

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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JUNE IS ROTARY FELLOWSHIP MONTH

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Upcoming Speakers:

June 25: Sandi Temple, Joanne Leginus
Community Services

July 02:

July 09:

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Brenda Jenkins** presided.

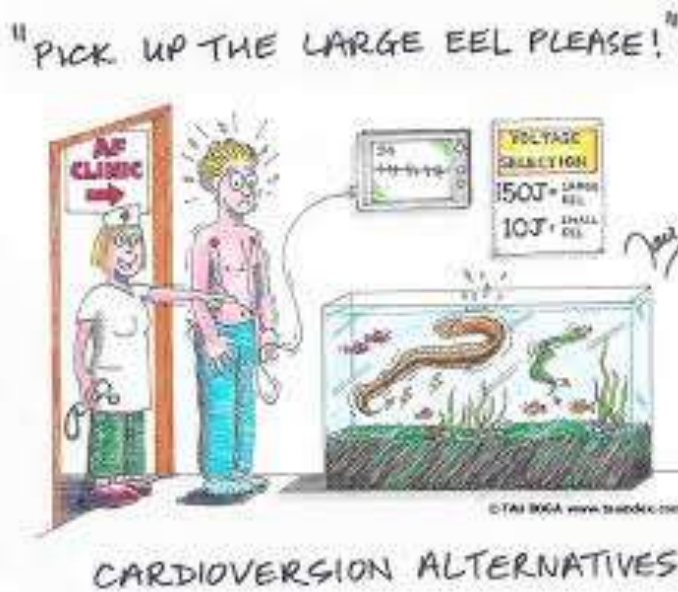
Guests (apart from our speaker): **Barbara Pope**

Happy and Sad dollars included the following:

Debbie is happy that her sister **Marilyn Sullivan**, from the USA, was here to visit their mother with Debbie, but also sad to see her sister return to California where Marilyn resides.

Sharon was happy to advise that **Ron** has successfully recovered from undergoing his "cardioversion procedure" which is used to return an abnormal heartbeat to a normal rhythm, by stopping and then restarting the heart again.

[Now that we know Ron is safe and sound, we can publish the following depiction of what Ron really had to go through!]



Lynda will shortly be travelling to Oregon to take part in a pinball competition. Best of luck, Lynda.



Our soon-to-be-past-president **Brenda** has mixed feeling on ending her term as our illustrious leader.

Program: **Jennifer Fortkamp** - BC Children's Hospital's Food Allergy Immuno Therapy (FAIT) Program

About our speaker:



Jennifer Fortkamp joined the Allergy Team at BC Children's Hospital under the leadership of Doctor Edmund Chan in 2019. She studied as a Medical Office Assistant/Unit Clerk and you graduated in 2007. Jennifer worked at UBC's Student Help Service for 11 years before realizing her dream of working at BC Children's Hospital. Jennifer works with the BC Children's Hospital in

coordination with the University of British Columbia supporting research and innovation in the field of food allergy treatment through the FAIT program. She loves working with the allergy kids and their families.

Background

In 2017, Sainte-Justine Hospital in Montreal opened the first hospital-based oral immunotherapy (OIT) program in Canada, funded partly by donations and partly by the Quebec government. Dr. Edmond Chan immediately formed a volunteer parent committee to fundraise for a similar program at BC Children's Hospital, with the support of the BC Children's Hospital Foundation and the University of British Columbia. Between 2017 and 2020, after raising a significant amount of generous donations, this resulted in the creation of the Food Allergy Immunotherapy (FAIT) program, dedicated to studying the implementation of food immunotherapy into clinical practice. In 2020, the fundraising component of the program was taken over by the FAIT team, with the help of parent volunteers.

The FAIT team has grown to include several allergists, a research manager, a program secretary, research nurses, and a research dietitian. In its short history, the FAIT program — in conjunction with national collaborators — has provided clear evidence of the safety and effectiveness of oral immunotherapy (OIT) in infants and preschoolers, and is undertaking similar work in the area of sublingual immunotherapy (SLIT) for older children and adolescents. It has also attracted academic allergist trainees from Hong Kong, Denmark, and Australia, who are interested in learning about the success of the FAIT program in B.C.

