



HEMOGRAM

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BLEEDING DISORDERS FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2024



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Staff office hours are Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Every attempt will be made to return calls received during regular office hours on the same day.

MISSION STATEMENT

WPBDF strives to enrich the lives of those with bleeding disorders in Western Pennsylvania and respond to the needs of the community in a dynamic environment.

Hemogram is published quarterly by the Western Pennsylvania Bleeding Disorders Foundation. The material in this newsletter is provided for your general information only. WPBDF does not give medical advice or engage in the practice of medicine. WPBDF under no circumstances recommends particular treatments, and always recommends that you consult your physician or treatment center before pursuing any course of treatment.

DESIGNATE UNITED WAY GIFTS TO THE CHAPTER

If your company is participating in the United Way campaign, you may designate all or a portion of your gift to the Foundation.

WPBDF Contributor Agency Code Number is: 83

EVENTS CALENDAR

July 18

WPBDF Annual Meeting
 Top Golf
 Bridgeville, PA

July 28 - August 2

Camp Hot-to-Clot
 Camp Kon-o-Kwee Spencer
 Fombell, PA

August 1

Back to School Program
 Grand Concourse
 Pittsburgh, PA

August 10

New Parent Network Picnic
 Idlewild
 Ligonier, PA

September 12-14

NBDF's Bleeding Disorders
 Conference
 Atlanta, GA

September 21

Unite for Bleeding
 Disorders Walk
 Run For Their Lives 5k
 Cornhole Tournament
 North Park, PA

October 5

Fall Program
 Ambassador Banquet and
 Conference Center
 Erie, PA

November 1-3

Teen Retreat
 Promise Camp
 Clinton, PA

November 16

Take A Bough
 Red Fox Winery
 Hickory, PA

December 7

Winterfest
 Dave & Busters
 Homestead, PA

February 16, 2025

Bowling for Bleeding
 Disorders
 Paradise Island Bowl
 Pittsburgh, PA

March 5-7, 2025

NBDF's Washington Days
 Washington D.C.

March 27-29, 2025

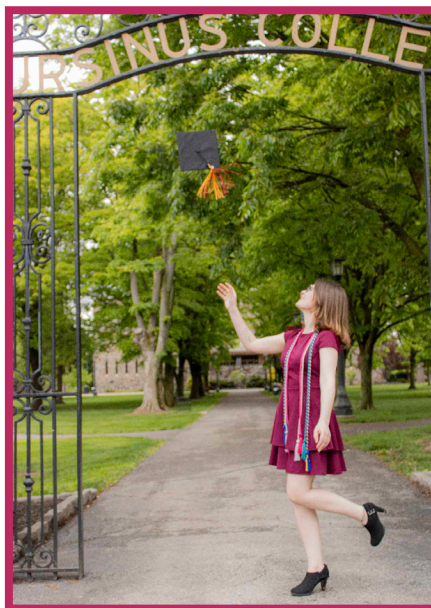
HFA Symposium
 San Diego, CA

May 16-18, 2025

Pennsylvania Bleeding
 Disorders Conference
 Hershey Lodge
 Hershey, PA

VISIT WPBDF.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR UPCOMING EVENTS.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATE!

Julia Shoemaker graduated from Ursinus College with a major in chemistry and a minor in mathematics. Julia will be pursuing her PhD in chemistry at UPenn in the fall.

Submit a community announcement to jessica@wpbdf.org.

CONTACT US

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Foundation Members & Friends,

Summer has finally arrived! We hope you are finding moments to unwind, focus on self-care, and enjoy the company of loved ones.

As we bid farewell to June, we also mark the conclusion of our Foundation's fiscal year. It's a moment for reflection on our achievements and a look forward to what lies ahead. This past year has been marked by an incredible spirit of outreach. Together, with our devoted volunteers, we have tirelessly extended our reach, spreading awareness of bleeding disorders to new corners and diverse communities.

Throughout the fiscal year, we orchestrated 15 meaningful

outreach events, extending our message to schools, college campuses, and rural health clinics across Pennsylvania – but our endeavors didn't stop there. We conducted a total of 28 educational programs, including a remarkable Education Weekend comprised of 28 distinct educational sessions.

In our commitment to directly assist those in need, we provided nearly \$35,000 in patient assistance to over 250 individuals, along with grocery gift cards totaling nearly \$15,000 to 40 families facing food insecurity. We also distributed over \$2,500 worth of gift cards to women, girls, and people with the potential to menstruate who have bleeding disorders and are struggling with period poverty. In total, our direct patient assistance efforts amounted to over \$53,000 in the past year alone.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the incredible support of our community. Through hosting nine successful fundraisers, we collectively raised over \$103,000 in support of the bleeding disorders community.

We've also collaborated with the Eastern Pennsylvania Bleeding Disorders Foundation to organize a special advocacy day at the state capitol in Harrisburg. We are



working hard to garner support for an increase to the Hemophilia Line Item in the state budget and to get legislation passed to stop copay accumulators and maximizers. We need to continue building strong relationships with legislators and we need your help. If you would be interested in joining us in meeting with legislators or would like to get involved by making phone calls or writing letters, please reach out to Kara at kara@wpbdf.org or 724-741-6160.

We have many upcoming events including the Unite for Bleeding Disorders Walk, Run for Their Lives 5K, and Cornhole Tournament at North Park on September 21, our Erie Fall Program on October 5, and Take a Bough on November 16! Make sure to check the event calendar on our website (wpbdf.org) as we continually add new programs and events to our lineup.

Our commitment to community outreach remains steadfast. If you are aware of any upcoming

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3...

community events where our presence would be beneficial, please let us know. We also

welcome volunteers to assist at our booth during these events and are looking for volunteers who would like to help spread awareness of bleeding disorders by distributing period packs, nosebleed kits, and resources on bleeding disorders to school nurses, college campuses, and rural health clinics. Please reach out to us if you would like to help.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support of our Foundation. Your consistent

backing and commitment keep us moving forward as we carry on with our mission to advocate, educate, and support those affected by bleeding disorders.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Kara Dornish
Executive Director

Scott Domowicz
Board President

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY

On Saturday, April 6, WPBDF spent the day at the University of Pittsburgh for PittServes' Be A Good Neighbor Day! This day of service is inspired by the

Pittsburgh icon Fred Rogers and his show *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. With the help of over 30 student volunteers, we put together 1,500 period packs, 100 resource folders for school nurses, a 6 piece mailer to over 570 community members, and over 100 bleeding disorder fact candy bags. Thank you to

the University of Pittsburgh, PittServes, and all the students who volunteered with us!

WPBDF would also like to thank Tori B., Stephanie S., and Dalton D. for volunteering to lead the project and teach the students how to construct period packs!



ADVOCACY UPDATE



**KERRY LANGE, SENIOR ASSOCIATE
MILLIRON GOODMAN**

HARRISBURG OVERVIEW

2024-25 Budget

With a constitutional deadline of June 30, the Pennsylvania General Assembly is in prime budget season and closed-door leadership negotiations have begun.

Democratic Governor Josh Shapiro proposed a \$48.3 billion budget plan, \$3 billion more than the 2023-24 budget. It included an increase in public school funding by an additional \$1.1 billion.

However, legislators from the Republican caucuses argue that the Governor's proposal is unsustainable and will deplete the state's \$14 billion surplus within a few years.

In a counter proposal, Senate Republicans recently passed SB 269, which would provide a \$3 billion tax cut, including cutting the personal income tax from 3.07% to 2.8%. Republican leadership maintains that if the state has significant reserves, it should go back to the taxpayer. Republicans estimate that their plan would save taxpayers \$13 billion over the next five years. They are also advocating for some school funding to be directed towards private schools.

The details of the final budget package remain to be seen,

but the Milliron Goodman team remains actively involved and will keep you updated as negotiations progress.

House of Representatives

The House continues to operate with slim margins between the numbers of Democrats and Republicans. House Democrats currently hold 102 seats; Republicans hold 101.

Without an overwhelming majority, it's difficult for either caucus to successfully pass controversial bills through the chamber. So far this session, whenever a member resigned and a split ratio occurred (101-101), voting session was put on hold in the House.

