

# 2009

## ANNUAL REPORT

# North American Thrombosis Forum





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## *Our Vision*

NATF's legacy will be the improvement of patient care, outcomes, and public health through the support of thrombosis-related programs, such as novel research projects, innovative educational programs, public policy initiatives, regulatory issues, and advocacy. NATF also seeks to broaden training opportunities for physicians, scientists, and other health professionals.

## *Our Mission*

The goal of the North American Thrombosis Forum (NATF) is to focus on unmet needs and issues related to thrombosis and cardiovascular diseases such as deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, myocardial infarction, peripheral arterial occlusive disease, and stroke.

NATF's five areas of major focus are:

- 1) Education and prevention
- 2) Public policy
- 3) Basic translational research
- 4) Clinical research, especially diagnosis and therapy
- 5) Advocacy

## Message from the President

*Samuel Z. Goldhaber, MD—President and Founding Director NATF*



2009 marked the third full calendar year for the North American Thrombosis Forum (NATF). This year was a turning point, as NATF has become one of the leading organizations providing quality thrombosis-related educational programs and materials to a broad range of multidisciplinary healthcare professionals and patients. NATF has established itself as the premier nonprofit organization focusing on all aspects of education regarding prevention, treatment, diagnosis, and epidemiology of pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis. We have extended our thrombosis programs to encompass acute coronary syndromes, sudden cardiac death, stroke, and peripheral vascular disease. We have intensified our efforts to improve patient care, outcomes, and public health as we close out 2009 and set the stage for 2010.

NATF's involvement in the ongoing healthcare debate, as it relates to generic drugs and "biosimilar" pharmacological agents and patient safety, has been a stand-out achievement of 2009. NATF has crafted an "Official Policy Statement Regarding the Protection of Patient Safety and Patient Rights on Matters of Follow-On Biologics." This document results from engagement in discussion with scientists, healthcare professionals, and public policy makers on ways to provide low cost therapeutic pharmacological agents without compromising patient safety. As NATF moves into 2010, plans are already in place to provide additional forums for discussion and debate on this issue.

Another accomplishment in 2009 was the initiation of our first annual fundraising effort. The support NATF has received thus far from its members—in the way of time, resources, and funds—is a marker of how valuable our members find the programs and materials NATF offers. Without their contributions, as well as those from industry and private philanthropists, NATF could not carry out its mission.

NATF will expand its efforts in 2010. I know that those of you already active in NATF will continue to contribute your time and effort to our multiple outlets revolving around thrombosis education. NATF welcomes new activists to join us in our widespread scientific and educational endeavors.

---

## Message from the Executive Director

*Ilene Sussman, PhD—Executive Director, NATF*



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### **NATF: The Organization**

In 2009, NATF created a new staff position, Event Coordinator, to handle the increasing number of events hosted by NATF each year. Additionally, new members joined the NATF Advocacy Committee to replace those who have left.

#### **Board of Directors**

Samuel Z. Goldhaber, MD: President and Director  
John Fanikos, RPh, MBA: Treasurer and Director  
Jawed Fareed, PhD: Director  
Arthur A. Sasahara, MD: Director

#### **Staff**

Ilene Sussman, PhD: Executive Director  
Caroline Kernan: Event Coordinator  
Ky Inthavong: Webmaster  
Sherrie MacDonald: Education and Outreach Coordinator



#### **International Scientific Advisory Committee**

Henri M. Bounameaux, MD  
Benjamin Brenner, MD  
Sylvia Haas, MD

Stavros Konstantinides, MD  
Ajay K. Kakkar, MD, PhD  
Vijay V. Kakkar, MD



### Scientific Advisory Committee

- Geno Merli, MD  
Committee Chair
- Jeanine M. Walenga, PhD  
Committee Vice Chair
- Joseph S. Alpert, MD
- Shannon Bates, MD, MSc
- Kenneth A. Bauer, MD
- Henry I. Bussey, PharmD
- Stephen Fredd, MD
- Russell Hull, MD, MSc
- Carlos Jerjes-Sanchez, MD
- Kenneth V. Leeper, Jr., MD
- Gundu Rao, PhD
- Farzaneh Sorond, MD, PhD
- Paul D. Stein, MD
- Jeffrey I. Weitz, MD