The Oral Immuno Therapy (OIT) Program

OIT consists of daily ingestion of the food your child is allergic to, starting below the amount that would cause a reaction. The dose is then slowly increased over time with a goal of making your child less allergic to the food, reducing the risk of a reaction with an accidental exposure. The immune system is re-trained to tolerate the food your child is allergic to through regular ingestion of small amounts of the food. This program starts by slowly and safely giving a small dose of the food virtually using Zoom, while observed by an OIT-trained nurse. Increases (“build-up”) in the dose occur every TWO or FOUR weeks virtually under supervision of an OIT-trained nurse, depending on what your doctor decides is best for your child. Once your child reaches their last dose (“target” or “maintenance” dose), they will stay on this dose daily for approximately one year. After this, a full oral food challenge will be done to see how much food your child can tolerate without symptoms.

Our Mission

The mission of the Food Allergy Immunotherapy Program is to study the implementation of safe and standardized food immunotherapy protocols in the real world, within the context of our publicly funded health-care system.

In British Columbia and beyond, the demand for food allergy treatment is increasing, and innovative solutions to expand access to treatment in a cost-effective way are needed, including delivering treatment to patients living in remote areas, and patients from all socioeconomic backgrounds. The goal of the FAIT program is to bring food allergy treatment to all families in the province who desire it, as well as share our protocols more broadly across Canada and internationally.

The FAIT program is working towards a future where patients no longer have to worry about their food allergy, which will ultimately lead to improvements in quality of life, and prevention

of anxiety, bullying, and social isolation. Imagine after a few years of treatment in the FAIT program, a child with a previous near-fatal reaction to peanut can now safely eat a peanut butter sandwich without fear.

Note: to our members: Jennifer said that because the FAIT Program is still a research project, it is not funded by the Government, and they must rely 100% donations and fundraising to support their program.

We subsequently received a note from Jennifer that said:

“Thank you for the opportunity to present to your rotary club members on Tuesday June 18th. I had a wonderful time and everyone was very kind. I am the research assistant for the Food Allergy Immunotherapy (FAIT) program, a research program based at UBC and BC Children's Hospital whose mission is to develop and deliver cutting edge food allergy treatment to all families in BC who desire it. Our program is 100% virtual, meaning families can easily participate from the comfort of their own home without having to travel long distances to Vancouver. We all know that food brings us together, but for the 1 in 13 families in BC with food allergy, coming together around the table brings up feelings of anxiety, fear, and social isolation. Our FAIT program is working hard to solve the problem of food allergy altogether, so that families with food allergy can come to the table feeling happy, confident, and care-free. As a BC-based grassroots research program, fundraising is an important part of what we do every day to keep our program running. We are currently seeking partners to join us at our 2nd annual fundraising event this November, to help us in our quest to make food allergy a thing of the past. I would like to have the opportunity to discuss with you about how we can work together to create a mutually-beneficial partnership, if this is of interest to the Rotary Club of Meadow Ridge. There are many ways to get involved.

Jennifer Fortkamp

BC Children's Hospital Food Allergy Immunotherapy (FAIT) Program Assistant

Division of Allergy (Pediatrics), University of British Columbia

For more information about our research and FAIT program : www.bcchr.ca/foodallergy

Festivus Website: <https://www.festivusforfait.com> ”

FAIT Program Mission

To develop and deliver cutting-edge food allergy treatment to all families in BC who desire it!



Silent/Live Auction Gift

Can you donate a product or gift card to be used in our Silent/Live Auction?



Food/Beverage Sponsor

Are you a food or beverage vendor that could offer food or drinks to guests at our event?



Sponsorship

Can you offer monetary support at different levels?



Email Us

Jennifer.Fortkamp@bcchr.ca
if you can help or for more information!

www.festivusforfait.com

How can you support Festivus for FAIT 2024?

President's quote for the Day:



Submitted by Laurie Anderson