



THE MISSY PROJECT Update

A journal published by The Missy Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing **Brain Aneurysm Disease (B.A.D.)** in children through education, outreach and early detection.

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The Missy Project

is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) named after Missy Magel, a 12-year-old girl whose life was suddenly taken by a brain aneurysm.
www.themissyproject.org



The Missy Project Goes International!

By Fred Nugen

We have firmly established a long-term collaboration between UT Austin, The Missy Project, and KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden!

From May through August, Fred Nugen visited KTH for an intensive collaboration with Christian Gasser. Dr. Gasser is an expert in Biomechanics of arterial modeling, and especially aneurysms.

Together, they developed state-of-the-art technologies for improved evaluation of aneurysm risk. This will help treatment decisions by giving physicians hard numbers to improve the accuracy of predictions.

The ideas have already been presented to engineering and medical experts in Stockholm as well as Italy. The final results will be presented at the 10th World Congress on Computational Mechanics in Brazil in 2012.

Treating aneurysms is a constant fight against uncertainty. Patients and physicians are constantly asked to make decisions based on limited information and gut feelings. Computer simulation has the ability to evaluate new treatments and measurements without risking someone's life. This puts us at the forefront of technology in aneurysm treatment.

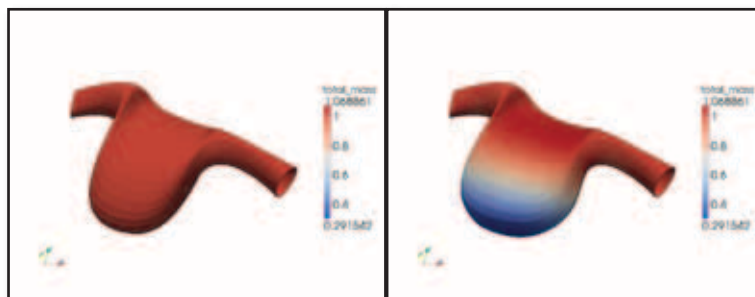
In some cases, computer simulation can recognize silent killers like this one before they happen.

About Mr. Nugen:

Fred Nugen is the U.M.C. Brack-enridge PhD candidate, The University of Texas at Austin; Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences, Cardiovascular Engineering Program

About Dr. Gasser:

Christian Gasser is a University Lector at the Department of Solid Mechanics at KTH and heads the VascuMech research unit. He is an authority on Biomechanical modeling of arteries, particularly of modeling collagen fibers within AAA. His research interests are in the field of biomechanics, with particular emphasis on simulation techniques to solve relevant clinical problems. See http://www-old.hallf.kth.se/~tg/vascumech/t_c_gasser.html.



The colors represent the predicted amount of enlargement of the aneurysm. Blue represents more enlargement and red represents less.

In keeping with The Missy Project's mission of advancing medical research, The Missy Project awarded a \$10,000 grant to Fred Nugen for the Research and Collaboration with Dr Gasser. We are honored to have Fred working together with The Missy Project towards the advancement of treatment of Brain Aneurysm Disease. Many new advances are in the works to determine who develops a brain aneurysm and how quickly it will grow. That information can save lives.... Thanks so much Fred for all your leading edge research.

The Missy Project 12th Annual Golf Tournament held on April 25th, 2011

Together we raised \$60,000.

Special Thanks to:
Beels Signs for our signs
Horizon Printing for our Golf Brochures
Sweet Pixel Photography for taking pictures
And all of our **Auction Donors**

The support of our Sponsors makes our Event possible. Thank you all for your Support!!!



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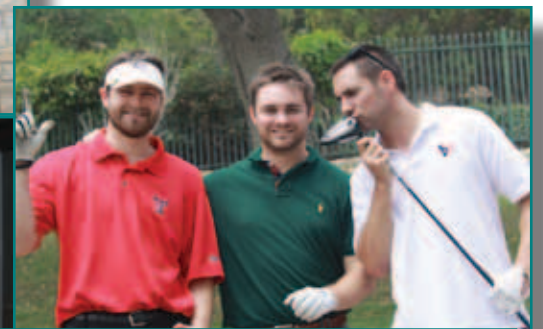
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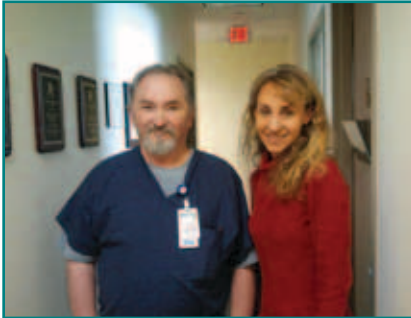
Save The Date!

