



National Marfan Foundation

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Alan Braverman, MD, Named Chair of the National Marfan Foundation's Professional Advisory Board

August 12, 2010, PORT WASHINGTON, NY -- Alan Braverman, MD, Director of the Marfan Syndrome Clinic at Washington University Medical Center in St. Louis, has been named Chair of the NMF's Professional Advisory Board (PAB). Dr. Braverman, who has been a valuable member of the PAB since 1999, is both professionally and personally committed to the NMF; he lost his father to Marfan syndrome and has a brother and nephew who are affected with the condition.

Dr. Braverman, who is Director and Chief-of-Service for the Inpatient Cardiology Unit at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and a faculty member at the Center for Diseases of the Thoracic Aorta there, was recently appointed Alumni Endowed Professor of Cardiovascular Diseases at Washington University School of Medicine. In addition to his clinical practice, which covers all aspects of non-invasive cardiology, Dr. Braverman is a nationally known authority on genetically triggered aortic diseases, such as Marfan syndrome, Loeys-Dietz aneurysm syndrome, thoracic aortic aneurysms and dissections and bicuspid aortic valve disease.

In addition, to heading one of the leading Marfan syndrome clinics in the country, he has conducted extensive research on Marfan syndrome and is widely published. Most recently, he published *Acute Aortic Dissection: Clinician Update* in *Circulation*, the Journal of the American Heart Association.

A long-time advisor to the NMF's St. Louis Chapter, Dr. Braverman is committed to all aspects of the NMF's mission. He has hosted the NMF's Annual Conference twice, in 1995 and in 2005, and has conducted numerous interviews with the St. Louis media to educate the public about Marfan syndrome. In addition, he and his wife, Rebecca, established Heartworks St. Louis, an extraordinary fundraiser for the NMF that has captured the attention of the local medical community, the local chapter and so many others in the St. Louis area.

Dr. Braverman was honored in 2003 with the NMF's Antoine Marfan Award for his contributions to the care of patients with Marfan syndrome and related disorders.

"It is my honor and privilege to serve the NMF as chair of the PAB. The clinicians, scientists and researchers who make up the board are professionals dedicated to the research and care for people with Marfan syndrome and related disorders," said Dr. Braverman. "I will draw upon my relationships with the NMF, the members of the PAB and our patients to help promote the best interests of the Foundation."

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Marfan Syndrome and the National Marfan Foundation

Marfan syndrome is a potentially fatal genetic disorder of connective tissue. Marfan syndrome and related connective tissue disorders affect approximately 200,000 Americans. Because connective tissue makes up the entire body, the disorder manifests itself in many body systems, including the skeletal system, eyes, lungs, blood vessels and heart. Many people with Marfan syndrome experience an expansion of the aorta. Without proper monitoring and medications to reduce the stress on the aorta, affected people are at high risk for aortic dissection or rupture, which could result in sudden death.

Studies about the increased life expectancy for people with Marfan syndrome provide great hope and optimism, but only through increased awareness, earlier diagnosis and proper treatment can people with the disorder expect to live a normal life span.

The NMF was founded in 1981 to provide accurate and timely information about the disorder to patients, family members and physicians; to serve as a resource for medical information and patient support; and to support and foster research.

For more information about the NMF and Marfan syndrome log on to www.marfan.org or call 800-8-MARFAN.

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