

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted: February 1, 2008



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North American Thrombosis Forum (NATF)

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Letter from the President

2007 Annual Report

2007 marked the first full calendar year for the North American Thrombosis Forum (NATF), our new nonprofit organization. Our experiences during this start-up period show that there is, indeed, the need for a group that speaks to all who wish to decrease the burden of heart attack, stroke, pulmonary embolism, and DVT. We have reached out to scientists, clinicians, government officials, and patients. The response has been enthusiastic and proactive. The most common question posed is: “How can I help?”

We launched our redesigned website in March 2007 (www.NATFonline.org). In addition to the improved visual appeal, the website is up-to-date and filled with information relevant for all of the NATF constituencies. NATFonline features an array of thrombosis-specific Live and Online educational offerings, as well as contemporary features about ongoing research, public policy, and patient advocacy. The website received tens of thousands of hits in 2007. NATFonline will continue to evolve to meet the rapid pace of our organizational growth.

We offered two highly successful multidisciplinary educational courses in 2007: the [Proactive Thrombosis Prevention](#) course on February 15, 2007 and the [Thrombosis Summit](#) on September 29, 2007. Faculty for both programs included physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and patients. The courses received rave reviews. We also created and awarded a competitive [Traveling Fellowship](#) for a Junior Faculty member whose career will focus on clinical thrombosis. The first recipient is [Ousama Dabbagh, MD](#) from the University of Missouri Medical Center.

Our plans for 2008 are ambitious. We will continue to offer educational symposia in March and September. We are doubling the number of Traveling Fellowships. One will be designated for a clinical researcher; the other will support a basic or translational researcher. We will also create two competitive Career Development Awards to encourage young clinical and basic investigators to remain in academic medicine.

At the level of public policy, we are reaching out to the Surgeon General in the hopes that he will issue a “[Call To Action](#)” that makes DVT a major focus of his office. We also support efforts at the State level for recognition of Thrombosis Awareness. In this regard, we have already achieved success in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Governor Deval Patrick declared November as [Thrombosis Awareness Month](#). At a State House ceremony recognizing this event, the Governor presented the proclamation to me as I was surrounded by members of NATF.

In 2008, we must seek consistent and reliable sources of [support](#) so that we can continue our good works. The first funds flowed into NATF when the best friend of a grateful patient held her 30th birthday party at Tavern on the Green in Central Park, NY, and requested that in lieu of presents, that contributions be made to NATF. Since that time, many other patients, their families, and their friends have donated money as well as their personal time and effort. We have also enjoyed a modicum of success with contributions from industry and from private philanthropists. In 2008, we will have to renew and expand these efforts. Therefore, March 2008 marks the beginning of our first membership drive, which will help formalize the support we have received from the diverse community concerned about thrombosis. I also gratefully thank the other NATF Founding Directors, the Executive Director, the Scientific Advisory Committee, and the International Advisory Committee for their hard work to help make NATF thrive.

As President of NATF, I ask that you become involved in our organization. Your donation of time, resources, and funds will enable us to continue our current projects and plan for new initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Mission

The North American Thrombosis Forum (NATF) is a nonprofit organization that focuses 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.

The five areas of major focus are:

1. basic translational research
2. clinical research, especially diagnosis and therapy
3. prevention and education
4. public policy
5. advocacy

Legacy

Our legacy will be to improve patient care, outcomes, and public health by supporting thrombosis-related programs, such as novel research projects, innovative educational programs, public policy initiatives, regulatory issues and advocacy, and to broaden training opportunities for physicians, scientists, and other health professionals.



Venous Thromboembolism

Pulmonary embolism (PE) is a serious and often fatal complication of deep vein thrombosis, and affects about 530,000 people in the United States annually.



THE NEED

Thrombotic conditions constitute the most frequent illness in North America.

THE PLAN

By educating the lay public and health care professionals about thrombosis, more preventive strategies will be practiced, and those afflicted by thrombotic conditions will seek earlier and more effective treatment.