13th Annual Missy Project Golf Tournament

April 30, 2012



If you would like to be a sponsor of next year's event,
you can donate this year as a sponsor for next year's golf tournament.



Del McBee and Michele Ajgaonkar, MPH, Medical Researcher at UMC Brackenridge manage the Missy Project Community Screening Program.

Update from the Executive Director:

During this past year The Brain and Spine Center at UMC Brackenridge have screened 47 patients and 5 more are pending. From that population, 4 patients were found with a brain aneurysm that needed further medical attention. Many of these are participating as a result of our awareness campaign. Many of our research candidates are from the hospital where a family member had a brain aneurysm and it was deemed necessary to screen other family members. These screenings provide a life saving tool for a family with this disease. Thank you all for your financial support of this program.

When The Missy Project was founded, few if any studies existed to further research of B.A.D., which is why I am so encouraged by the various research projects devoted to Brain Aneurysm Disease. Here's a brief version of two Gene Studies:

In the past few years, there has been a revolution in the ways that researchers can study DNA, our genetic material. Today, it is possible to test hundreds of thousands of different positions along our DNA.

What can be accomplished with this new technology? It can identify genes that increase the risk for Intracranial Aneurysms by comparing the DNA of individuals with an Intracranial Aneurysm with the DNA of individuals who do not have an Intracranial Aneurysm. Currently, the FIA study is comparing the DNA at several hundred thousand positions. Tatiana Foroud, PhD is currently completing a study that compares the DNA at these many different positions in about 840 individuals with an Intracranial Aneurysm and 900 individuals who do not have one. In looking for variations that occur more frequently in individuals with an Intracranial Aneurysm and comparing those without an Intracranial Aneurysm, She 's working to gather definitive data that will help identify new genes that have made it more likely that some individuals will develop an Intracranial Aneurysm and others will not. This study is another way to research who is affected by BAD and who isn't. We are grateful to Tatiana Foroud for this study and look forward to the published results.

Another study, named the GIANT study is being conducted at The Yale University School of Medicine, Department of Neurosurgery. Their study is also on the genetics of intracranial aneurysm (GIANT). Participation is easy and may be done entirely from your home. This study does not require a doctor's visit or an appointment at Yale. Participants will be sent a kit containing clear and concise instructions, a consent form to sign and a special container to provide a saliva sample and a return mailer. No blood draw will be required. Contact Mary Magel at themissyproject@gmail.com or 512-257-9680 for more details on the study.

Want to Make this Holiday Season *Really* Count?

The Board of The Missy Project is making a difference this holiday season by sending out our own personal "Save a Life" web pages to support our Community Screening Program. And you can too. It's simple, just let me know you want a personal page set up for you and it will be done and emailed to you. Send it to your family and friends asking for support to raise awareness and funding to "Save a Life". A screening (\$500) or half of a screening (\$250) or anywhere in between, will make a huge difference to a family with Brain Aneurysm Disease as well as promote critical awareness of brain aneurysms which will lead to early detection standard of care. Your support is our foundation. To have a holiday fun-raising page set up for you, contact Mary Magel at 512-257-9680 or themissyproject@gmail.com or visit our website www.themissyproject.org.

Save the Date...

"Relay to Remember"
Groton, Ct -- May 5, 2012



In Loving Memory of Ronnie Robeson, who passed away at age 19 months from a brain aneurysm, We will be walking to Raise Awareness and Support Research of Brain Aneurysm Disease (B.A.D.)

Please join Mary Ellen Robeson and me as we remember the children who's lives have been cut short to this silent killer. More details coming soon. For more info; Contact Mary Ellen Robeson at 860-464-1335 or email her at: merobeson@yahoo.com

THE MISSY PROJECT

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Raising awareness of Brain Aneurysm Disease

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Get Creative with Contributions!

Here are some ways to be creative with charitable giving:

- **Set up a "Save a Life" Fun-raising Page to distribute to friends and family.**
- **SwipeGood.com** is dedicated to raising funds for nonprofits. At the end of each month, SwipeGood will round up each purchase to the nearest dollar, and **donate your change** to The Missy Project. It's like putting your change in a cookie jar, and each month it benefits your charity. To sign up and support The Missy Project, visit: www.swipegood.com/TheMissyProject.
- **Special Occasions, Birthdays, Weddings, & Memorials** are just some of the ways you can make a memorable donation to The Missy Project on behalf of someone you love.
- **Corporate Match Program** is another way to support The Missy Project. Check with your human resources department to see if you have a match program. If your company matches a donation, it doubles the impact.

Want more info on B.A.D.? Visit: www.themissyproject.org.
Email: themissyproject@gmail.com or **Call Mary Magel at 512-257-9680**

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