

Slow-Motion Magic Quarterlyly



Well, here we are just 2 weeks after our end-of-year planning meeting. The board decided it would be a great idea if we were to put out a newsletter on a regular basis. By “we” they meant “me” of course. Did that sound a bit snarky? I actually think it’s a great idea, but you know me; I love sarcasm.

Oh, wait a minute, you may not know me. Allow me to introduce myself. I’m David Rabotnick, and I am the founder of Slow-Motion Magic (SMM). In our family, sarcasm is our love language. You may have seen a bit of that during our performance at the 5th annual Conjuring for a Cure (CFAC) benefiting the Michael J Fox Foundation. More about the CFAC in a separate article, so keep reading.

You may be asking, what is SMM, and why am I involved? The short answer is we are a non-profit organization committed to raising Parkinson’s Disease awareness through the art of magic. We believe that awareness fuels research, and research will find a cure. That’s why we offer free magic at community events and share literature to educate the public in an entertaining way.

As for my involvement, I was diagnosed in December of 2013 with young onset Parkinson’s. I was told with dexterity, you either use it or lose it. I’m fond of my dexterity so I decided to learn sleight of hand as a way to put my dexterity to the test. This led to videos, which led to live performances and finally to becoming a 501(c)(3).

This newsletter will keep you up to date on events, research, and a bit about my personal journey. I invite and encourage you head to www.SlowmotionMagic.org (not .com) to learn more about our mission, find resources and check out our videos.

What do we call this thing?

We have embarked on this journey we have thus far named Slow-Motion Magic Quarterlyly. I came up with the name so let me be first to say it’s lame. We need to call it something snappy. It needs pizzazz. So, can you help us out? Send us your name ideas to SlowMotionMagic@outlook.com or text us at 818 201-4941. There’s a deck of custom SMM cards going out to the winner who comes up with the best name.

5th Annual Conjuring for a Cure



The 5th annual Conjuring for a Cure was a giant success, raising \$2000 for the Michael J Fox Foundation.

This was doubled to an amazing \$4000 through a generous matching campaign.

My Wife Robyn and I co-emceed the event, and the audience seemed to love our routine. The magicians put on amazing performances. Marcus Kublin led the charge, followed by Jonathan Molo and Kerry Ross. Bob Love performed close-up magic while people enjoyed pizza and signature drinks from the bar.



A wonderful afternoon of magic and wonder closed with our raffle. We gave away over \$600 in prizes thanks to a variety of local businesses who stepped up to the plate with donations of products and services. To see a full list of local supporting businesses head on over to our website, <https://slowmotionmagic.org/conjuring-for-a-cure>.

The local radio station KHTS has graciously agreed to support Slow-Motion Magic for the 2025 CFAC, and we plan to keep that momentum going to make next year’s show even better.

To support SMM or to be a sponsor of the 2025 CFAC go to www.SlowMotionMagic.org or call David Rabotnick directly at 818 201-4941.

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Breaking News: Parkinson's Disease Biomarker Found.

In an enormous leap forward in the understanding of Parkinson's disease (PD), researchers have discovered a new tool that can reveal a key pathology of the disease: abnormal alpha-synuclein — known as the “Parkinson's protein” — in brain and body cells. The breakthrough, announced last night as it was published in the scientific journal *The Lancet Neurology*, opens a new chapter for research, with the promise of a future where every person living with Parkinson's can expect improved care and treatments — and newly diagnosed individuals may never advance to full-blown symptoms.

The tool, called the α -synuclein seeding amplification assay (α Syn-SAA), can detect pathology in spinal fluid not only of people diagnosed with Parkinson's, but also in individuals who have not yet been diagnosed or shown clinical symptoms of the disease, but are at a high risk of developing it.

The assay can confirm the presence of abnormal So alpha-synuclein, detected in most people with PD, with astonishing accuracy: 93 percent of people with Parkinson's who participated in the assay were proven to have abnormal alpha-synuclein. “We've never previously been able to see in a living person whether they have this alpha-synuclein biological change happening in their body,” says Todd Sherer, PhD, chief mission officer, The Michael J. Fox Foundation (MJFF).

The biomarker breakthrough was achieved by an international coalition of scientists led by MJFF and its landmark clinical study, [Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative \(PPMI\)](#). Its significance as a milestone in the pursuit of a cure and better treatments and therapies for Parkinson's is highlighted in an article on leading health and science news website STAT, which stated “The trophy is science — and

specifically, research funded by the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research that has resulted in the clearest evidence yet that the presence of a particular misfolded protein, alpha-synuclein, can be used to determine if people have Parkinson's. It is an advance that may soon be used to develop better diagnostics, but more importantly could rapidly accelerate the search for treatments for the disease.”

How's David Doing?

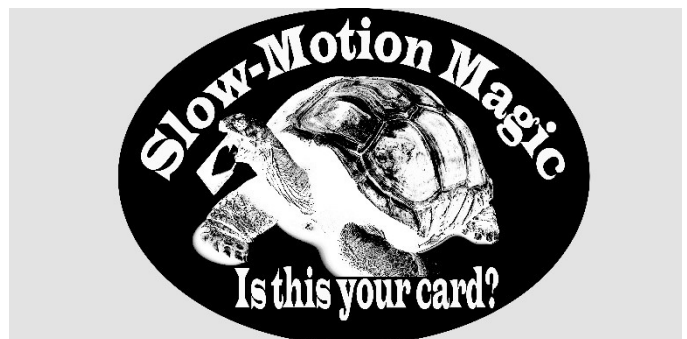
I was asked to include an update about how I'm doing on my Parkinson's journey. It has been an interesting ride over the past 10 years since my diagnosis.

I was just approved for the surgical implant of a neurostimulator. This deep brain stimulator (DBS) will likely relieve a significant amount of my symptoms. It works for about 85% and if it works for me, I can expect up to a 60% improvement.

That all sounds very promising but it is not without risk; after all, it is brain surgery. The procedure runs the risk of stroke, infection, and physical trauma to the brain while the wires are placed. The stakes are high, but it's worth the risk.

I hope by the next quarterly newsletter I'll be able to fill you in on the success and benefits post op.

Until then, all of us here at Slow-Motion Magic wish you all a happy holiday and a Magical new year.



www.SlowMotionMagic.org

818 201-4941