Senate

Senate Republicans continue to hold the majority with 28 seats. Senate Democrats have 22 seats.

It's important to note that this is the final year of the 2023-24 legislative session, which means there is increasing pressure for legislators to address certain issues before they are out of time. All bills have until November 30, 2024, to be signed into law, otherwise they are effectively dead and have to restart the legislative process in the next session.

2024 Elections

This year, all 203 seats of

the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and half of the Senate seats (25) are up for election.

Between the upcoming election, the ending of the 2023-24 legislative session and the pending budget, tension continues to build in Harrisburg.

BUDGET LINE ITEM

Governor Shapiro proposed level-funding for the hemophilia line item in the 2024-25 budget.

While a great starting point, the Bleeding Disorders Foundations are requesting an increase up to \$1,250,000 and already made this request with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees as well as all legislators representing the seven treatment centers.

The Milliron Goodman team will continue to advocate for this increase.

LEGISLATION

Accessibility to Menstrual Hygiene Products

Representative Darisha Parker (D-Philadelphia) sponsored HB 851, which amends the Public School Code by creating a grant program to provide eligible public-school entities with funding to acquire and distribute menstrual hygiene products at no expense to students. The bill appropriates \$3 million to the Department of

... CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

ADVOCACY UPDATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5...

Education for the grant program.

The bill recently passed the House with a vote of 117-85. It's now waiting for consideration in the Senate Education Committee. We'll continue to monitor.

Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM) Reform

Representative Jessica Benham (D-Allegheny) and Representative Valerie Gaydos (R-Allegheny) co-sponsored HB 1993, which amends the Pharmacy Audit Integrity and Transparency Act. The bill provides the state with more oversight over PBMs and limits or bans several practices by PBMs, including patient steering, spread pricing and retroactive recoupment of money paid by the PBM to the pharmacy. This was reported out of the House Health Committee in mid-June with unanimous support.

On a similar note, the companion bill, Senator Judy Ward's SB 1000, recently passed the Senate Health Committee with unanimous support.

We'll continue to monitor both bills and keep you updated on any developments.

Prohibiting Health Insurers from Altering Coverage or Premiums

In March, Representative Joe Hogan (R-Bucks) circulated a co-sponsorship memo indicating his intent to introduce legislation re: non-medical switching. His legislation would amend the

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28 For diagnosis and treatment
29 for Cooley's anemia.
30 State appropriation..... 106,000
    2024D07682 - 81 -
```

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1 For hemophilia services.
2 State appropriation..... 1,017,000
3 For lupus programs.
4 State appropriation..... 106,000
5 For sickle cell anemia
6 services, including camps for
7 children with sickle cell anemia.
```

The Hemophilia Line Item (highlighted) level-funded in the 2024-25 budget.

Unfair Insurance Practices Act to prohibit health insurers from altering the coverage or premiums included in an insured person's health insurance policy during the policy term when an insured person has already received a specific treatment, service or prescription drug. We anticipate bill introduction soon.

Please continue to share your experiences with the Western and Eastern Bleeding Disorders Foundations so we can help advance this bill. Share your story at: <https://bit.ly/nmspa>.

Co-Pay Accumulators

Senator Judy Ward's SB 372 amends the Insurance Company Law of 1921 by requiring insurers or pharmacy benefit managers to count any amounts paid, by the enrollee or paid on behalf of the enrollee by another party, towards the deductible or out-of-pocket limit. SB 372 is awaiting consideration by the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee.

In January, Representative Bridget

Kosierowski (D-Lackawanna) indicated her intent to introduce a companion bill in the House and circulated a co-sponsorship memo.

The Milliron Goodman team is continuing to stay engaged on this issue. Please continue to share your personal experiences with co-pay accumulators with the Western and Eastern Bleeding Disorders Foundations. Share your story at: <https://bit.ly/copayspa>

ADVOCACY DAY

The 2024 Bleeding Disorders Foundations' Advocacy Day in the Pennsylvania State Capitol was a success!

This was another great and timely opportunity for the hemophilia community to meet directly with legislators/staff and share their personal experiences with hemophilia as well as educate legislators on the importance of HTC's.

Community members met with over 30 legislative offices! These face-to-face meetings are a critical component of advocacy

and will help legislators remember the issue so they can assist with our line-item requests.

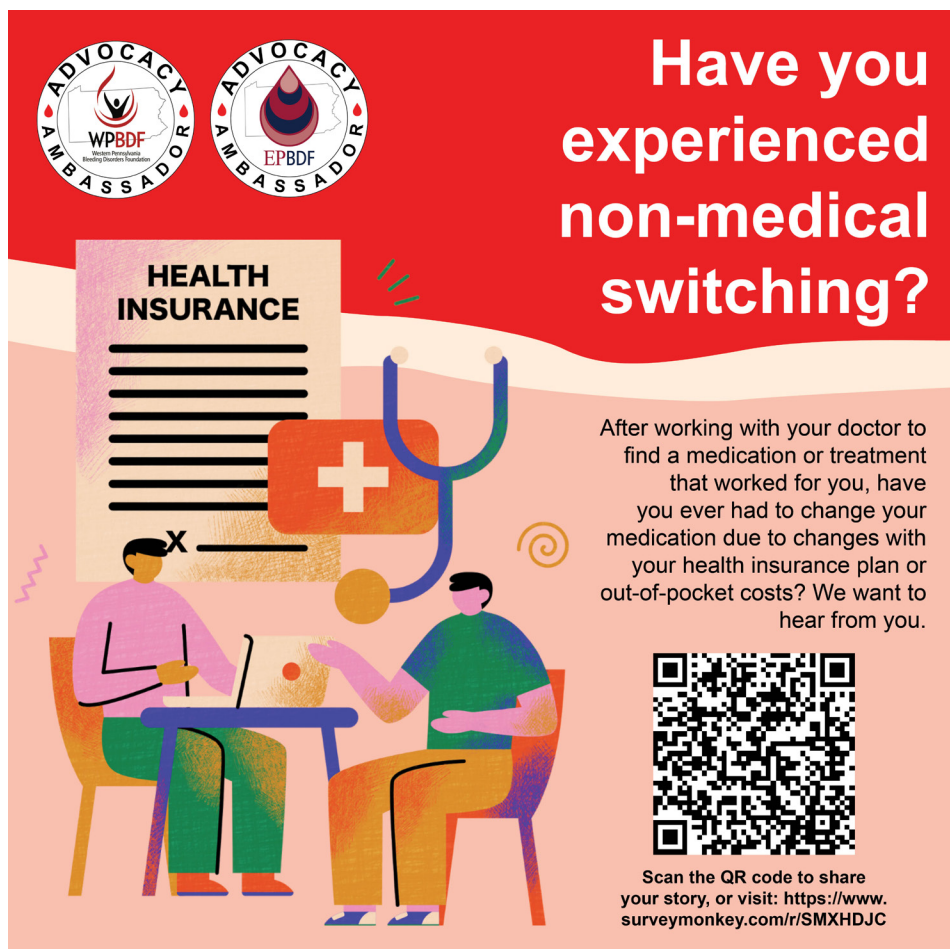
As part of the Advocacy Day, we also had an informational table in the main rotunda of the Capitol. Legislators, staff and other visitors who were walking through the building were able to learn more about WPBDF and EPBDF.

WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY

In recognition of World Hemophilia Day, Milliron Goodman reserved the Capitol lights from April 16-17. The Capitol lights were red on those days. See more photos from World Hemophilia Day on page 20.

THANK YOU

We look forward to continuing to represent you in the Capitol this year. Please reach out to our office with any questions or concerns.



Have you experienced non-medical switching?

After working with your doctor to find a medication or treatment that worked for you, have you ever had to change your medication due to changes with your health insurance plan or out-of-pocket costs? We want to hear from you.

Scan the QR code to share your story, or visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SMXHDJC>



REST IN PEACE

1979 - 2024

DONATE IN MEMORY OF
JOEY SMILES

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of our dear friend and esteemed advocate, Joey Smiles. Joey was not only a cherished member of our community but also a dedicated board member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Bleeding Disorders Foundation. His unwavering spirit in facing his bleeding disorder served as a beacon of inspiration to us all. His passing leaves a profound impact on our hearts, but his courage and advocacy will forever resonate within our community.

