

October 2017

Power of Giving

Welcome Dr. Oliveria

Seth Oliveria, M.D., Ph.D., joined the Providence Brain and Spine institute in August, thanks to your support and the funds raised at the 2014 Festival of Trees. Dr. Oliveria will be Providence Brain and Spine Institute's first functional neurosurgeon, which means he is trained to provide neuromodulation surgery to our patients. Dr. Oliveria practices with The Oregon Clinic, Neurosurgery group.

Neuromodulation is stimulation of various nerves in the brain, spinal cord, or peripheral nerves to change their activity in order to achieve a therapeutic result. Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) is one type of Neuromodulation and involves delivering an electrical current to deep structures of the brain. DBS has been very effective in the treatment of Parkinson's disease, tremor, and dystonia (a neurological movement disorder).

Funds from the Festival of Trees are being used to establish our Neuromodulation Center. The Center connects our neurosurgeons, neurologists, RN navigators and multi-disciplinary teams to bring comprehensive care for neurological patients. Your generous gifts support the purchase of specific and dedicated operating room equipment as well as key research and clinical care resources so PBSI can participate in leading edge DBS clinical trials.

After earning his medical degree from the University of Colorado, Dr. Oliveria completed his internship and residency at the University of Florida. He has also received fellowship training in Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery at the University of Florida. Dr. Oliveria is board eligible in general cranial and spinal neurosurgery, deep brain stimulation and epilepsy surgery.

Born and raised in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Dr. Oliveria fell in love with both Oregon and his wife while attending undergraduate classes at Linfield College in McMinnville. In his free time, he enjoys backpacking and hiking. ■



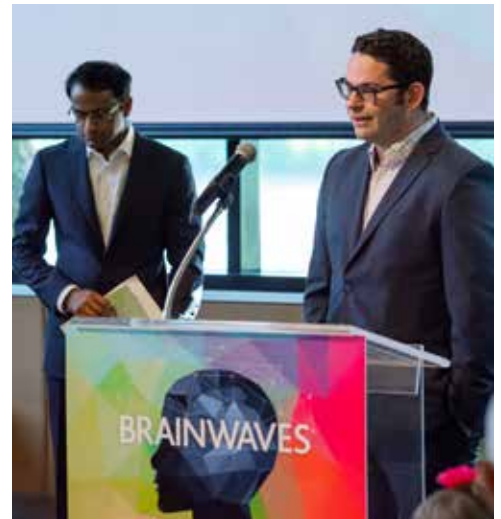


BRAINWAVES

New this year for Providence Brain and Spine Institute was Brainwaves, our first ever signature fundraising event. Held at OMSI, Brainwaves brought together Providence Brain and Spine Institute doctors, researchers and donors for a lively evening of discovery in the neurosciences. Guests learned about their complex brains and how the doctors and scientists find and apply the latest most effective therapies to treat our patients with ALS, brain tumors, dementia, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, stroke, Parkinson's disease and more. ■



Guests try their hand at an endoscopic surgical trainer as Providence Neurosurgeon Jane Ng, M.D. looks on.



Vivek Deshmukh, M.D., Medical Director for Neurosurgery, introduces Seth Oliveria, M.D., Ph.D.



Christine Bloom, RN, talks with visitors to the Cognitive Assessment Clinic's booth.



More than 130 guests learned about Providence Brain and Spine Institute and sampled food and desserts.



PBSI Executive Director Mike Schmitt with longtime donors Bill and Julie Reiersgaard



Longtime supporters Al and Sue Corrado

Designed to kill

It started as a normal day until a sudden, “insane headache” hit Ryan. “It nearly dropped me to the ground. I made what became the most important call of my life: I called 911,” he recalls.

Ryan had a ruptured aneurysm in his brain. He was taken to Providence St. Vincent for surgery to clip it.

“After a long surgical procedure, where I also experienced a stroke, I awoke,” says Ryan. “Aneurysms are designed to kill but I survived. I was a miracle.”

Thanks to your support, we were able to provide Ryan the compassionate care he needed from surgery to recovery to rehab. ■

Can Relaxin Help Control Multiple Sclerosis?

Can the protein Relaxin control multiple sclerosis, a disease of the immune system? This is the question Stanley Cohan, M.D. is investigating, thanks to your support. Relaxin is an immune regulating, naturally produced human protein that is virtually undetectable in a person.

This spring, Phase I testing of Relaxin on laboratory mice successfully ended with our mice tolerating human Relaxin without adverse effects. Phase II, in which Dr. Cohan and his team tested Relaxin on EAE, the animal form of MS, has also been completed and we are awaiting results to move on to the next stage.

“Our center’s growing national and international reputation is a direct result of your generosity,” said Dr. Cohan. “The clinical trials and projects we begin and participate in would not be possible without you.”

Your support brings more effective care and better treatments to our patients. You are providing a vastly improved quality of life for thousands of people in our community who struggle with multiple sclerosis every day. ■



“Our center’s growing national and international reputation is a direct result of your generosity.”

– Stanley Cohan M.D.



Inspiring Generosity ♥

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