

# national neutropenia network

awareness, education, research and support



**March 2018**

This month features conference updates, doctor's corner & more.....

## **Conference News!**

It is confirmed! We will have a session on genetics at the conference. Who should get the testing, where, when, and what to do with the results will be the main topics. Don't miss finding out about the latest science and how it applies to you.

## **The 2018 Family Conference will be held on July 13-15 in Ann Arbor, MI.**

Conference details, registration, forms, and hotel information can all be found on the new updated [National Neutropenia Network website](#).

## **Spread the News**

Please spread the news about the conference through your social media connections. Our enews only goes out to those who have signed up for the NNN newsletter. Encourage others to **sign up** so they won't miss any announcements. We will also be posting on the [NNN facebook page](#).

## **Deadlines Approaching**

Financial Assistance Requests closes March 31st.

Early bird pricing ends on April 15th.

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## Volunteer Needed at Conference

We are recruiting volunteers for our 2018 Family Neutropenia Conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Currently, we are looking for photographers, story writers, and those with organizational skills who can assist at registration.

If you will be attending the conference or are in the area and want to help out, please contact [Kate](#). Thank you!

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## Board Member Highlight

Ronald C. Bloxham lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, with his wife, Vickie. In 1989, Ron and his family traveled to Seattle, Washington where they became involved in neutropenia research with Dr. Dale at the University of Washington Medical Center. Ron, his daughter and two granddaughters have neutropenia.



Ron graduated from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 1971. Ron graduated from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 1976 with a Juris Doctorate degree.

Ron has practiced Law in Nevada for 41 years and served as a prosecutor in the Clark County District Attorney's office for over 34 years.

Ron is a current board member and has served for the past 4 years. Ron has served on many committees over the years and is dedicated to helping others navigate the problems associated with neutropenia.

Ron enjoys fly-fishing, photography, genealogy and family history, and travel. Ron and Vickie have visited over 20 countries. Between the blended families, Ron and Vickie have 11 children and 24 grandchildren.

Thank you, Ron, for your hard work and commitment.

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## Doctor's Corner

We receive questions from individuals and families regarding neutropenia and we welcome your questions for future issues. This issue's question is being answered by Dr. David C. Dale, Professor of Medicine, University of Washington Medical Center, Seattle. Dr. Dale is a lead investigator in the clinical trials which led to the licensing

of NEUPOGEN (Filgrastim) for SCN.

### **Is there a correlation between G-CSF (granulocyte colony-stimulating factor) and "Hydroxyapatite crystal deposition disease (HADD)"?**

The term "hydroxyapatite crystal deposition disease (HADD)" is one of several terms used to describe arthritis due to deposition of bony radio-opaque crystals in joints. It is most often use by radiologists. It is usually the consequence of osteoarthritis with bony crystals breaking off into the joint space after the cartilage which normally covers the ends of the bones has worn away. It is very painful and you can see crystals on high resolution imaging studies.

As you may know, joint and bone pain are the most common adverse effects associated with taking G-CSF. The underlying mechanisms for this pain are not completely clear. For the most part, we relate bone pain to the expansion of the neutrophil production in the bone marrow. When patients take G-CSF, they have more neutrophils to respond at any site of inflammation. So if there is already a problem with inflammation caused by crystals in the joints, my expectation is that the symptoms of their crystal deposition disease would worsen. I would further speculate that it might come and go depending the schedule of G-CSF administration.

David C. Dale, M.D.  
Professor of Medicine  
University of Washington

## SUPPORT OUR MISSION

The mission of the National Neutropenia Network is to promote awareness, education, and research, and to provide a support system for patients with severe chronic neutropenia (SCN) and their families through a national resource network.

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