considerable cache of items for the raffles which follow the post-tournament meal. Everything from signed sports memorabilia, to large patio heaters, to art prints, to tools and jewelry was available for those taking part in the raffles. Young volunteers, Sophie Backlund and Maria Wharam delighted the golfers as they presented each winner with their prize.

The corporate and other team sponsors must be recognized for their continued support of the programs funded through this golf tournament. We encourage you to note the sponsors on the tournament poster shown below, and to thank them for their support through your patronage and by voicing your thanks.

Cancer Claims a Special Friend of CFA

Diane (Helbling) Koenig of Mandan, ND, passed away on Sunday, June 26, 2011, at the Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Zion, Illinois. Diane has been a long-time supporter of CFA and young people with cystic fibrosis. During CFA’s relationship with Diane, she did much to help with CFA fundraisers, especially the Bismarck/Mandan CFA Golf Classic. Diane also helped CFA through her business.

Diane will certainly be missed by her family, and all with whom she came into contact. Her willingness to help in whatever way she could and her positive role in accomplishing whatever the goal, made her a cherished and worthy helper and friend. Part of her commitment to fighting cystic fibrosis was because she has two nephews (Dillan Helbling and Preston Helbling) and a niece (Abigail Helbling) with the disease.

We thank you, Diane, for all you have done to help young North Dakota people with cystic fibrosis.
Our thanks are again extended for the ongoing giving taking place by area citizens that help us to provide the programs serving our young members with cystic fibrosis. Ongoing research continues to produce pharmaceuticals that treat the symptoms of cystic fibrosis. Research costs money and the drug companies recoup their investment by charging significant amounts for effective medications. One of our program services is to help pay the uninsured costs associated with the constant daily regimen of medications taken by young people with cystic fibrosis. Donations to CFA help us to provide this service to our members.

Jettison of Williston donated $300 toward CFA program services. Another $2,500 was received from the Duska LaCount Annuity. The efforts of Anne Helbling, the Aetna Foundation contributed another $130 to assist in the cost of fighting cystic fibrosis.

... Thank You, Gaylen!

Most donations received and mentioned here refer to donations of financial resources. There are other types of donations, of course, and many volunteers assist CFA in accomplishing the mission of helping young people in their fight against cystic fibrosis. One of those whose consistent donation of time and talent has extended for the past 23 years is Gaylen Marzolf. Many of those 23 years, Gaylen spent serving as board president.

Board members are expected to attend monthly meetings during their tenure on the board. They also help by volunteering for special events that bring in financial resources to support CFA program services. As board president, there are many occasions when the time of that person, simply because of the position they hold on the board, is more in demand than any other of the board members. They spend more time with staff discussing many issues that may not require board action, but need the insight of the board president. Gaylen has done that for CFA for all those years.

He recently decided not to run for reelection to the board so as to allow more time for his job and his personal life. He has certainly earned a respite from the duties he carried on in serving CFA. Thank you, Gaylen!

... August 13, 2011 – The Captain’s Cabin in Washburn is again sponsoring the 7th Annual Captain’s Cabin CFA Bike Run. The sign-up for the run begins at 10:00 AM at the Captain’s Cabin. The Run begins at Noon, and will return to the Captain’s Cabin for a barbeque, refreshments and live music from 8:30 to 11:00 PM.

... Foundations, service clubs, corporations, cooperatives, local businesses, public employees, schools, families and individuals recognize the importance of helping young people with cystic fibrosis. Your creative methods of remembering young people with cystic fibrosis are much appreciated. We will continue to help them – with your assistance. Thank you to all!

Don’t forget that donations may also be made at www.cfanorthdakota.com.

Memorials

Giving a memorial is a special way of remembering and honoring someone who has made a difference in your life, and has now passed on. The idea of helping someone else by honoring the memory of another, extends the positive impact of their lives in our world, even though they are no longer physically here with us. Our thanks to those who remember…and to those they remembered.

