

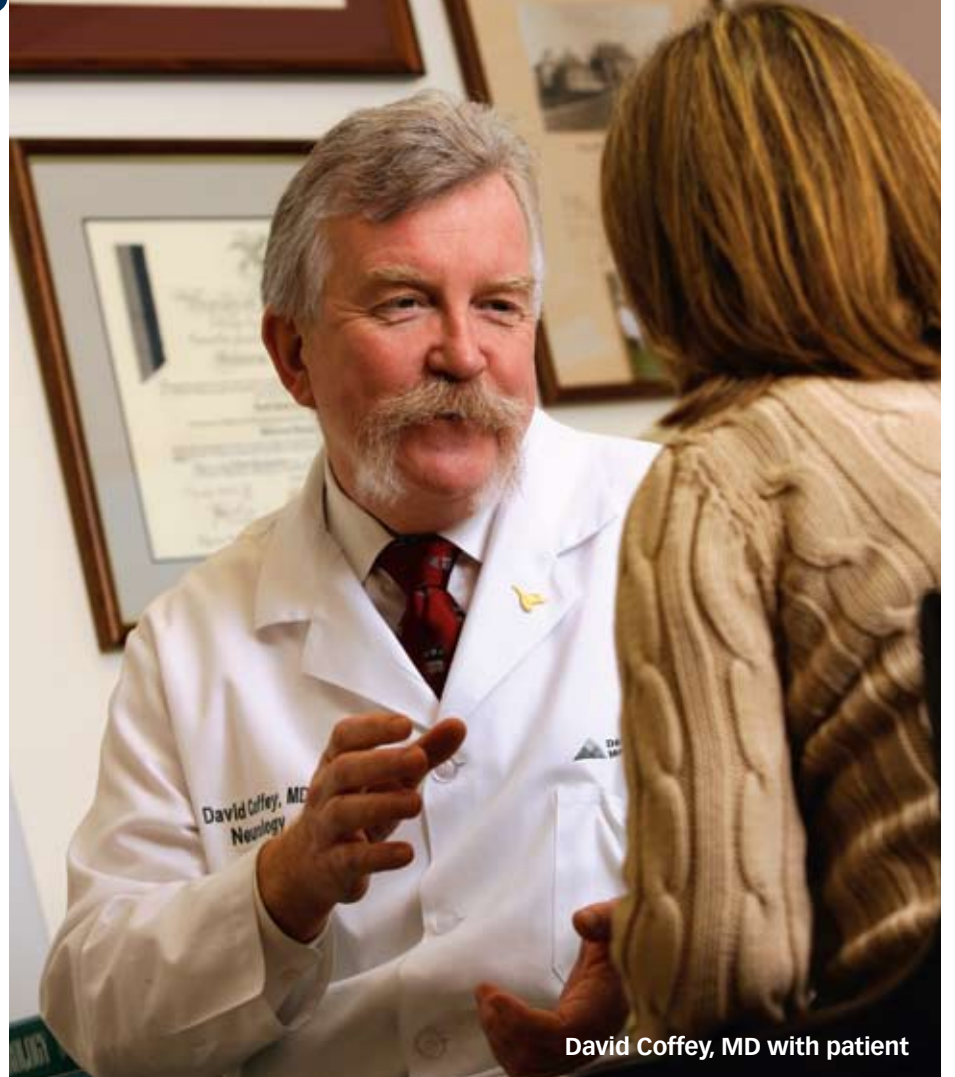
The Parkinson's Center

“A Genius of a Program”

TUCKED INTO A SMALL OFFICE in the Neurology Clinic on 3C you will find the Parkinson's Information and Referral Center. Neurologists Stephen Lee, MD, Ph.D and David Coffey, MD provide the medical expertise and Diane Church, Ph.D, is the energetic and enthusiastic coordinator who keeps it all running smoothly. Opened in 2006 to meet growing demand, and in response to the efforts and urgings of local support group members, the Parkinson's Information and Referral Center is part of the American Parkinson's Disease Association (APDA), which currently provides the grant money to support the center.



Stephen Lee, MD, PhD, is investigating the interplay between oxidative stress and protein levels of the Parkinson disease gene called alpha synuclein.