### Advocacy Committee

- Elizabeth Aluck
- Jose Alvarez-Stelling
- Brenda Blackburn
- Heidi Blongastainer
- David Bock
- Kelly Clark
- Jennifer Combs, MSN, ARNP
- Kendra Grant
- Henry Hagopian, III
- Michael J. Hefron
- Walter Jenkins
- Mark Lindsay
- Kathryn Z. Mikkelson
- Ruth B. Morrison, RN, BSN, CVN
- James J. Noble, PhD
- Linda A. Picard



### eThrombosis Review Board

- Debra Hoppensteadt, PhD: Editor-in-Chief
- Shannon Bates, MD, MSc
- Stephen Fredd, MD
- Arthur A. Sasahara, MD
- Paul D. Stein, MD

## Feedback from NATF Educational Programs

NATF continues to provide high quality, state-of-the-art educational programs. Evaluations confirm that NATF course attendees note the content to be evidence based and unbiased. Program participants state that NATF's understanding and inclusion of the patient's perspective contributes enormously to educational initiatives, making NATF programs unique.

Survey data have shown that prior to their attendance at NATF programs, participants have identified the following barriers effective prophylaxis of patients with thrombosis-related disease:

- \* Variability in knowledge of risk assessment and appropriate prophylaxis
- \* Unawareness of guidelines for certain patient populations
- \* Perceived lack of need
- \* Concern over adverse effects
- \* Lack of hospital support systems

Participation in NATF educational programs helps clinicians overcome these barriers. Attendees state they anticipate changes in their clinical approach, including:

- \* Asking about past medical history in terms of risk factors for VTE
- \* Testing for high sensitivity C-Reactive Protein and Factor V Leiden
- \* Encouraging improved exercise
- \* Advocating on behalf of DVT and PE patients to lower the course of outpatient therapy
- \* Ensuring all moderate to high risk patients receive in-hospital prophylaxis
- \* Introducing hospital-wide protocols for DVT/PE prevention
- \* Increasing DVT prevention education for patients



## Surgeons General's Call to Action to Prevent Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism



NATF began 2009 with an important Conference on Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) and Pulmonary Embolism (PE), held on January 30, in collaboration with Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. The highlight of this 2-hour program was an address from Rear Admiral Steven K. Galson, MD, MPH, Acting Surgeon General of the United States on the recently released Call to Action to Prevent DVT and PE. More than 300 attendees, including many allied health students, also heard state-of-the-art presentations on prophylaxis measures and critical developments in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of thrombotic disorders.

Complete videos of these presentations can be viewed at [www.natfonline.org/SGmeeting.php](http://www.natfonline.org/SGmeeting.php).

## Thrombosis Prevention Forum

NATF's annual Thrombosis Prevention Forum is a unique educational experience allowing patients and their families to interact with the healthcare professionals who carry out research, provide clinical care, or work on public policy or advocacy issues related to thrombosis. In 2009, Thrombosis Prevention Forum was held on April 4 with 150 physicians, pharmacists, nurses, patients, and patient family members present.

Complimentary syllabi and CDROM slide sets are available through the NATF office, or online at: [www.natfonline.org/prevention\\_forum2009.php](http://www.natfonline.org/prevention_forum2009.php).