Pam Wohlwend in memory of Lloyd Randklev
Dean & Ardella Deis in memory of Maggy Weisbeck
Joanne Brown in memory of Frank Mattern
Rosalie Fried in memory of Frank Mattern
Milan & Olivia Ganser in memory of Frank Mattern
Jerry & Candace Eldridge in memory of Frank Mattern
Joel & Donna Fricke in memory of Frank Mattern

James & Nadeane Silbermangel in memory of Frank Mattern
Lori & Brian Baglien in memory of Frank Mattern
Dean & Sylvia Fatland in memory of their daughter, Jan

The following made donations in memory of Diane Koenig:
Jill Hertz, Tim & Carol Cristilli, Al & Lyn Bjornson, Keith & Ladonna Olson, Derril & Anne Dehne, Heinrich & Suzanne Brucker, Donald & Estella Shaw, Steven & Nancy Nardello, V.A. Hertz, Bradley & Judy Charnholm, Michael & Sheryl Massey, Justin Hartwig, Jay & Linda Skabo, Employees of Stage Stop Lounge.
Dedicated to Frank Mattern

Science Daily (Apr. 10, 2011) - The bacterium, called *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, is the most common cause of persistent and fatal lung infections in cystic fibrosis patients. Scientists at Liverpool identified a particularly virulent strain of the bacteria that is transmissible between patients. The Liverpool Epidemic Strain (LES), referred to as a cystic fibrosis ‘superbug’, can cause aggressive infection and results in progressive lung decline.

The team from the University’s Institute of Infection and Global Health took samples from patient sputum and cough swabs to understand why the infection is so aggressive in people with cystic fibrosis. They found that during chronic infections the bacteria has the ability to mutate rapidly, resulting in huge diversity. Tests also show that the bacteria produce a molecule that could be the trigger for episodes of acute infection in patients.

Dr. Craig Winstanley, member of the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) at Liverpool, explains; “Patients with LES need to be separated from others in hospitals, so that infection does not spread between cystic fibrosis patients on wards. Once established, these chronic infections can never be cleared. We found that the bacteria have the ability to diversify into hundreds of distinct sub-types, making it very difficult to decide which antibiotic to use for a successful outcome.”

“Weing the latest DNA technology we have the unique opportunity to study the behavior of bacteria during chronic infection in real time. This will allow us to get a clearer picture of how it adapts so efficiently to cystic fibrosis patients. If we can understand how and why it behaves the way that it does we may be able to target more effective treatments for the infection.”

Working with scientists at the University’s Centre for Genomic Research, the team will use new DNA sequencing technology to read the genetic code of the infection. The first of its kind in the UK, the machine works 250,000 times faster than technology used to sequence the human genome 10 years ago.

Dr. Steve Paterson, from the University’s Institute of Integrative Biology, said: “Each cystic fibrosis patient can be infected with a diverse population of bacteria and it is therefore essential to test samples of the disease from a number of patients in order to understand how it evolves. The technology we are using can read 30 billion letters of DNA sequence per day, compared to four billion using current machines. It will allow us to investigate the mutations of the infection in precise detail, giving us valuable information about the progress of this serious medical condition.”

The research is funded by the Wellcome Trust.

*The above story is reprinted (with editorial adaptations by ScienceDaily staff) from materials provided by University of Liverpool, via Eurekalert!, a service of AAAS. The article was found at http://www.sciencedaily.com.*

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**Birthdays**

**August**
- Carly Buchanan 8/10
- Chelsey Smedsrud 8/11
- Cody Mills 8/16
- David Goroski 8/18
- Dan Alexander 8/20
- Katherine Wangler 8/20
- Michael Barth 8/21
- Lily Stroup 8/26
- Cierra Horning 8/27

**September**
- Vicki Zacher 9/6
- Dillan Helbling 9/8
- Shayne Haustveit 9/19
- Michel Crawford 9/20
- Erik Swenson 9/20
- Daviney McKay 9/27
- Ty Mills 9/28