If you would like to donate In Memory of Joey Smiles, please visit: bit.ly/joeysmiles

Donations will go towards the Western and Eastern Pennsylvania Bleeding Disorders Advocacy Efforts, and to the Penn State Health Hemophilia Treatment Center of Central Pennsylvania.

HEMOPHILIA A IS A PIECE OF YOU. NOT ALL OF YOU.

ADYNOVATE® is a treatment that can be personalized to fit your lifestyle so you have more time to spend doing the other things that also make you, you. It has a simple, twice-weekly dosing schedule on the same 2 days every week.^{1,2}

*In clinical trials, ADYNOVATE demonstrated the ability to help prevent bleeding episodes using a prophylaxis regimen.

No actual patients depicted.

ADYNOVATE twice-weekly prophylaxis prevented or reduced the number of bleeds²

ADYNOVATE was proven in 2 pivotal clinical trials to prevent or reduce the number of bleeding episodes in children and adults when used regularly (prophylaxis)²

- **Children Under 12 Years:** This study evaluated the efficacy of ADYNOVATE twice-weekly prophylaxis and determined the ability to treat bleeding episodes for 6 months in 66 children under 12 years old who received 40–60 IU/kg of ADYNOVATE prophylaxis treatment²
 - During the 6-month study in children under 12, those receiving twice-weekly prophylaxis treatment experienced a median[†] overall ABR[‡] of 2.0
 - 0 bleeds in 38% (25 out of 66 patients) during 6 months on twice-weekly prophylaxis

[†]Median is defined as the middle number in a list of numbers arranged in numerical order.

[‡]ABR=annualized bleed rate, the number of bleeds that occur over a year.

[§]Per-protocol patients were assigned to the prophylactic group and treated with their originally assigned dose for the entire duration of the study.

ADYNOVATE Important Information

What is ADYNOVATE?

- ADYNOVATE is an injectable medicine that is used to help treat and control bleeding in children and adults with hemophilia A (congenital factor VIII deficiency).
- Your healthcare provider (HCP) may give you ADYNOVATE when you have surgery.
- ADYNOVATE can reduce the number of bleeding episodes when used regularly (prophylaxis).

ADYNOVATE is not used to treat von Willebrand disease.

DETAILED IMPORTANT RISK INFORMATION

Who should not use ADYNOVATE?

Do not use ADYNOVATE if you:

- Are allergic to mouse or hamster protein.
- Are allergic to any ingredients in ADYNOVATE or ADVATE® [Antihemophilic Factor (Recombinant)].

Tell your HCP if you are pregnant or breastfeeding because ADYNOVATE may not be right for you.

What should I tell my HCP before using ADYNOVATE?

Tell your HCP if you:

- Have or have had any medical problems.
- Take any medicines, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, such as over-the-counter medicines, supplements or herbal remedies.
- Have any allergies, including allergies to mice or hamsters.
- Are breastfeeding. It is not known if ADYNOVATE passes into your milk and if it can harm your baby.
- Are or become pregnant. It is not known if ADYNOVATE may harm your unborn baby.
- Have been told that you have inhibitors to factor VIII (because ADYNOVATE may not work for you).

- **Adolescents and Adults 12 Years and Older:** This study evaluated the efficacy of ADYNOVATE in a 6-month study that compared the efficacy of a twice-weekly prophylactic regimen with on-demand treatment and determined hemostatic efficacy in the treatment of bleeding episodes in 137 patients. These adolescents and adults were given either ADYNOVATE prophylaxis twice-weekly at a dose of 40–50 IU/kg (120 patients) or on-demand treatment with ADYNOVATE at a dose of 10–60 IU/kg (17 patients). The primary study goal was to compare ABR between the prophylaxis and on-demand treatment groups²
 - 95% reduction in median overall ABR (41.5 median ABR with on-demand [17 patients] vs 1.9 median ABR with prophylaxis [120 patients])
 - 0 bleeds in 40% (40 out of 101 per-protocol[§] patients) during 6 months on twice-weekly prophylaxis

What important information do I need to know about ADYNOVATE?

- You can have an allergic reaction to ADYNOVATE. Call your healthcare provider right away and stop treatment if you get a rash or hives, itching, tightness of the throat, chest pain or tightness, difficulty breathing, lightheadedness, dizziness, nausea or fainting.
- Do not attempt to infuse yourself with ADYNOVATE unless you have been taught by your HCP or hemophilia center.

What else should I know about ADYNOVATE and Hemophilia A?

- Your body may form inhibitors to factor VIII. An inhibitor is part of the body's normal defense system. If you form inhibitors, it may stop ADYNOVATE from working properly. Talk with your HCP to make sure you are carefully monitored with blood tests for the development of inhibitors to factor VIII.

What are possible side effects of ADYNOVATE?

- The common side effects of ADYNOVATE are headache, diarrhea, rash, nausea, dizziness, and hives. These are not all the possible side effects with ADYNOVATE. Tell your HCP about any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about ADYNOVATE on the following page and discuss with your HCP.

For Full Prescribing Information, visit www.adynovate.com.

References: 1. Valentino LA. Considerations in individualizing prophylaxis in patients with haemophilia A. *Haemophilia*. 2014;20(5):607-615. 2. ADYNOVATE Prescribing Information.

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Patient Important Facts about

ADYNOVATE® [Antihemophilic Factor (Recombinant), PEGylated]

This leaflet summarizes important information about ADYNOVATE. Please read it carefully before using this medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider, and it does not include all of the important information about ADYNOVATE. If you have any questions after reading this, ask your healthcare provider.

What is the most important information I need to know about ADYNOVATE?

Do not attempt to do an infusion to yourself unless you have been taught how by your healthcare provider or hemophilia center.

You must carefully follow your healthcare provider's instructions regarding the dose and schedule for infusing ADYNOVATE so that your treatment will work best for you.

What is ADYNOVATE?

ADYNOVATE is an injectable medicine that is used to help treat and control bleeding in children and adults with hemophilia A (congenital Factor VIII deficiency). Your healthcare provider may give you ADYNOVATE when you have surgery. ADYNOVATE can reduce the number of bleeding episodes when used regularly (prophylaxis).

ADYNOVATE is not used to treat von Willebrand disease.

Who should not use ADYNOVATE?

You should not use ADYNOVATE if you:

- Are allergic to mice or hamster protein
- Are allergic to any ingredients in ADYNOVATE or ADVATE® [Antihemophilic Factor (Recombinant)]

Tell your healthcare provider if you are pregnant or breastfeeding because ADYNOVATE may not be right for you.

How should I use ADYNOVATE?

ADYNOVATE is given directly into the bloodstream.

You may infuse ADYNOVATE at a hemophilia treatment center, at your healthcare provider's office or in your home. You should be trained on how to do infusions by your healthcare provider or hemophilia treatment center. Many people with hemophilia A learn to infuse their ADYNOVATE by themselves or with the help of a family member.

Your healthcare provider will tell you how much ADYNOVATE to use based on your individual weight, level of physical activity, the severity of your hemophilia A, and where you are bleeding.

Reconstituted product (after mixing dry product with wet diluent) must be used within 3 hours and cannot be stored or refrigerated. Discard any ADYNOVATE left in the vial at the end of your infusion as directed by your healthcare professional.

You may have to have blood tests done after getting ADYNOVATE to be sure that your blood level of factor VIII is high enough to clot your blood.

How should I use ADYNOVATE? (cont'd)

Call your healthcare provider right away if your bleeding does not stop after taking ADYNOVATE.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before I use ADYNOVATE?

You should tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any medical problems.
- Take any medicines, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, such as over-the-counter medicines, supplements or herbal remedies.
- Have any allergies, including allergies to mice or hamsters.
- Are breastfeeding. It is not known if ADYNOVATE passes into your milk and if it can harm your baby.
- Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if ADYNOVATE may harm your unborn baby.
- Have been told that you have inhibitors to factor VIII (because ADYNOVATE may not work for you).

What are the possible side effects of ADYNOVATE?

You can have an allergic reaction to ADYNOVATE.

Call your healthcare provider right away and stop treatment if you get a rash or hives, itching, tightness of the throat, chest pain or tightness, difficulty breathing, lightheadedness, dizziness, nausea or fainting.