We thank all the speakers for their providing a comprehensive multidisciplinary overview of major issues concerning myocardial infarction, stroke, and venous thromboembolism:

- \* **Steven Baroletti, PharmD, MBA:** Heparin-Induced Thrombocytopenia
- \* **Kenneth A. Bauer, MD:** Keynote Lecture: Hypercoagulability
- \* **Joshua A. Beckman, MD, MS:** Pre-Operative Evaluation of Patients with Vascular Disease
- \* **Mark A. Creager, MD:** Peripheral Artery Disease Update
- \* **John Fanikos, RPh, MBA:** Novel Anticoagulants
- \* **Jawed Fareed, PhD:** Drug Safety Considerations for Anticoagulants
- \* **Karen Fiumara, PharmD:** Electronic Alerts to Prevent DVT
- \* **Marie Gerhard-Herman, MD:** Diagnosis of DVT
- \* **Samuel Z. Goldhaber, MD:** Team Approach to VTE Treatment: Trauma Center Model
- \* **Kendra Grant:** Patient Advocacy
- \* **Paul M Ridker, MD:** Update on the JUPITER Trial
- \* **Farzaneh Sorond, MD, PhD:** Stroke Update
- \* **Thomas Sullivan, RN:** Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

## The NATF Hosted Educational Program



Peter Libby, MD is the Chief of Cardiovascular Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. He also serves as the Mallinckrodt Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Libby directs the D.W. Reynolds Cardiovascular Clinical Research Center at Harvard. His current major research focus is the role of inflammation in vascular diseases such as atherosclerosis. Dr. Libby has received numerous awards and recognition for his research accomplishments. His areas of clinical expertise include general and preventive cardiology.

Henri Bounameaux, MD is Professor of Medicine at the University of Geneva and Chairman of the Department of Medicine. His research interests cover all aspects of venous thromboembolism. He has authored 300 papers in peer-reviewed journals, along with several reviews, didactic papers, and book chapters. Dr. Bounameaux serves in Data Safety Monitoring and Steering committees of several international diagnostic and therapeutic trials on venous thromboembolism. He has been the President of the 2007 International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) Congress in Geneva and is presently Chairman elect of ISTH Council.



## THE NORTH AMERICAN THROMBOSIS FORUM (NATF) 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Benjamin Brenner, MD is Professor of Medicine (Hematology) and Caster chair in Leukemia Research at the Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Technion Israel Institute of Technology. His research interests over the years have included: fibrinolysis and thrombolysis, inherited bleeding disorders and studies of new antithrombotics and hemostatic agents. Dr Brenner's studies in the field of inherited and acquired thrombophilia concentrated on procoagulant in leukemia and solid tumors and on the effect of combined thrombophilic defects on the expression of thrombosis. His main interest focuses on issues related to thrombosis in women, in particular the association of thrombophilia with pregnancy loss and late gestational vascular complications, and studies of hemostatic mechanis in the placenta.

Complimentary syllabi and CDROM slide sets are available through the NATF office and online at: [www.natfonline.org/ISTH2009.php](http://www.natfonline.org/ISTH2009.php).

### The North American Thrombosis Summit

On September 26, 2009, NATF held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual North American Thrombosis Summit. National and international leaders in the field of thrombosis, including Keynote Speaker Peter Libby, MD, presented state-of-the-art information at this 1-day CME accredited symposium. Three hundred attendees, including physicians, pharmacists, nurses, researchers, public policy makers, patients, and advocates, expanded their knowledge of prophylaxis measures and critical developments in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of thrombotic disorders.

Complimentary syllabi and CDROM with slide sets are available through the NATF office. In addition, a video feed of each lecture, with corresponding slides, can be seen online at: [www.natfonline.org/summit\\_2009.php](http://www.natfonline.org/summit_2009.php).