Background

North American Thrombosis Forum

Long overdue is the need for a North American thrombosis organization to address unique regional aspects of diagnosis, treatment, clinical and translational research, reimbursement, and dosing.

Discussion about initiating a North American organization dedicated to addressing thrombosis-specific issues began 7-8 years ago. The North American Thrombosis Forum (NATF) is the product of these discussions, and 2007 has been a year of considerable growth for this new organization.

The North American Thrombosis Forum (NATF) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on May 11, 2006, that brings together groups interested in the treatment and prevention of heart attack, stroke, pulmonary embolism, deep vein thrombosis, and peripheral vascular disease. The NATF provides a forum to focus efforts by improving basic research, clinical research, prevention, education, public policy, and advocacy.

NATF scholarships, symposia, and on-line educational programs teach and encourage advances in research, prevention, and therapy.

Our mission is to promote awareness of thrombosis prevention and treatment, and to close the gap between proven approaches and their application in daily patient care.

2007 Organization Highlights

Submitted: February 1, 2008

ESTABLISHMENT OF ORGANIZATION

January 2007 marked the hiring of an Executive Director, Kim Mahoney, and establishment of the official NATF headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts.

2007 Board of Directors and Officers

Samuel Z. Goldhaber, MD—President and Founding Director
 Jawed Fareed, PhD—Founding Director
 John Fanikos, RPh, MBA—Treasurer and Founding Director
 Arthur A. Sasahara, MD—Founding Director
 Kim D. Mahoney, BS—Secretary and Executive Director

2007 Scientific Advisory Committee

Geno Merli, MD—Chair
 Jeanine M. Walenga, PhD—Vice Chair
 Stephen Fredd, MD
 Carlos Jerjes-Sanchez Diaz, MD
 Kenneth V. Leeper, MD
 Gundu Rao, PhD
 Jeffrey I. Weitz, MD
 Ann K. Wittkowsky, PharmD

2007 International Advisory Committee

Henri M. Bounameaux, MD
 Benjamin Brenner, MD
 Sylvia Haas, MD
 Stavros Konstantinides, MD
 Ajay K. Kakkar, MD
 Vijay V. Kakkar, MD

WEBSITE: WWW.NATFONLINE.ORG

In March 2007, we unveiled the newly redesigned NATF website. NATFonline.org is devoted to fostering excellence and catalyzing progress in the broad field of clotting disorders and illnesses. We make every effort to provide timely and comprehensive information for health care professionals and the general public.

2007 Web Profile	Site Visits	31,912
	Total Hits:	61,491
	Avg. Visits Per Day	120

eThrombosis, NATF's online monthly thrombosis newsletter, is dedicated to providing original, timely articles on thrombosis diagnosis, treatment, and prevention from premier leaders in the field, as well as a section devoted to "Future Leaders" in thrombosis research and prevention. In December 2007, we unanimously elected a new Editor-In-Chief, Debra Hoppensteadt, PhD, of Loyola University Medical Center.

PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

Proactive Thrombosis Prevention 2007

In February 2007, NATF co-sponsored the second annual "Proactive Thrombosis Prevention" Harvard Medical School Continuing Medical Education Community Event. This 1-day multidisciplinary symposium, held at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, is geared to patients and healthcare providers. There was no charge to attend this program. All course participants received a complimentary syllabus and CD ROM with slide sets and extensive outlines.

Enrollment for this program once again exceeded expectations, and preparations for the [March 1, 2008](#) program are in full swing.

Thrombosis Summit 2007

September 2007 marked the successful launch of our inaugural "Thrombosis Summit," a 2-day scientific program where scientists, healthcare professionals, industry members, government representatives, and patients collaborated in focused discussion groups on critical developments in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of thrombotic disorders. Attendance was free, and all course participants received a complimentary syllabus and CD ROM with slide sets and extensive outlines.