The common side effects of ADYNOVATE are headache, diarrhea, rash, nausea, dizziness, and hives. Tell your healthcare provider about any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects with ADYNOVATE. You can ask your healthcare provider for information that is written for healthcare professionals.

What else should I know about ADYNOVATE and Hemophilia A?

Your body may form inhibitors to Factor VIII. An inhibitor is part of the body's normal defense system. If you form inhibitors, it may stop ADYNOVATE from working properly. Consult with your healthcare provider to make sure you are carefully monitored with blood tests for the development of inhibitors to Factor VIII.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed here. Do not use ADYNOVATE for a condition for which it is not prescribed. Do not share ADYNOVATE with other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have.

The risk information provided here is not comprehensive.

To learn more, talk with your health care provider or pharmacist about ADYNOVATE. The FDA-approved product labeling can be found at www.ADYNOVATE.com or 1-877-TAKEDA-7.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

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INSPIRED TO ADVOCATE

DEXTER S.

Hi! My name is Dexter. I have von Willebrand Disease type 1. Most teens have no clue what our government does and how bills get passed. After seeing *On the Shoulders of Giants* at WPBDF's Education Weekend, I knew I wanted to try advocating. I went with my mom to Harrisburg to advocate with other members of the bleeding disorders community.

At my first legislative meeting I was a little confused, but as the day went on I gained a better understanding through the people around me. Most of the representatives helped me when I was confused and were very attentive when I talked. They even helped me understand the difficult process of getting a bill passed.

Advocacy is a hard topic for most people. You need to understand what and why you are advocating, and you also need to make sure you don't say anything wrong during your meeting with your legislator. You have to understand the issue and ask for help to get a bill passed that can improve the lives of those in our community. You need to tell your story, or else your legislator won't understand why this bill is important in the first place.

Teenagers need to learn more about advocacy. I had no clue what my mother was doing whenever she went on these trips, but I learned so much in just two days from the people around me. I am so excited to continue to advocate for my community!



Interested in becoming an Advocacy Ambassador?
Reach out to Kara,
kara@wpbdf.org, or call the
Foundation office at
724-741-6160!

GETTING TO KNOW HCWP STAFF



ROB ALEXANDER
PHARMACY MANAGER AT
CANYONCARERX

We would like to introduce you to Rob Alexander, the pharmacy manager at CanyonCareRx, A BioCare Company, which is the 340B pharmacy program affiliated with the Hemophilia Center of Western Pennsylvania. He works tirelessly to help ensure that patients have the medications they need, and he does it with a smile and a sense of humor! Thanks Rob, for all you do!

Birthplace: Born and raised here in the Pittsburgh area.

First job: Caddy at golf course from age 14-16, then at 16, I was a dishwasher at Denny's.

Accomplishment you're proudest of: In my personal life, serving a couple years as Scoutmaster in a Boy Scout troop.

In my professional life, moving both the pharmacy and our distribution suite successfully to our new location without interruption of service.

What three words describe you best? Helpful, honest and humorous.

Dream vacation: Anywhere that involves spending time outdoors.

Things you can do without: Polarizing arguments/Automatic outrage/Negativity

Person you'd most like to have dinner with: Dinner with close friends or anyone that has me laughing more than eating is hard to beat.

Movie you could see anytime: O Brother Where Art Thou/Tombstone/Shawshank

Redemption

TV show you try not to miss: In the streaming age of TV, it is impossible to miss anything, but I guess I try to check out Saturday Night Live sometime during the same week, and of course, the Pittsburgh Steelers during the season.

Three things that can always be found in your refrigerator: Salsa, sour cream, and turkey.

Secret vice: I have a serious tortilla chip addiction.

Who would play you in the movies?: I had no idea so I put it out on social media to those that knew me. Votes for John Cusack, the guy who played Bo Brady on Days of Our Lives, George Clooney, Kit Harrington, Mark Ruffalo, Paul Rudd.... Guys with darker hair. I would offer the role to John Cusack.

Your pet peeve about Pittsburgh: Every time there is a planetary or celestial event to see at night, clouds.

People may be surprised to know: My head contains a crazy amount of musical trivia spanning about 75 years.



MEET WPBDF'S SUMMER INTERN!

Shae McKoen is a senior at Slippery Rock University studying Strategic Communication with a concentration in Digital Media Production. She is interested in writing, design, marketing, and communication. Involved in numerous student organizations,

Shae is a member of Slippery Rock University's Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) and a captain for the Esports team. In her free time, she enjoys working out, traveling, and playing video games. During her internship at WPBDF, she is looking forward to gaining some experience in organizing and coordinating events as well as working together towards a common goal of helping others.

EDUCATION WEEKEND

Education Weekend is the largest educational event the Foundation offers and we look forward to it as much as our returning participants do! We couldn't wait to welcome our members back for a weekend of education, networking, and fun! While educating our members is the main goal, the value of strong camaraderie among many of the participants cannot be underestimated. Friends, new and old, learned together, laughed together, cried together, and left feeling supported and empowered by the experience.

As the Foundation's membership continues to grow, so does attendance at Education Weekend. This year, we welcomed over 200 people from the bleeding disorders community! In addition to the many returning participants, we were joined by a significant number of first-time attendees; and we are grateful for everyone who spent the weekend with us!

While adults were busy learning about everything from bleeding disorders basics to gene therapy and more, children were busy making new friends, learning about bleeding disorders, and enjoying activities together. The children's programs had a summer camp theme woven through them. Activities included gaga (a camp favorite), custom buttons to keep and trade, and beaded friendship bracelets with a bleeding disorders theme. Other fun activities included mini golf and bowling. And, of course, each group had age-appropriate programming to expand their knowledge and understanding of bleeding



disorders. While parents and older children attended their sessions, children aged 4 and under were well cared for onsite by Pittsburgh Event Childcare.

One of the most impactful sessions of the weekend was the viewing of the film, *On the Shoulders of Giants*. The film explores the lives of the older generation of people living with hemophilia. Teenagers and adults came together for this session. For some, it was the first time they learned about the history and/or impact of the HIV/AIDS crisis on the bleeding disorders community and the survivors who are living today. For others, it was the first time they heard people talking openly about something their family or extended family kept quiet for years. After the film, Katherine Bush, LCSW, from the Hemophilia Center of Western PA, led a group discussion to debrief the film. In response to the feedback we've received regarding this session, we plan to offer additional opportunities in the future for discussing this topic.

Participants also had the opportunity to socialize and grow their peer networks. Some

enjoyed axe-throwing together; some crafted together and were able to take home a beautiful door decoration; and some chose to help assemble period packs for our Women, Girls, and People with the Potential to Menstruate (WGPPM) with bleeding disorders initiative, and assembled 500 period packs in under an hour!

We are grateful for the incredible speakers who presented sessions throughout the weekend. Not only did we have amazing support from the staff at the Hemophilia Center of Western PA, but other professionals from the bleeding disorders community traveled from around the country to share their expertise with us. A copy of the event program guide can be found here: <https://bit.ly/EduWeekendGuide2024>.

The following people served on the planning committee and collaborated on this event for more than a year to offer diverse learning opportunities to patients and caregivers living with different bleeding disorders, in different stages of life:

- Tori Baker
- Janet Barone

- Kara Dornish
- Jessica Lee
- Kathaleen Schnur

Finally, this event was made possible by the generous support of our sponsors and we are deeply appreciative for their contributions.



WPBDF

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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BIOMARIN

CSL Behring



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GOLD SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS



SPECIAL THANKS TO:



WPBDF IN THE COMMUNITY!

Over the last few months, WPBDF attended local community events to pass out information about the Foundation, explain what bleeding disorders are, and direct men and women who may be experiencing bleeding disorders symptoms to betteryouknow.org. WPBDF attended the Kane Health Expo in April, the Montour Vendor Fair in May, and Beaver's Garrison Days in June. WPBDF was also busy visiting local colleges and universities to spread awareness for bleeding disorders and diagnosis with students. On April 2, WPBDF was invited to Chatham University's Health week and had the opportunity to talk to students about possible signs and symptoms of a bleeding disorder. We were also invited to attend Slippery Rock University's World Hemophilia Day event on April 16, and we displayed at Robert Morris University on World Hemophilia Day.