- \* **Elliott Antman, MD:** Acute Coronary Syndrome
- \* **Gregory del Zoppo, MD:** Ischemic Stroke
- \* **Jawed Fareed, PhD:** Oral Antithrombin and Anti Xa Agents and Their Impact in the Management of Thrombosis and Cardiovascular Disease
- \* **Samuel Z. Goldhaber, MD:** The Volunteer and Charitable Spirit of North America
- \* **Jonathan Halperin, MD:** Atrial Fibrillation and Thrombosis
- \* **Susan R. Kahn, MD:** Post Thrombotic Syndrome
- \* **Craig M. Kessler, MD:** Cancer and Thrombosis
- \* **Peter Libby, MD:** Keynote Address: Atherothrombosis
- \* **Thomas L. Ortel, MD, PhD:** Anticoagulation Bridging: The NHLBI-Sponsored Trial
- \* **Michael J. Paidas, MD:** Recombinant Human Antithrombin: New Therapeutic Options
- \* **Gregory Piazza, MD:** Physician Alerts to Prevent DVT
- \* **Paul M Ridker, MD, MPH:** Update on the JUPITER Trial
- \* **Cathy G. Rosenfield, MD:** VTE in Children and Adolescents

## Grand Rounds

NATF-sponsored Grand Rounds are another way the organization reaches out to expand the dialogue about thrombosis and thromboembolism, both geographically and among the medical disciplines. Because medical students are frequently in attendance at Grand Rounds, this educational forum further enables the conversation to reach the next generation of physicians.

Over the course of 2009, NATF provided renowned lecturers for Grand Rounds at hospitals throughout New England. Speakers included Kenneth Bauer, MD; Denise Hirsch, MD, FACC; Peter Marks, MD, PhD; Sylvia McKean, MD; and Neil Zakai, MD.

Slide sets from NATF-sponsored Grand Rounds can be found at [www.natfonline.org/grand\\_rounds.php](http://www.natfonline.org/grand_rounds.php).

## Webinars

In 2009, NATF partnered with Standing Stone, Inc. to offer its members online seminars. Approximately 200 people have already received quality programming via this new educational venue. On September 9, Jeanine M. Walenga, PhD and Craig M. Jackson, PhD presented the program entitled “Heparin and Low Molecular Weight Heparins: Safety of Biosimilars.” John Fanikos, RPh, MBA hosted a second webinar on December 16 entitled “New Thromboembolic Inhibitors.” Audio of both webinars is available at: [www.natfonline.org/natf\\_webinars.php](http://www.natfonline.org/natf_webinars.php).

## Educating the Next Generation of Healthcare Professionals: The NATF Traveling Fellowship Program

NATF recognizes the vital impact training programs have on the future of thrombosis research, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. The NATF Traveling Fellowship Program is designed to provide scientists and healthcare professionals (MD, DO, PhD, PharmD, RPh, NP, RN, or PA) the opportunity to expand their fund of knowledge, as well as build positive and enduring relationships with others concerned with thrombotic disorders. With a stipend award of \$7,500 for lodging and travel, selected Fellows are asked to develop a working relationship with a North American medical, research, or education center of his or her choice.

The NATF Scientific Advisory Committee is responsible for selecting the Traveling Fellows from the applicant pool. In 2009, the group developed clear criteria for judging applicants:

- \* Commitment to excellence in education, research, or clinical practice in the area of prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of thrombotic diseases
- \* Leadership ability—past, present, and future
- \* Proposed joint project with hosting center
- \* Impact of proposed project on prevention, diagnosis, treatment of thrombosis, expanded knowledge of its pathogenesis, or information synthesis and dissemination
- \* What the candidate can offer the Traveling Fellowship Program
- \* What the candidate will gain from the program

*Elizabeth Pocock, MD*



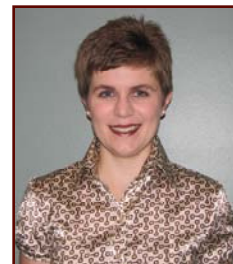
Dr. Pocock qualified as a medical doctor from the University of South Florida in 2005. Following a year-long internship in general surgery at the University of California, San Diego, Dr. Pocock then continued her residency in general surgery at UCSD in 2006-2008. She is currently a Post Doctoral Research Fellow at the UCSD Whitaker Institute of Biomedical Engineering. Among many professional activities, she has been a Medical Staff Executive Council member and Chair of the Resident Physician Council at UCSD since 2008, and a member of the Society of Vascular Surgery Governing Council since July of this year.