Day 1: Clinical Science and Consensus Building

On Friday, September 28, the "Clinical Science and Consensus Building: NATF Closed Working Group Sessions" took place at Brigham and Women's Hospital. That afternoon, the over 50 invited guests--which included scientists, health care professionals, industry members, nonprofit organization representatives, and patients--formed five Working Groups to identify areas of consensus, highlight unresolved issues, and propose action steps. We reconvened in the late afternoon for a Plenary Session where each Working Group reported its progress. These reports have served to develop our mission within each of NATF's 5 major areas of focus.

The following is a list of key highlights from the individual Working Groups:

Translational Research (Chairs: *Thomas L. Ortel, MD, PhD, Gundu Rao, PhD, Jeanine M. Walenga, PhD*): Translational research is a broad based field generally referred to as bench-to-bedside research. Our goal is to translate the knowledge gained from studies to clinical practice. NATF can act as a "group builder" to bring together a consortium of individuals, organizations, and institutions to motivate research—building strength in numbers.

2007 Organization Highlights Continued 1

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Clinical Research (Chairs: Anthony Comerota, MD, Elaine Hylek, MD, MPH, Paul D. Stein, MD): NATF can provide public reporting of clinical outcomes to the public. Core measures of outcome—if certain measures are not met—publication would drive quality care.

Prevention and Education (Chairs: Julie E. Buring, ScD, C. Gregory Elliott, Paul D. Stein, MD) A consistent message from diverse groups is needed to provide effective prevention and education measures. NATF can help to build a unified message by providing a platform for thrombosis organizations to come together to build a shared message—spoken consistently and often.

Public Policy (Chairs: Ajay K. Kakkar, MD, PhD, Arthur A. Sasahara, MD, Lilia Talarico, MD) Informed and progressive public policy is imperative to the improvement and standardization of thrombosis treatment and prevention methods. NATF can help facilitate policy formulation by supporting educational symposia, reporting clinical research, and building partnerships among congruent organizations, industry, government, and the lay public.

Advocacy (Chairs: Michael Hefron, Geno Merli, MD, Ruth Morrison, RN, BSN, CVN) NATF should work to provide quality patient education via web-based programs, live symposia, and outreach with other patient organizations. Publicly awarding hospitals and corporations that actively promote quality thrombosis prevention and education would be a proactive first step.

The afternoon program concluded with a private dinner in the Cabot Atrium at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Day 2: Thrombosis Summit 2007 Symposium

The “Thrombosis Summit 2007” symposium, held on Saturday, September 29, at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston, featured special guest lectures from Melanie Bloom (Coalition to Prevent DVT), Ajay K. Kakkar, MD, PhD, Sanjay Kaul, MD, MPH, and Susan B. Shurin, MD (of the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute). We welcomed more than 150 participants. The response rate for course evaluations was 49%. More than one-third (41%) of the participants heard about the course from colleagues, 20% received an e-mail notification and 12% saw it posted on the Internet.

The level of presentations was rated as appropriate. Course information was rated up-to-date. The syllabus was rated a useful reference. A few participants would have preferred more time for questions and faculty contact. Respondents noted that all of the course objectives were met. Overall, 91% of respondents rated the course as “above average” or “superior” to other postgraduate courses they have attended.

Fifty forms were read for comments. Participants recognized the faculty as excellent presenters and leaders in their fields. The comprehensive topics and multidisciplinary approach were noted as course strengths.

Preparations are underway for “Thrombosis Summit 2008,” to be held Friday and Saturday, September 26-27, 2008, in Boston, MA.

RESEARCH

NATF is committed to providing opportunities that will advance future leaders committed to careers in academic medicine and science. In March 2007, the [NATF Traveling Fellowship](#) Program was developed for Junior Faculty and Fellow/Trainee physicians from North America to expand their fund of knowledge and build positive, enduring relationships with others in the field of thrombotic disorders.

In September 2007, Ousama Dabbagh, MD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Environmental Medicine at the University of Missouri Medical Center, was awarded the first ever NATF Traveling Fellowship for his exceptional leadership in the field of thrombosis research and prevention, and demonstrated commitment to a career in academic medicine. In March 2008, Dr. Dabbagh will travel to Boston to spend several weeks with the Venous Thromboembolism Research Group at Brigham and Women's Hospital, a Harvard Medical School Teaching and Research Institution.