This would not be possible without the support of the many volunteers attending these displays and sharing their stories with the individuals who stopped to visit our booths!

"One of my favorite parts of WPBDF is our community outreach events," said WPBDF Board Member and volunteer, Samantha S. "It's given me a chance to both make meaningful connections in my own community and educate the general public on bleeding disorders! Our college visits are especially meaningful to me since I get a chance to chat with young women about the signs of

a bleeding disorder. Most of these students are learning to navigate their own health for the first time and it's been a great opportunity to have an open conversation with them!"

HOW CAN I HELP?

We are in need of volunteers to help at the WPBDF booth at the Beaver Car Cruise taking place on Saturday, August 3. We have shifts available from 12:30 PM - 6:30 PM. If you are interested in signing up, please email rsvp@wpbdf.org

Additionally, if you know of a community or health fair event with booth or exhibit opportunities, please let us know! Better yet, if you would be willing to display at the booth or donate a few hours of your time to help us staff the booth, your generosity would be much appreciated. WPBDF can provide all the materials you need. You will be tasked with sharing the symptoms of a bleeding disorder with individuals who stop by the booths, and if you're comfortable, sharing your story and experience with a bleeding disorder.



Chatham University's Health Week on April 2.



Garrison Days in Beaver, PA on June 8.



Celebrating World Hemophilia Day with SRU HOPE at Slippery Rock University on April 16.

Supporting our community is the foundation of what we do



That's why Novo Nordisk goes beyond offering a broad range of treatments and is dedicated to providing educational resources and one-on-one support!

We have **resources** for people living with:

- Hemophilia A
- Hemophilia B
- Hemophilia A with inhibitors
- Hemophilia B with inhibitors
- Glanzmann's thrombasthenia when platelets don't work
- Factor VII deficiency
- Factor XIII A-subunit deficiency

Get connected locally with one of our Hemophilia Community Liaisons (HCL) to see how they can help you!



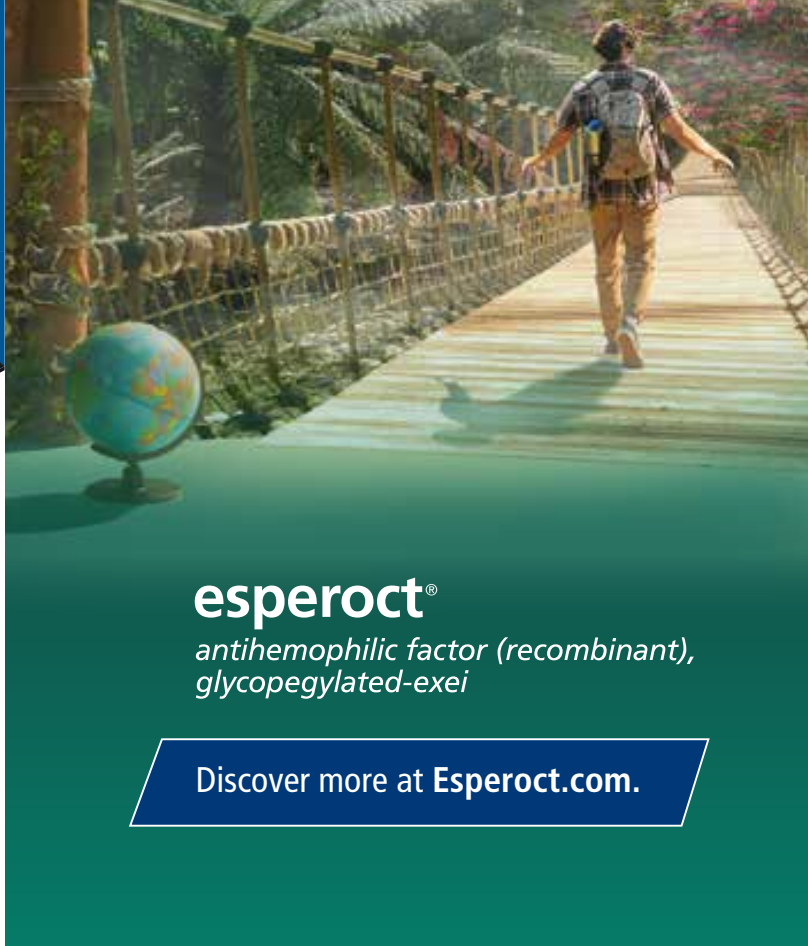
Scan to connect

changing
hemophilia®



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glycopeglylated-exei*

Discover more at Esperoct.com.

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INSURANCE BASICS

On Wednesday, May 22, 2024, community members gathered at Luciano's Italian Brick Oven in Mars, PA, for the program, "Insurance Basics: Everything You Didn't Know You Needed to Know." The session, kicked off by Sheila Biljes, Regional Care Coordinator for BioMatrix, commenced with a delightful ice breaker centered around everyone's favorite topic: candy bars, offering attendees a sweet opportunity to win some treats.

Guiding the session with expertise and enthusiasm, Shelby Smoak led participants through an insightful exploration of insurance,

encouraging questions and ensuring that each inquiry was thoughtfully addressed. Attendees departed armed with not only answers to their queries but also a deeper understanding of the intricacies of insurance.

Following the presentation, the creative energy continued to flow as artist Michelle Stielper led an engaging drawing workshop. Equipped with drawing pads and pencils, attendees embarked on a journey of artistic expression, discovering the art of designing and sketching their own anime characters.

Thank you to all who joined us for this event, as well as our presenters, Shelby and Michelle. Special thanks are also extended to our sponsors, HemaBiologics

and BioMatrix, whose support made this event possible.



BIOMATRIX]
HEMA
Biologics™

HCWP CORNER

KATHERINE BUSH, LCSW

Hello to all WPBDF Members and Your Families,

Summer weather is here! We're hoping that you and your families get the chance to get out and enjoy it – but don't forget that allergy medicine if you need it! And your sunscreen! And stay hydrated!

As you make your summer plans, please remember to make sure that you are up-to-date with your clinic appointment. We want to make sure we know the info we need to help keep you safe on your travels and adventures. We can also provide you with documentation to take on your trips that can make it easier to travel with medications and (although we hope this isn't

necessary) facilitate any needed care while you are away. Please remember to give us advance notice if possible so that we can get any medications and documents that you may need out to you in a timely manner.

We continue to offer pediatric appointments on Wednesdays and adult appointments on Mondays and Thursdays. Virtual appointments may be possible if necessary – please call the clinic to discuss this option. You can also request factor refills by phone or through our website (<https://hcwp.vitalant.org/Home.aspx>). We continue to have our on-call number (888-990-4297) available when the center is not open. Whenever possible, please call us before you arrive to the emergency room. Also, if you have a planned procedure, please reach out to us at least 10 days in advance so that we can arrange a plan to help keep

you safe.

Camp is scheduled for July 28- August 2, 2024, for affected youth aged 7-17 and their siblings within the same age group. We are so excited to continue to offer this program. We have about 55 campers registered, and we are sure that Hot-to-Clot will be an amazing time. We are also very pleased that we were once again able to hold outreach clinics to serve our Amish community.

Finally, please continue to make sure that you are completing our Patient Satisfaction Survey that you receive at your appointments. This is an important way for us to know how we are doing and to make changes as needed.

Wishing you a wonderful summer full of laughter and relaxation,

The HCWP Staff



The Hemophilia Center of Western Pennsylvania clotting factor program was established in 2000 as a complement to the Center's other comprehensive care services. The clotting factor program allows the Center the opportunity to offer clotting factor to its patients, thereby supplementing its comprehensive treatment care model and providing the best possible care for its patients.

Factor Program Services

- All factor product brands available
- Online factor ordering available
- 24 – 48 hour delivery
- Same day courier service for emergent needs
- On-call services, 24/7
- Home treatment supplies
- Lot tracking for recall notification
- Online home treatment records
- Insurance benefit information assistance

Patient Benefits

- Direct communication and service from the Center's treatment team
- Support of the Center's operations
- Expansion of patient services

Please contact the Center at (412) 209-7280 for more information about how this program can benefit you and the entire bleeding disorder community.