David Coffey, MD with patient

Supporting the Support Groups

“I was part of a support group that met in White River Junction in the late 1990s,” says Bill Brawley, a 44 year-old Hanover resident who has early onset Parkinson's. “I was most grateful to be with other people and to learn from their experiences.” It was through the support group that he and others learned about the APDA and their nationwide referral centers. Bill was a leader in the push for the Parkinson's Center at DHMC. “They buttress support groups,” he says, “with information on medication, access to experts, and conferences. They teach people how to better handle their Parkinson's.”

Lucy Crichton, D. Min., coordinates the Concord, New Hampshire Havenwood-Heritage Heights (HHH) support group. “The Parkinson's Information and Referral Center definitely gives us a sense of connection to the medical world and new developments in research on Parkinson's Disease (PD), to the other support groups, and to the national APDA. As a facilitator, I appreciate having Diane as a resource that I can draw upon. Her knowledge has proven to be very helpful.”

Diane says the types of calls the Center receives vary, from people needing referrals to a specialist in their area, diet recommendations, resources on exercise, and support for caregivers. A key role she plays is as a resource for the 10 support groups in the region. Diane claims that she has learned much from the patients and caregivers because each family offers personal stories and guidance on how to make living with PD easier. “These are wonderful, strong communities.”

Connecting People to Resources

As the region's only official APDA information and referral center, the Parkinson's Center at DHMC is well situated. “Patients with PD,” says Dr. Lee,

“often require multi-specialty care, and we are uniquely qualified to provide a full complement of services necessary to meet those needs. The Parkinson's Center serves to coordinate referrals to interdisciplinary medical and surgical subspecialties such as neurosurgery, geriatric medicine, genetics, psychiatry, ophthalmology, otorhinolaryngology,



Bill Brawley, pushed for the APDA Center

orthopaedics, and physical therapy and rehabilitation.”

The Parkinson's Center has a lending library, a voice amplifier Diane lends out, access to medical expertise and a vast amount of referral information. Additionally, soon Diane will be producing a quarterly newsletter and she is organizing a conference in April, Parkinson's Awareness Month (see Box).

The Future

“Establishing the Parkinson's Center here has been a terrific first step and addresses our mission of establishing community ties and promoting community service,” says Dr. Coffey. “However, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical

Center is fortunate to have so many other areas of excellence, from translational research at the Neuroscience Center at Dartmouth, graduate education programs such as the Program in Experimental and Molecular Medicine, clinical trials for neuroprotection, and a nationally renowned neurosurgical program at the Department of Neurosur-

of the Dartmouth Hitchcock Alliance. We're always interested in establishing relationships with the community to meet this need.”

Diane says her “command central” might not look like much, but to patients and caregivers who call and hear her voice on the phone, the Parkinson's Center has been a lifeline.



Diane Church, Ph.D, supports “these wonderful, strong communities.”

gery. It is only natural for us to evolve into an advanced research center, taking leadership positions in developing innovative therapies.”

Bill Brawley is excited to see this Center grow. “It's still relatively young. I'm really looking forward to watching this Center take off. The APDA is a genius of a program, helping people get the most out of all of its knowledge and resources.”

All involved hope that the word about the Parkinson's Center gets out more widely. “We hope to increase awareness through upcoming events,” says Dr. Lee. “As a referral center, we aim to take advantage of referrals to the excellent clinical services here at DHMC and surrounding members

APDA EVENT

Improving Parkinson's Disease Treatment Through Innovation and Research

A free educational event in honor of Parkinson's Awareness Month

**Saturday April 19, 2008
9:30AM-2PM
Auditoriums A-D, DHMC**

Program Highlights:

- Continental Breakfast
- Dr. David W. Roberts, Neurosurgery, DHMC. Presenting Deep Brain Stimulation Surgery
- Lunch
- Dr. Stephen Lee, Neurology, DHMC The Cutting Edge of Parkinson's Disease Research. Q&A with Dr. Lee and a Panel of Clinical Trials Participants

Contact Parkinson's Center at DHMC to pre-register for free
E-mail: apda@hitchcock.org
Telephone: (603) 650-5280