Dr. Pocock's research focuses on chronic venous insufficiency (CVI). For the past year, she has been studying acute venous hypertension in an animal model. Dr. Pocock's current aims are to identify the targets of matrix metalloproteinases in venous occlusion and venous hypertension, with the ultimate goal of her project being the identification of inflammatory markers that can be a potential target for early pharmacological intervention in the human population.

As a 2009 Traveling Fellow, Dr. Pocock will collaborate with board-certified phlebologists Drs. Bergan and Bunke on a proposed project at VA Hospital in La Jolla, CA studying biochemical inflammatory markers in patients with chronic venous insufficiency (CVI).

*Sara Vazquez, PharmD*

Dr. Vazquez earned a doctor of pharmacy degree from the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy in 2005. She completed her Pharmacy Practice Residency with emphasis on Ambulatory Care in 2005-2006 at the Regional Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. Vazquez serves as coordinator and preceptor for pharmacy and medical student anticoagulation clerkships, in addition to serving as seminar mentor for pharmacy students, and lecturing for the University of Utah College of Pharmacy.



Dr. Vazquez's research focuses on post-thrombotic syndrome (PTS). She has delivered several lectures on PTS, including one for the Utah Society of Health-System Pharmacy's annual continuing education meeting. Her current practice is in a community based anticoagulation clinic where she conducts interviews with patients who have undergone point-of-care INR testing to adjust warfarin dosing accordingly.

As a 2009 NATF Traveling Fellow, Dr. Vazquez will collaborate with Dr. Susan Kahn of McGill University to develop and implement an innovative and enduring educational curriculum to foster better understanding of PTS treatment and prevention.

**2010 NATF Traveling Fellowship Deadline:  
July 15, 2010**

## 2008 Traveling Fellows' Accomplishments

### *Emma M. Jones, MD*

Dr. Jones, currently practicing in New Orleans, LA, was one of the Fellows selected in 2008. In 2009, the NATF Traveling Fellowship enabled Dr. Jones to pay a ten-day visit to Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta. She used this time to observe Stollery's Thrombosis Treatment Team, under the direction of Patti Massicotte, MD. The Fellowship exposed Dr. Jones to new treatment strategies for thrombosis in children.

Dr. Jones gained valuable insight into thrombosis treatment and prevention, which she continues to utilize in her clinical and research endeavors. Her participation in Stollery's warfarin management clinics demonstrated to Dr. Jones the efficacy of both point of care monitoring and patient self-management in the treatment of thrombosis. She found especially innovative their strategy of educating patients en masse prior to individual clinic visits, as this efficiently allowed clinicians to provide important information to patients and their families, while also informing them of ongoing research studies and enrolling interested patients. The experience enabled Dr. Jones to recruit patients for her own ongoing research, exploring the role of genetic polymorphisms in modifying the response to warfarin administration in the pediatric population. Dr. Jones values both the knowledge she obtained and the connections she made while completing the NATF Traveling Fellowship.