The Hemophilia Center of Western Pennsylvania supports patient choice consistent with the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 and maintains a freedom of choice policy where patients are informed of their choices regarding factor replacement products.



“WITH ACCESS, THERE IS OPPORTUNITY”

Save One Life has been improving the quality of life and future for people with bleeding disorders in developing countries for over 21 years.



Chris (left) with Momina (top right) and Aliyan (bottom right).

In February 2024, Executive Director, Chris Bombardier, traveled to Pakistan to visit beneficiaries and program partners of Save One Life. On this trip he had the opportunity to visit the home of Momina and Aliyan, two beneficiaries of their sponsorship program.

Save One Life provides 1 to 1 sponsorship to children in fifteen countries. This program helps children afford basic necessities, education, treatment and more.

Momina, 14, and Aliyan, 8, have von Willebrand disease. Their father works an office job, although their living circumstances are still difficult as the family of five shares only one room.

Momina and Aliyan primarily use their sponsorship funds to for education. They are both doing exceptionally well in school with the help of their funds.

Momina is highly ranked in her class and loves science. Her dream is to become a doctor in the future. Her parents are very proud of her. For fun, she enjoys to read and study. Her favorite movie is Frozen! Aliyan has won many awards in school. In his freetime he loves watching cartoons and playing cricket.

These two wonderful kids are a great example of how Save One Life's sponsorship program can impact the lives and future of children with bleeding disorders around the world.



To learn more, visit: SaveOneLife.Org

ABOUT SAVE ONE LIFE

Save One Life improves the quality of life and future for people with bleeding disorders in developing countries through direct financial assistance.

Save One Life is the only organization of its kind. We directly provide people with the resources they need to lead independent and healthy lives.

Save One Life works in 15 developing countries, serving to empower people with bleeding disorders through direct financial assistance and access to medical treatment. We collaborate with over 50 local patient organizations to facilitate our programs.

We have provided assistance to over 2,100 beneficiaries and sent over \$4 million in direct aid.

PENNSYLVANIA CELEBRATES WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY!

Each year, landmarks all across the globe recognize World Hemophilia Day by lighting up red on April 17. This bridges the global bleeding disorders community and raises awareness for bleeding disorders. Buildings lit red in Pittsburgh included the Koppers Building, Gulf Tower, Fifth Avenue Place Spire, the Heinz Hall Garden Place Waterfall, the Homestead Grays Bridge, and One Oxford Center.

In Philadelphia, the Cira Centre, the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Symphony House Condos, and One Liberty Place were also lit red for this occasion. In Hershey,



the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center was lit red. Finally, the Pennsylvania Capitol Building, the Market Street Bridge, and the Walnut Bridge in Harrisburg lit red to celebrate World Hemophilia Day! Thank you to all who joined us in lighting Pennsylvania Red this year!

Additionally, the Mayor of Pittsburgh, Mayor Ed Gainey, and the Mayor of Whitehall Borough, James Norwalk, issued proclamations recognizing April 17, 2024, as World Hemophilia Day!

**SEE MORE PHOTOS FROM WORLD
HEMOPHILIA DAY ON PAGE 20!**



Bleeding disorders can't stop us.

**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2024**

**NORTH PARK SWIMMING POOL
S. RIDGE DRIVE,
ALLISON PARK, PA 151010**

REGISTRATION FEE

**June 1 -
September 20:**

\$30

Race Day fee: \$35



Scan me to register!



**Learn more at:
bit.ly/runfortheirives2024**

FACTOR UP with ALTUVIIIIO™

Higher-for-longer Factor VIII levels in the near-normal to normal range (**over 40%**) for most of the week



HIGHER FACTOR LEVELS FOR LONGER

Above 40% for most of the week (near-normal to normal range).^{*†}

48

HOUR HALF-LIFE IN ADULTS

In a Phase 3 study,[†] ALTUVIIIIO offered adults the longest half-life of any Factor VIII therapy.

0.7

BLEEDS PER YEAR[‡]

Mean annual bleed rate observed in 128 people previously treated with prophylaxis therapy.[†]

In people taking ALTUVIIIIO in the XTEND-1 study, 21% of people had headache, 16% had joint pain, and 6% had back pain

^{*}Average trough levels were 18% for adults 18 years and older, 9% for adolescents aged 12 years to under 18 years, 10% for children aged 6 years to under 12 years, and 7% for children aged 1 year to under 6 years.

[†]159 adults and adolescents with severe hemophilia (aged 12 years and older) were enrolled in the XTEND-1 study; 133 people were in Group 1 and switched to ALTUVIIIIO prophylaxis from prior prophylaxis therapy. Efficacy of prophylaxis was evaluated in 128 of these patients.

[‡]Data based on treated bleeds.

CONNECT WITH YOUR CORE TODAY

Learn more about ALTUVIIIIO, living with hemophilia, and treatment options from your local CoRe.



Carrie Koenig
carrie.koenig@sanofi.com
667-500-4326
Serving Western PA

INDICATION

ALTUVIIIIO™ [antihemophilic factor (recombinant), Fc-VWF-XTEN fusion protein-ehf] is an injectable medicine that is used to control and reduce the number of bleeding episodes in people with hemophilia A (congenital Factor VIII deficiency).

Your healthcare provider may give you ALTUVIIIIO when you have surgery.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I need to know about ALTUVIIIIO?

Do not attempt to give yourself an injection unless you have been taught how by your healthcare provider or hemophilia center. You must carefully follow your healthcare provider's instructions regarding the dose and schedule for injecting ALTUVIIIIO so that your treatment will work best for you.

Who should not use ALTUVIIIIO?

You should not use ALTUVIIIIO if you have had an allergic reaction to it in the past.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before using ALTUVIIIIO?

Tell your healthcare provider if you have had any medical problems, take any medications, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, supplements, or herbal medicines, are breastfeeding, or are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.

What are the possible side effects of ALTUVIIIIO?

You can have an allergic reaction to ALTUVIIIIO. Call your healthcare provider or emergency department right away if you have any of the following symptoms: difficulty breathing, chest tightness, swelling of the face, rash, or hives.

Your body can also make antibodies called "inhibitors" against ALTUVIIIIO. This can stop ALTUVIIIIO from working properly. Your healthcare provider may give you blood tests to check for inhibitors.

The common side effects of ALTUVIIIIO are headache, joint pain, and back pain.

These are not the only possible side effects of ALTUVIIIIO. Tell your healthcare provider about any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

Please see full [Prescribing Information](#).



WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY AT MONTEREY BAY

ASHLEY FOX

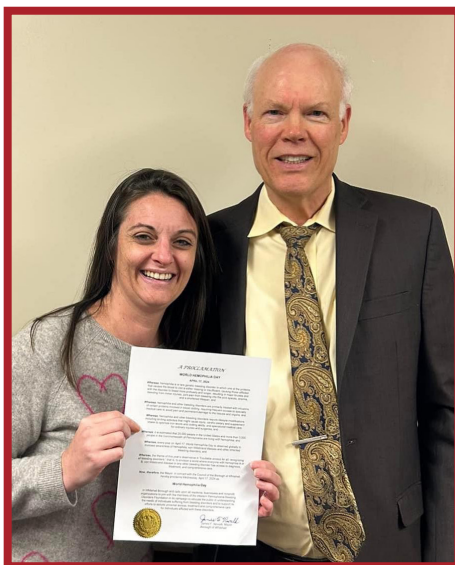
On April 17, the local bleeding disorders community gathered at Monterey Bay Fish Grotto in honor of World Hemophilia Day. Overlooking the glowing red skyline, guests enjoyed dinner and dessert with breathtaking views.

The event commenced with a presentation led by Carrie Koenig, Community Relations and Education Manager at Sanofi, detailing the history and legacy of the bleeding disorders community. Personal accounts of both perseverance and adversity were outlined, including the HIV epidemic of the 70's and 80's which affected thousands. Stirring emotions in the crowd, it served as a stark reminder of how significantly treatment and quality of life have progressed over the years thanks to extensive research and advances in medicine.

Attendees had the opportunity to share their own stories of navigating life with a bleeding disorder. Carrie's father, David, recounted early memories of long hospital stays and makeshift remedies such as packing snow around swollen joints and injuries.

