

# ABCF MESSENGER

## Official Newsletter of the American Boxer Charitable Foundation

July 2015



### **CELEBRATING 20 YEARS**

**William C. Truesdale, DVM**  
*President*

**Joyce Baker Brown,**  
*Treasurer*  
*Newsletter Editor*

**Connie Haywood,**  
*Secretary*

**Sharon Steckler**  
*Legal Counsel*  
*Assistant Treasurer*

**Bobbi Compton**  
*Membership Chairperson*

**Nadine Kuhlemeier**  
*Auction Chairperson*

**Sharon Fosseen**  
*Director of Donor Relations*

**Vickie Rounsaville-Millard**  
*Webmaster*

**John and Carole Connolly,**  
**Robert D. Conrad DVM,**  
**PhD; Bruce & Jeanne**  
**Korson, Founders**

### **Trustees:**

*Ann B. Anderson, Bliss*  
*Bancroft, Pat Billhardt, Mary*  
*Frances Burleson, Joyce*  
*Campbell DVM, Fran*  
*Davidson, James Eden, Dr.*  
*Cal Gruver, Tracy*  
*Hendrickson, James Kilman,*  
*MD, Eileen McClintock,*  
*Robert Oliver, MD., Sandy*  
*Orr, Kimberly Pastella-*  
*Calvacca, Cheryl Robbins,*  
*Marjorie Ross, Lawrence*  
*Sinclair, Carole Stein, Tina*  
*Truesdale, Judy Voran*

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

This year represents the 20th anniversary since the inception of the American Boxer Charitable Foundation. The history on the formation of the Foundation dates back to 1994. At the time, the then ABC President, John Connolly, realized that active members of the Club had received tremendous accolades from their Boxers, and that it was time to "give back through health research." He appointed a small committee consisting of himself, his wife, Carole, Dr. Robert Conrad, and Bruce and Jeanne Korson to formulate a framework. (This small group ended up being Founders of ABCF). If needed, the ABC Board offered \$500 in financial backing from the American Boxer Club to form this entity. As it turned out the \$500 was not needed. The ABC membership took on the challenge with full financial backing.

The American Boxer Charitable Foundation is one of the most successful Canine Foundations. The ABC membership was and is pivotal in achieving this success. Twenty years after its inception, by the end of 2014, the Foundation remains representative of the Breed having donated more money for health research than any other AKC breed! We have donated in excess of \$1,177,130. We should be very proud of this accomplishment!

Research funded to date include Cardiomyopathy, Degenerative Myelopathy, Cancers (including Hemangiosarcoma, Lymphoma, Osteosarcoma, Mast Cell Tumors, Brain Neoplasia, and soft tissue Sarcomas), Kidney Disease, Cryptorchidism, Hypothyroid disease, IBD and Stem Cell, to name but a few. Our work is not finished. Since we have contributed to these Grants, we must remain patient and diligent in our pursuit of continued and future research.

There are three new Grants that were processed in 2014:

Degenerative Myelopathy	\$254,077
Cardiology and Thyroid	\$ 73,343
Ophthalmology	\$ 27,201

My tenure as Director of the AKC/CHF expired in March 2015, a position which I served for twelve years. However, I remain a member of the Grants Committee. The AKC/CHF nominating committee has nominated to their Board Mrs. Zoila (Tina) Truesdale. Mrs. Truesdale is a director of the ABCF, and a long-time advocate of the ABCF and its association with the AKC/Canine Health Foundation. Tina is passionate about Canine health and the ABCF, and I believe she will represent the Foundation well on the AKC/CHF Board.

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Many thanks to the numerous committee chairs, volunteers and donors who have contributed to the cause and the mission of the Foundation. It is clearly evident that these folks have done a masterful job of furthering health research for the Breed.

In closing, I would like to reflect back on our history. We as a group have pushed forward in the pursuit of a healthier Boxer. In doing so we are advancing the possibility of a One Health Mission. Our contribution to canine health research is helping to define the understanding of how we live in coexistence with our canine companions. We share many of the same diseases; therefore, when we research for one, it is beneficial for the other. With that premise in mind, let us move forward with our efforts to secure a better World Health for man and dog!