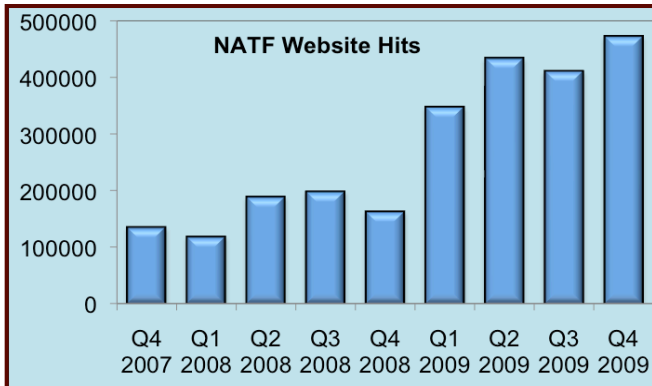
### *Maichi Tran, PharmD*

Dr. Tran, Clinical Pharmacy Coordinator for Cardiology and Anticoagulation, and Director of the Cardiology Pharmacy Residency Program at the University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center, utilized the 2008 NATF Traveling Fellowship to implement an anticoagulation education program within her organization; exchange strategies with other sites that have well-established thrombosis services; and measure the impact of these interventions on patient outcomes. This endeavor involved collaborating with Frederick Spencer, MD of Hamilton, Ontario to arrange multi-centered visits to five hospitals in that region. Dr. Tran observed thrombosis treatment and education in a wide variety of settings, including academic medical centers, ambulatory clinics, and a rehabilitation center.

While visiting these hospitals, Dr. Tran connected with physicians, nurses, and pharmacists to trade educational materials developed with her colleagues for similar educational materials developed at the host sites. By participating in discussions related to the challenges of educating a large number of healthcare providers in diverse healthcare systems, Dr. Tran fostered new plans for a joint program between UMass Memorial Medical Center and St. Joseph's Hospital to evaluate the impact of educational tools on prescribing patterns and bleeding events. The relationships formed during Dr. Tran's Fellowship will help strengthen research and education in the field of thrombosis.



## NATF's Internet Presence



The NATF website, *www.natfonline.org*, is at the core of our efforts to create thrombosis awareness and provide related education. In 2009, NATF significantly increased traffic to its website using creative search engine optimization (SEO) techniques, averaging just over 5500 website hits a day. NATF will continue to expand its Internet presence with new online initiatives.

## Patient Videos

Information on a website must take into consideration new approaches to education. There is a growing understanding of the multiple ways in which people learn: written text may suffice for some individuals, while other learning styles rely more heavily on an auditory or visual formats, such as can be provided through a video. An effective website must provide information targeted at all learning styles.

In the summer of 2009, NATF interviewed DVT survivor Heather Ford for its first patient video made available online at [www.natfonline.org](http://www.natfonline.org). This achievement has prompted a new online educational initiative involving the inclusion of a multi-media approach to thrombosis education on the NATFonline.org website. NATF's goal is to create high-definition video interviews of people who have been either directly or indirectly affected by a thrombotic event. The inclusion of videos will enhance the educational information about thrombosis currently presented on the NATF website. The videos will further emphasize information about thromboembolism, including background information, thrombosis risk factors, symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment, as well as the life-long impact. By being aware of this information, viewers will be better prepared to seek medical help and to discuss symptoms and risks with their healthcare provider, thereby accelerating the processes of diagnosis and treatment. In 2010, funds from philanthropic organizations will be sought to allow NATF to achieve this ambitious goal.

## Social Networking

In the fall and winter of 2009, NATF began using social media tools including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Digg to create a more expansive network of people both within and outside of the healthcare professional community. NATF's social network is growing rapidly and is becoming an increasingly important means of providing information about NATF initiatives and important developments in the field of thrombosis. Become involved and stay updated with the following links:

- Follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/NATFthrombosis>
- Join our network on LinkedIn:  
<http://www.linkedin.com/companies/north-american-thrombosis-forum>
- Join our Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=95968959348&ref=mf>
- Watch our videos on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NAThrombosisForum>
- Read articles on Digg: <http://digg.com/users/NATFthrombosis>

## Hospital DVT Prophylaxis Strategies: DVTeamCare™ Hospital Award

The North American Thrombosis Forum is proud to have been selected by Eisai, Inc. to help develop the DVTeamCare™ Hospital Award, a new award providing national recognition to hospitals that have made a significant commitment to preventing deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and its potentially fatal complications. (NATF does not endorse or promote any product or service offered by Eisai, Inc., or any award nominee or recipient.)