PUBLIC POLICY

NATF is proud to have played an active role in the declaration of November as “[Thrombosis Awareness Month](#)” in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

On November 15, 2007, Governor Deval Patrick presented the formal “Office of the Governor” proclamation in a special ceremony at the State House to Dr. Samuel Z. Goldhaber, President and Founding Director of NATF.

“Through public awareness, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks to minimize the effects of thrombosis among all Massachusetts citizens...and urges all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance,” the proclamation **States** in part.

At the same ceremony, held in the State House's historic “Nurses Hall,” State Representatives Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr. and

2007 Organization Highlights Continued 2

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Michael F. Rush presented Resolutions adopted by the House of Representatives, recognizing November as “Thrombosis Month” in Massachusetts.

In keeping with our commitment to partner with congruent organizations, NATF joined the newly formed **Venous Disease Coalition (VDC)** in 2007. The VDC is a collaborative network of professional and public nonprofit organizations sharing the mission and vision to increase public and health professional awareness of venous disease, including DVT, pulmonary embolism (known collectively as venous thromboembolism or “VTE”), chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension, and chronic venous insufficiency. Coalitions such as the VDC provide strength in numbers. Under the VDC umbrella, thrombosis organizations are able to learn best strategies and practices from each other, resulting in a combined voice that will resonate with government officials, health care professionals, and the lay public.

PATIENT ADVOCACY

With the increased web campaign in March 2007 came a barrage of emails from patients, caregivers, and healthcare providers seeking quality thrombosis education and prevention information.

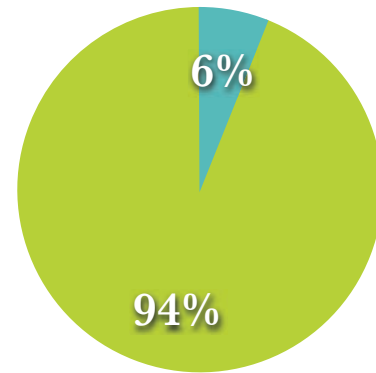
Part of our strategy in response to this initial surge of interest has been to investigate existing quality patient and health care provider online resources and organizations. NATFonline.org provides an “Education” page with a listing of Live and Online thrombosis-related events that is updated monthly, in addition to recommended links to organizations we feel confident will provide quality information.

To further this effort, NATF purchased copies of “100 Questions and Answers About Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism,” by A.H. James, et al., for free distribution to the public.

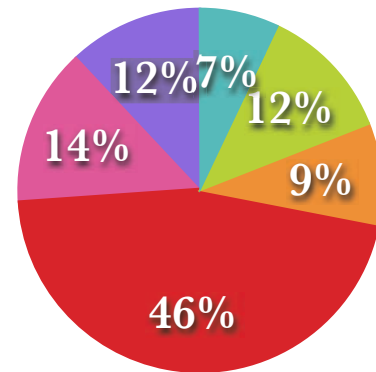
We have also initiated a **Patient Advocacy Program** intended to encourage education through outreach. NATFonline.org provides a platform for individuals to share their personal experience with thrombosis. Through this program, we have been fortunate to find **Kelly Clark**, a professional and mother of two young children who suffered a massive pulmonary embolism in early 2007. In 2007, Kelly attended several events as a Patient Advocate, sharing her story and raising awareness on behalf of NATF.

We encourage you to visit our website, www.NATFonline.org, to stay up-to-date on NATF’s progress in the coming years.

2007 Financial Highlights



- Interest income
- Contributions and Grants



- Newsletters & Print Materials
- Website: NATFonline.org
- Professional Fees
- Thrombosis Summit 2007
- Awareness Programs & Meetings
- General Administrative

Corporate Sponsors/Educational Grants

AstraZeneca · GlaxoSmithKline · The Medicines Co.
Pfizer · Sanofi-Aventis · Tyco HealthCare

Special Thanks

Judge and Georgette Daher · Ms. Monica Waldorf
Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel

Partner Organizations