Hearing everyone's personal experiences of struggle and strength further solidified the connection we share across generations as patients and caregivers.

Following the presentation, WPBDF



board member, Mindy Perry, met with Mayor James Norwalk via Zoom to officially proclaim April 17 as World Hemophilia Day for Whitehall Borough.

Throughout the evening, guests were able to participate in a variety of activities including personal time capsules, wish ribbons, and selfie stations.

Discussions were had amongst old friends and newcomers alike about the upcoming Unite walk, fundraising efforts, and other exciting plans on the horizon.

By honoring the past and embracing the future, we



celebrated a monumental day for our community.

Our deepest gratitude to Sanofi for sponsoring the event and to Monterey Bay Fish Grotto for their hospitality.

Unite
for Bleeding Disorders



16th Annual Unite for Bleeding Disorders Walk



9:00 to 11:00 AM
(CHECK-IN: 8:00 - 9:00 AM)



SEP 21
SATURDAY



**NORTH PARK
SWIMMING POOL**
S. Ridge Drive
Allison Park, PA

CONTACT US:

Jessica Lee: 724.741.6160
jessica@wpbdf.org

www.uniteforbleedingdisorders.org/event/wpa



**HEMOPHILIA
ALLIANCE**



**NATIONAL
BLEEDING DISORDERS
FOUNDATION**
Formerly NHF

STUDY SUGGESTS PROPHYLAXIS CAN MITIGATE INTRACRANIAL HEMORRHAGE RISK

Results of a new study published in the *Journal of Blood Medicine* (JBM), indicate that people with hemophilia A (HA) who have been on a prophylactic treatment regimen have a reduced risk for intracranial hemorrhage (ICH).

Often referred to as a “brain bleed,” ICH is a very serious event whereby blood accumulates within parts of the skull, including the brain itself. This can result in built up pressure which can block critical oxygen and nutrients from reaching brain cells and tissues. ICH events that are not treated expeditiously can result in major disability and even death. These type bleeds can occur spontaneously or triggered by something specific such as trauma. While people with hemophilia are at some risk for ICH, any given patients’ risk level will vary and depend on a variety of factors.

Authors of the JBM paper used retrospective data from the ATHNdataset to inform their research, eventually identifying 7,837 hemophilia A patients between two and 75 years of age. Included in the study were moderate and severe HA males (assigned at birth) who had hemophilia treatment center visit information from January 1, 2010,

through September 30, 2020. The median follow-up period was 10.7 years.

Their investigation showed that 135 of 7837 of the subjects (1.7%) experienced an ICH. A review of the data pointed to several factors associated with a higher risk including being in the 2–12-year age range; being covered by Medicaid; having had HIV, hepatitis C, or hypertension; and never having received factor VIII replacement therapy or prophylactic treatment. The authors also conveyed that these results align with earlier studies which demonstrated that prophylaxis provides a “protective effect” against ICH.

Because emicizumab became available at the tail end of the study period, data relevant to its use and findings relevant to its use, along with opportunities for comprehensive analysis, were limited. “As of 2018, the standard of care for congenital hemophilia A has evolved to include emicizumab, a humanized antibody that mimics activated FVIII to allow continuation of the coagulation cascade. This study’s period includes data from before and after emicizumab approval in 2018. The ICH rate significantly decreased across the study period, but data from the periods before and after emicizumab approval cannot be conclusively analyzed because of the limited sample size after emicizumab approval and the inability to account for all possible confounders,” explained the investigators.

However, the authors urge continued investigation into ICH risk factors, especially as the availability and use of newer novel therapies continue to rise.

“This study, using data from

the ATHNdataset, identified the following risk factors for ICH in PWA: being aged between 2 and 12 years, having ever received Medicaid coverage, having had certain comorbidities (HIV and HTN), never having received factor treatment, and never having received prophylactic treatment. These risk factors will need to be continually reevaluated as the treatment landscape for hemophilia evolves to include increased use of non-factor products and gene therapy.

The study, “Risk of Intracranial Hemorrhage in Persons with Hemophilia A in the United States: Real-World Retrospective Cohort Study Using the ATHNdataset,” was published April 25th in the *Journal of Blood Medicine*. Read the full paper to learn more.

Article Courtesy of docsirenews copyright 2024.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!

On Saturday, June 22, 38 people came out to not only cheer on the Pittsburgh Pirates as they took on the Tampa Bay Rays, but also showed their support for the Western PA Bleeding Disorders Foundation! For each ticket sold through WPBDF’s unique ticket link, \$10 was donated back to the Foundation. In total, we raised \$380 that will provide education, support groups, and patient assistance to individuals and families affected by bleeding disorders in Western PA. The Pirates took home a win that night, beating the Rays 4-3! It was an exciting game, and we are so thankful for everyone’s continued support of WPBDF!

Introducing from  Pfizer

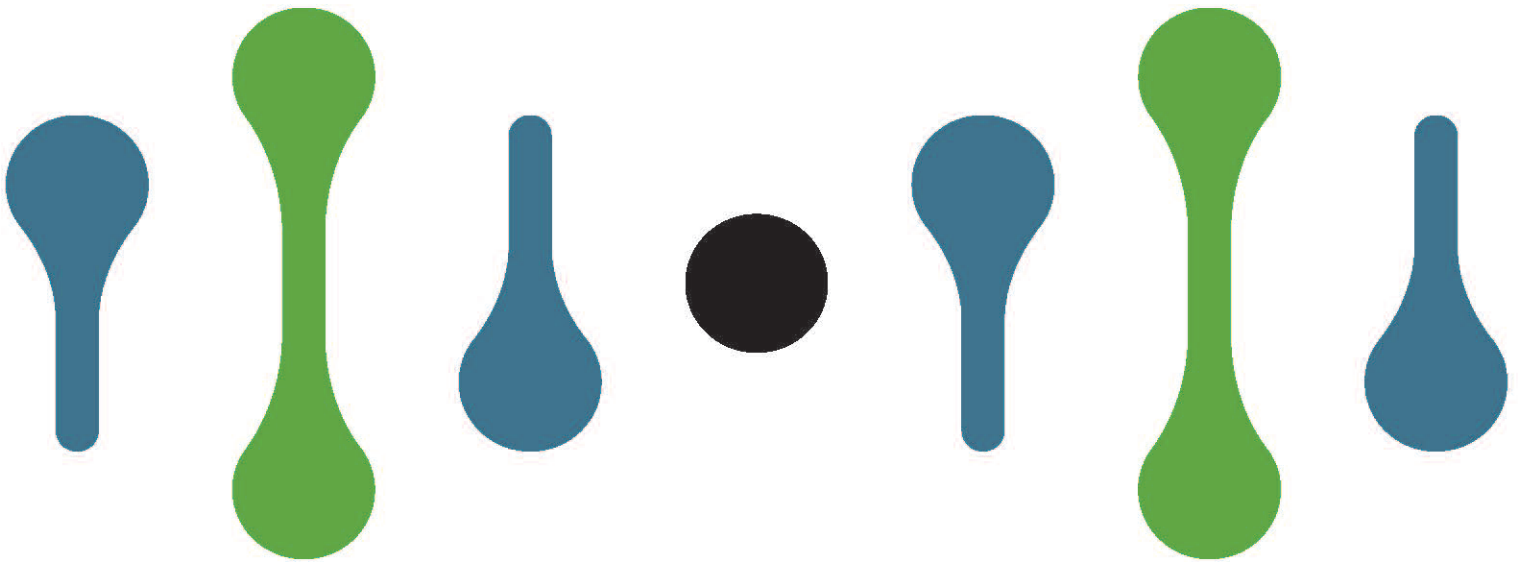


BEQVEZTM

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Suspension for intravenous infusion 1×10^{13} vg/mL

Now Approved



Scan QR code for
more information or visit
www.BEQVEZ.com





HELLO TALK LESSON PLANS: NAVIGATING SCHOOL WITH A BLEEDING DISORDER

Join us for dinner and learn how students, parents, family members, and school staff can work together to provide a positive learning environment for students with a bleeding disorder—from preschool through college.