In 2009, NATF developed independently the criteria for the award and identified a panel of three judges:

**Joseph S. Alpert, MD:** NATF Scientific Advisory Committee member and Professor of Medicine, who is engaged in clinical research related to acute myocardial infarction, valvular heart disease, pulmonary embolism, and congenital heart disease in adults.

**John Fanikos, RPh, MBA:** NATF Director and Treasurer, Assistant Director of Pharmacy at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy.

**Charles Francis, MD:** Professor of Medicine and Director of a program in hemostasis and thrombosis with research in critical areas of thrombosis, hemostasis, and vascular biology at University of Rochester.

Twenty-two hospitals from across the U.S. submitted their strategies for preventing DVT. Three winners were chosen, with two hospitals receiving Honorable Mentions:

### **Winners:**

- \* **Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD:** Mandatory Computer-Based Decision Support System  
*Award Category >200 Beds*
- \* **University of California, San Diego Medical Center:** VTE Prevention Protocol Across ALL Medical and Surgical Services  
*Award Category >200 Beds*
- \* **Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center:** 7-Step Process to Walk Providers Through an Evidence-Based Medicine Risk Factor  
*Award Category <200 Beds*

### **Honorable Mentions:**

- \* Concord Hospital, Concord, NH: Category >200 Beds
- \* Sturdy Memorial Hospital, Attleboro, MA: Category <200 Beds

These winners will be recognized on April 9, 2010 at the Hospital DVT Prophylaxis Strategies program in Boston, MA, when representatives from each hospital will present their winning DVT prevention strategy. Strategies will be made available on the NATF website in the future. A second round of award applications is planned to be available in 2010. The DVTeamCare™ Hospital Award will provide an annual opportunity to share prophylaxis strategies across medical disciplines and institutions. NATF is pleased to play an integral role in the prevention of DVT through this endeavor.

## Public Policy

In 2009, NATF became actively involved in the healthcare reform debate, focusing on the issue of biosimilar pharmacological agents and generic drugs as they relate to patient safety and product efficacy. NATF issued an official statement regarding follow-on biologics and the potential risk to patient safety they pose. The statement highlights NATF's concern over the issue of interchangeability of biosimilar therapeutic agents used to treat thrombotic disorders, including low molecular weight heparins, which have a complex mixture of carbohydrate-based agents. NATF advocates:

- \* Thorough clinical testing on all biosimilars is critical to ensure both safety and efficacy
  - Testing with high risk patients is essential
- \* Consistency of the innovator product as the "reference" material
- \* Post-approval monitoring is important to ensure long-term safety

Over the summer, NATF actively engaged Washington lawmakers in discussion on these issues. Representatives of NATF held meetings on the Hill with aides to Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (D, CA), author of the Eshoo Bill, and Congressman James McGovern (D, MA), member of the House Budget Committee. In addition, NATF held several conference calls with government officials, including aides to Congressmen Henry Waxman (D, CA), Senator Charles Schumer (D, NY), Senator Ted Kennedy, (D, MA) and Senator Bill Nelson (D, FL).

On July 11, 2009, NATF hosted the "Official Statement and Action Plan on Follow-On Biosimilars: Update and Open Discussion" to provide a forum for an international group of healthcare professionals to ask questions and voice concerns regarding the aforementioned Congressional and Senatorial bills.



Complete videos of the afternoon's presentations and panel discussion can be viewed at [www.natfonline.org/follow\\_on\\_biologics.php](http://www.natfonline.org/follow_on_biologics.php), along with the full Policy Statement and a recent op-ed by Drs. Craig Kessler and Craig Jackson.

On September 25, 2009, at its annual Working Group Session, NATF discussed future public policy efforts related to Follow-On Biologics. Meeting participants discussed ways to define biosimilarity, including in terms of source material, manufacturing process, physical characteristics, efficacy, and safety. The Working Group concluded that more is needed in the way of education, for both healthcare professionals and the general public, regarding minimizing risks versus the benefits of generic biologics.

