

E-News & Updates

September 30, 2011

Navigating Through New Found Energy and Passion at 2011 Annual Meeting to Advocate for SCA



There were tears, laughs, reflections and energy flowing at the 2011 SCAA Annual Meeting, September 23-25 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. As delegates embraced survivors and those who lost loved ones to cardiac arrest, SCAA ignited a new sense of purpose and energy to developing a national response to SCA survival. SCAA launched several exciting new programs, including "Keep it Beating," a CPR/AED Training course for high school students. "Keep it Beating" is a partnership between SCAA and Philips. Project "C.O.P.E." is another educational initiave on post SCA recovery psychosocial challenges for survivors, family members, responders and healthcare professionals. SCAA is working with Sam Sears, PhD, an expert in the link between cardiology and psychology to produce resources and materials on a subject that, up to now, has received little attention in medical literature. Additionally, SCAA published "First on the Scene," an advocacy toolkit to engage first responders across the country in SCA awareness

and action.

The SCA Survivor & Heroes Celebration featured personal presentations from four SCA survivors and recognition of emergency responders, both of which drew the crowd of over 200 to its feet. Corporate citizens, nonprofit organizations, medical institutions and other community groups were highlighted at the Awards Dinner for their efforts in addressing SCA and increasing its survival. Specific awards were presented to the Billings Clinic Community Training Center, Cargill, Mdewakanton Shakopee Sioux Community, Mikey Network, Minneapolis Heart Institute at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, The Walt Disney Company and SCAA Board members Linda Campbell, RN and Sue Rusche. For more details, please visit the Annual Meeting Web page, which is updated daily with images and information capturing the scenes from Minneapolis!

Take a Stand Against SCA: Join Organizations To Raise Awareness During National SCA Month



Nearly 300,000 people die from SCA each year, and many of these deaths could be easily prevented. October is National SCA Awareness Month. Show your support and Act for Change all month long!

Join the SCA Coalition on October 26, 2011, along with members of Congress and legislative aides to learn the basics of <u>Hands Only CPR and AED Use</u>. The event also features remarks from SCA survivors and takes place at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, DC, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and will also feature remarks from SCA survivors.

If you cannot attend, please urge your member of Congress to attend. It's imperative that they know what we are fighting for and how they can impact survival rates in their own districts. Congress may be divided on a longterm healthcare approach, but this is one area in which both sides of the political

spectrum can create immediate and positive change.

The Shocking Truth! A Kinder, Gentler Jolt to the Heart



While shocks from an AED are the only way to survive cardiac arrest, understandably they can be painful and damage heart muscle. Researchers at Johns Hopkins University set out to identify a kinder, gentler shock. After experimenting with various strategies, they discovered a less-intense high-frequency alternating current that can induce a reversible refractory state that stops arrhythmias. Lab tests were conducted on guinea pigs, mice and rabbits, and researchers are hopeful to soon develop a device for humans. Findings

appear in the journal <u>Science Translational Medicine</u>.

Report: More Discussion Urged on Deactivating Defibrillators at End-of-Life



While battery changes, upgrades and readings are common defibrillator concerns for SCA survivors, deactivating defibrillators is a concern that needs to be addressed more frequently, at least for terminally ill patients, according to a review in the American Journal of Nursing. James E. Russo, MSN, RN, ANP, CCDS, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, New York, NY, led the data review which showed "there are no formal practice protocols to address this scenario." The purpose of the review was to foster better patient-centered, end-of-life care for people with ICDs so that their deaths are not needlessly painful.

Extra! Extra! Read All About SCAA in the News

This week has been a busy one for SCAA National and its chapters. Check out what we've been up to from these media clips:

SCAA Eastern Pennsylvania Honors Local Officer for SCA Save

Lancaster, PA Lancaster Online September 27, 2011

SCAA Seven Rivers Chapter Addresses Media on Bystander Awareness, SCA at Local Parade

LaCrosse, WI LaCrosse Tribune September 27, 2011

AEDs Turn Bystanders Into Lifesavers - SCAA Launches New CPR/AED Training Program

Minneapolis, MN WCCO TV September 23, 2011

Mark Your Calendar and be there with SCAA for these Exciting Events!

National SCA Awareness Month: October 1-31, 2011

NASEMSO Annual Meeting: October 2-7, 2011

"Take a Stand Against SCA": October 26, 2011

Georgia Arrythmia SCARE 5K Run/Walk: October 29, 2011

American Heart Association Scientific Sessions: November 12-16, 2011

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