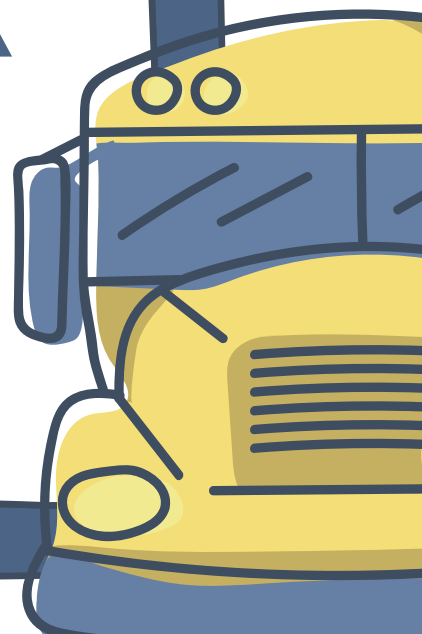
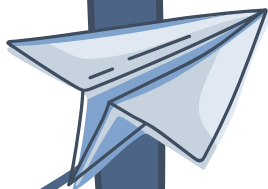


RSVP by **Friday, July 26**, at rsvp@wpbdf.org or call 724-741-6160. Please include the number of attendees, ages of children, and any dietary restrictions.

Thursday, August 1, 2024

6:30 PM

**Grand Concourse
100 W Station Square Dr. #1
Pittsburgh, PA**



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

\$3,000 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Claire Murphy

\$1,100 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Ashley Cynkar
Mikaela Kottelich
Raina Slater
Katherine Berry
Willow Reed

\$500 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Elijah Shropshire
Georgia Ebsworth
Cailin Stukus
Megan Wharton
Rochelle Lynn Hetrick
Haley M. Dunaway
Amanda Steele Voms Stein



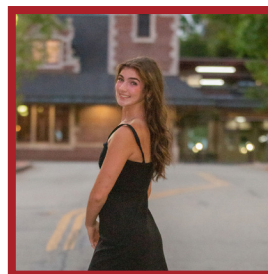
CLAIRE MURPHY

I will be continuing my dental education at Boston University to obtain my Master of Science in Oral Health Sciences. Upon my completion of this one year program, I will enroll in dental school for another four years. My ultimate goal is to specialize, and continue for an additional three years in a dental anesthesiology residency. At the core of all these accolades is my continuity of advocacy for patients with bleeding disorders in the dental community and beyond. I aspire to implement coursework in dental schools that encompasses what it means to have a bleeding disorder. More providers that confidently and successfully treat these patients means more access to care for our community.



ASHLEY CYNKAR

I am currently in my sixth and final year of Pharmacy School at Duquesne University. I am beyond excited for the opportunities that lay ahead in my career. As of now, I am interested in pursuing a post graduate residency in critical care and desire to help patients in the hospital setting. I am beyond grateful for the generous scholarship awarded to me by the Western Pennsylvania Bleeding Disorders Foundation and will use the funds to achieve my academic goals.



RAINA SLATER

Thank you for the scholarship! This award is going to help aid me through my academic career at Penn State University. I study architectural engineering in the 5 year masters program. I love Penn State, and more importantly, I love learning!



MIKAELA KOTTELICH

My name is Mikaela Kottelich and I am entering my third and final year at the University of Akron majoring in Biomedical Science. This past April, I found out that I was accepted into Northeast Ohio Medical School through my university's early assurance program. I will be taking a gap year before matriculating, in which I hope to continue to do research. After that, I will begin a Master's program at NEOMed for one year and then officially start medical school. I am looking forward to continuing my education to one day become a physician. I am very grateful that WPBDF has granted me this wonderful scholarship that allows me to fund my educational goals.



WILLOW REED

In the fall, I plan to attend Indiana University of Pennsylvania as a biology major with a focus in pre-medicine and a minor in a health-related subject. Afterwards, I plan to attend medical school and become a physician.



CAILIN STUKUS

I am super excited to continue and complete my bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and minor in environmental engineering at the Swanson School of Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh! I plan to graduate in May 2026!



MEGAN WHARTON

For my academic future, I am attending Chatham University and majoring in nursing. I am going to specialize in labor and delivery and hopefully be able to give back to WPBDF.

FALL PROGRAM



Saturday, October 5, 2024
Ambassador Center
7794 Peach St, Erie, PA 16509
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

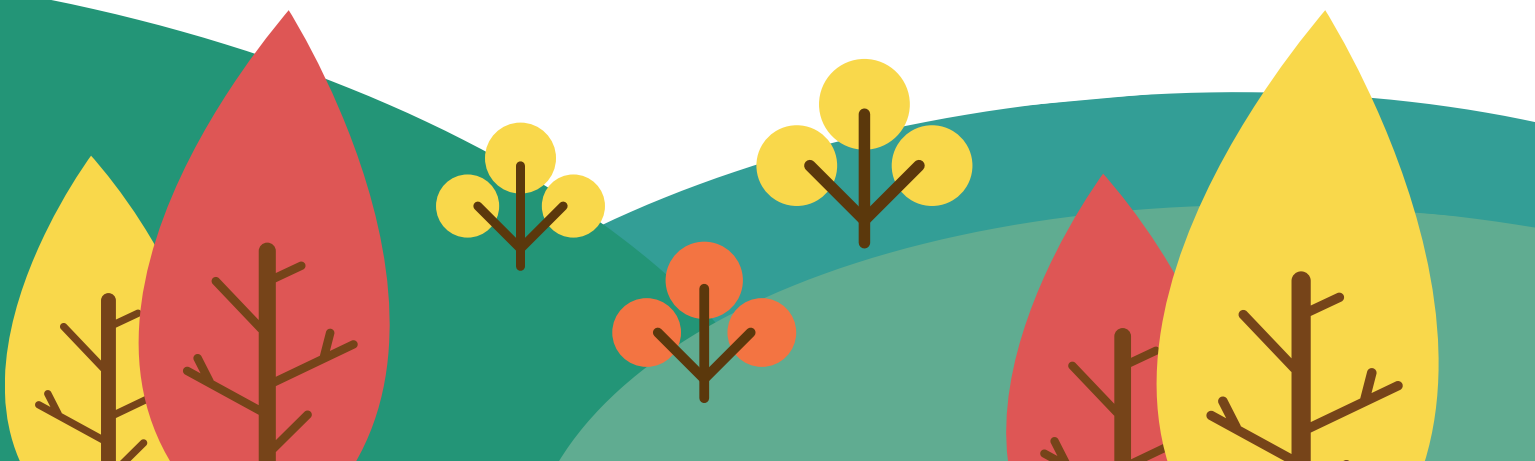
**JOIN US FOR AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ON HOW TO BE
PREPARED IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS!**

The meeting starts with exhibit booths, followed by an educational program on being prepared for emergency situations, and a buffet lunch.

Enjoy the rest of the day at Splash Lagoon! Tickets to Splash Lagoon will be handed out after the program and can be used from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM that day.

This program is for WPBDF members with bleeding disorders and their immediate household family members.

RSVP by Friday, September 20, at rsvp@wpbdf.org or call 724-741-6160. Please include the number of attendees, ages of children, and any dietary restrictions. If you would like to go to Splash Lagoon after the program, please let us know how many people in your party will be swimmers





WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BLEEDING DISORDERS FOUNDATION

775 4th Street
First Floor
Beaver, PA 15009

WPBDF'S CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

**NORTH PARK SWIMMING POOL
S. RIDGE DRIVE
ALLISON PARK, PA 15101**

TEAM COST: (PER TEAM OF TWO)

EARLY BIRD: \$50

Now through August 2nd

REGULAR: \$60

Register online at:

**WPBDF.ORG/EVENT/
CORNHOLE**



This double-elimination tournament, run by Steel City Cornhole, will be held in conjunction with the Unite for Bleeding Disorders Walk and the Run for Their Lives 5K.

**REGISTRATION: 8 AM
TOURNAMENT: 9 AM**



HEMOGRAM

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BLEEDING DISORDERS FOUNDATION

775 4th Street, First Floor

Beaver, PA 15009

Phone: 724-741-6160 Toll Free: 800-824-0016 Fax: 724-741-6167

info@wpbdf.org