## Fundraising

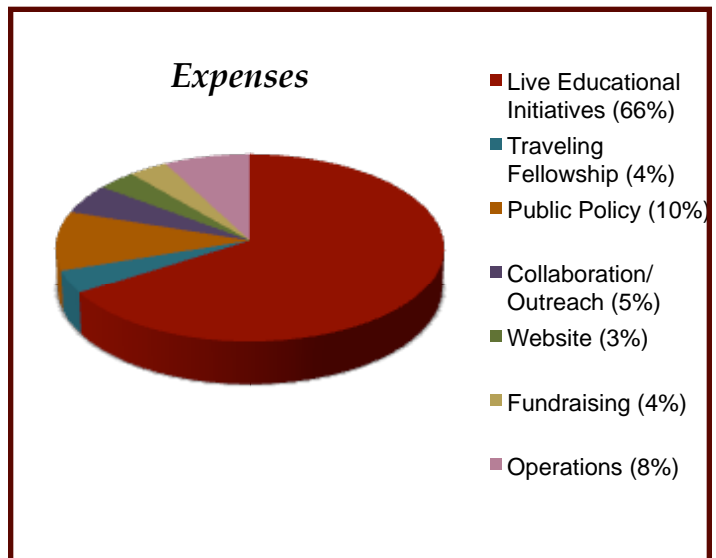
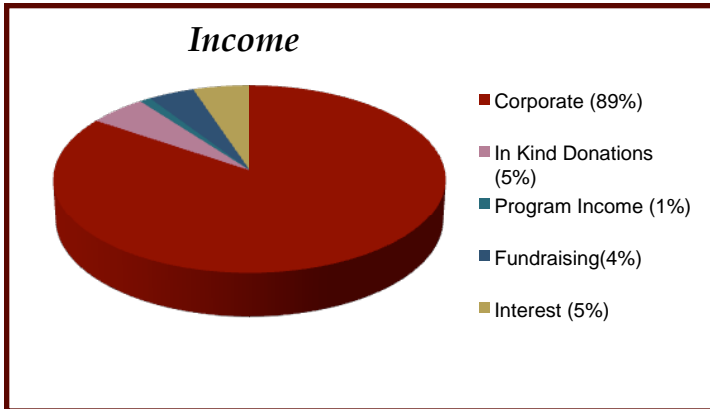
In 2009, NATF began its first annual fundraising campaign with a dinner for Friends of NATF on July 14, 2009 at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, MA. NATF Founder and President Samuel Z. Goldhaber, MD highlighted the work of NATF and its accomplishments over its first three years of existence. Guests heard from thrombosis patient, Daniel Frank, who discussed the importance of increasing education on thrombosis and cardiovascular disease in part by providing a forum for various healthcare professionals and their patients to interact.

On October 29, 2009 NATF hosted its first annual Celebration of Gratitude Awards Dinner and Fundraiser at the Boston College Club in Boston, MA. The event was conceived of and largely organized by NATF Advocacy Committee member Henry Hagopian, out of gratitude for the care he received from Drs. Marie Gerhard-Herman and John Abraham, as well as Dr. Abraham's assistant Courtney Cassidy, following his diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis. Along with the three honorees, NATF welcomed special guest Red Sox legend Johnny Pesky, local news celebrity and pulmonary embolism survivor Gail Huff, and Melanie Bloom, National Patient Spokesperson for the Coalition to Prevent DVT.

In conjunction with the Celebration of Gratitude dinner, NATF hosted its first online auction. A portion of the funds raised will be used to create a thrombosis education program at the Boston College Connell School of Nursing. Donated auction items included sports memorabilia from the Boston Red Sox and Celtics, and the New England Patriots; one-week accommodations in Aspen, Colorado and Italy; among many other exciting items. NATF thanks the businesses and individuals who contributed to this year's fundraiser.



## 2009 Financial Highlights



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