Respectfully,

William Truesdale D.V.M.  
President, ABCF

### **RESEARCH INFORMATION FROM THE ABCF BOARD MEETING**

#### **Health and Research**

Dr. Campbell reported that Drs. Coates and Lindblad-Toh were very hopeful of being close to an extraordinary breakthrough in their DM research. Dr. Buchwald was kind enough to summarize a trial in the process of being conducted, and the report is attached.

Dr. Truesdale reported that the AKC CHF has lost their chief research officer, leaving the assignment of Donor Advised Funds ineffective and inefficient. There is a definite lack of administration and a strong necessity for reorganization. In addition, the AKC is pulling back funds from the CHF and is no longer matching or managing funds. Further, the CHF charges ABCF an administrative fee of 20% to participate.

An alternative might be to collaborate with one or two other health research active breed clubs to support a cancer study currently ongoing at the University of Minnesota with Dr. Modiano in collaboration with the Broad Institute and Dr. Lindblad-Toh. This study is discussed in an article in the May issue of Boxer Daily by Sherry Buchla, a must-read. A check-list is being developed of signs to look for, particularly with regard to lymphoma and hemangiosarcoma which should be made available to all club secretaries. Further, Dr. Modiano's research is in need of tissue samples of affected dogs. He is hopeful of developing a tissue bank.

#### **A NOTE FROM DR. MODIANO**

Ongoing work in the Modiano Lab and the Animal Cancer Care and Research Program of the University of Minnesota includes basic and clinical research projects in cancer and immune mediated diseases. Our work in hemangiosarcoma, lymphoma, osteosarcoma, and cancer immunotherapy is meant to understand the most basic properties that are responsible for the biological and clinical behavior of these diseases, as well as applications that use the immune system to treat cancer. Projects include studies that are unique to the University of Minnesota, as well as collaborative studies with various groups at other institutions focused on genetics, pathology, immunology, and molecular cancer biology.

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Samples needed for basic research projects, and current eligibility can be found in the Modiano Lab website ([http://www.modiolanlab.org/studyInfo/studyInfo\\_index.shtml](http://www.modiolanlab.org/studyInfo/studyInfo_index.shtml)). Participation is open to eligible dogs from any breed, including boxers.

A clinical trial evaluating a totally new targeted therapy for hemangiosarcoma is in progress. Preliminary results were reported at the American Association for Cancer Research, and enrollment continues. Information about this trial, a poster documenting the preliminary results, and the requirements for participation can be found in the website for the Clinical Investigation Center (CIC) of the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota (<http://www.cvm.umn.edu/cic/current/oncology/home.html#SRCBST>). Participation is open to eligible dogs from any breed, including boxers. The CIC will have the most updated information for clinical trials in cancer and other diseases, including anticipated trials for osteosarcoma, diabetes, and lymphoma.

Results from this combined basic and clinical work formed the basis for the new MEDTECH project for early detection and prophylaxis of canine hemangiosarcoma, which will have a principal focus on boxers, golden retrievers, and Portuguese Water Dogs. More information about this study will be available in a forthcoming newsletter.

### **FROM THE TREASURER**

Members are critical to the ongoing success of any organization. Your annual membership not only provides financial support but a list of supports that deserve recognition and gives us an opportunity to contact and update those with an interest in supporting the health of the breed through supported research.

This year our membership dues accounted for \$ 14,175

ABC -- \$5,000

TOP TWENTY -- \$5,000

AUCTION DINNER, AUCTION AND FUNDRAISING AT THE ABC -- \$47,166

GEORGIA BUCHLA CANCER FUND RAISED -- \$24,443

CALENDAR -- \$2,741

ENDOWMENTS, MEMORIALS AND KUDOS -- \$39,457

We wish to thank all those members who went above and beyond in holding independent fundraising events: online auction, raffles at shows, club activities, calendar sales, t-shirt sales among them. Special thank you to Teri Underhill for acting as fundraising coordinator this year.

Once the Grants for 2015 are formally decided we will update the membership.