"I am indebted to NATF for giving me the education and confidence to be a knowledgeable advocate for my mother, who had a PE at 98, and myself. NATF’s educational programs feature leading experts in this fast-moving area of medicine."

-Rosemary Pye, JD of Winchester, MA, who suffered from a pulmonary embolism (PE) and then a DVT the following year. She found out that her condition was genetic when her mother suffered from a PE over a decade later. Rosemary now serves as co-chair of NATF’s Patient Advocacy Committee where she helps to educate other patients and community members about thrombotic illnesses.

“After a traumatic experience with deep vein thrombosis (DVT) while pregnant with my son, I have regained hope thanks to the support of NATF. Too many of us ignore or downplay symptoms of DVT and related diseases, especially while pregnant, making the work and support of NATF an invaluable resource in saving and improving the lives of women. My husband, son & family are eternally grateful.”

-Marisa Gregg of Lincoln, MA, who suffered from a DVT while she was pregnant with her first child. Marisa has attended many NATF patient support groups and advocates for raising awareness about the many DVT/PE risk factors that are specific to women. She is currently serving on a committee to help NATF plan its first women’s health initiative.
A Message from the President of NATF

The NATF mission statement makes the point that “NATF's legacy will be the improvement of 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.” In 2014, NATF focused on innovative educational programs and patient advocacy with community outreach.

We launched three major educational programs in 2014. On May 12, we convened a meeting in Boston of the Atrial Fibrillation Action Initiative (AFAI) Committee. This meeting was a culmination of 3 years of preparation and drafting of position papers by 35 international experts on stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation. What will emerge after further editing and revision is a comprehensive yet concise consensus briefing document, with specific recommendations regarding anticoagulation options to prevent stroke. We look forward to the publication of this document in 2015.

In the late spring, we convened a community education program entitled: “Improving Outcomes in Thrombotic Disease”. This dinner program attracted participation from a wide array of healthcare providers and patients. Outstanding presentations that night included a lecture by Gregory Piazza, MD, MS, Chair of the NATF Education Committee and one of the eight members of NATF’s Board of Directors. He spoke about the link between pulmonary embolism and pulmonary hypertension. The evening concluded with a networking dinner.

In September 2014, we held our 8th Annual Thrombosis Summit weekend. The weekend program began with a Patient Advocacy Lunch, where the highlight was a presentation by two young members (one in high school and one in college) of the Georgia Thrombosis Forum which is affiliated with NATF. That evening, John Fanikos, RPh, MBA, Treasurer of NATF and Member of the NATF Board of Directors, lectured on the timely topic of shared decision making between providers and patients. Two patients, Rosemary Pye, JD (Co-Chair of the NATF Advocacy Committee) and Julie Perillo, shared their personal thrombosis stories and insights. On the following morning, we held our most successful ever NATF Thrombosis Summit at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston. The highlight of the day was the 3rd Annual Arthur A. Sasahara Lecture, delivered by Paul M Ridker, MD, MPH, on “The Role of Inflammation in Thrombosis”. Past Sasahara lecturers include Peter Libby, MD, and Marc Pfeffer, MD, PhD.

Our Patient Advocacy Committee had a successful year filled with an increased focus on community outreach events. The Committee held two successful educational events at local senior centers. John Fanikos, RPh, MBA, spoke at an assisted living facility in Needham, MA about the importance of medication adherence, and Christian T. Ruff, MD, MPH, spoke in Winchester, MA on stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation. Dr. Goldhaber held a patient-focused educational event on Cape Cod, where he discussed the role of inflammation in causing thrombotic events such as pulmonary embolism, DVT, stroke, and myocardial infarction.

This year, NATF will continue to create top-notch educational programs, advance patient advocacy, and expand our community outreach projects. We will expand our online Pulmonary Embolism Support Groups.

I am grateful to our staff, Board, Committee Members, consultants, and those who support NATF with volunteer work and philanthropy.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Z. Goldhaber, MD
A Message From the Chair of the Annual Fund

For nearly a decade, NATF has distinguished itself as an exemplary organization by leading the fight against thrombotic diseases such as pulmonary embolism (PE), deep vein thrombosis (DVT), stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation, and heart attack. NATF makes a huge difference in the lives of many patients. I can attest to this as a PE survivor. The education and support I receive have been invaluable and tremendously helpful in my recovery. This is why I support NATF, and why I serve as chair of the Annual Fund.

I am pleased to report that 2014 was a strong year for NATF financially. It is because of your generosity that we surpassed our Annual Fund goal of $100,000, raising over $124,000 from 334 donors. The Annual Fund is the backbone of NATF. It covers the majority of NATF’s annual operational costs so that our staff members can focus on developing strong educational programs and new initiatives.

Your contributions have enabled NATF to develop new educational materials for the Atrial Fibrillation Action Initiative, to expand and advance the reach of the Patient Advocacy Committee, to raise awareness online through the use of our website, YouTube, and social media, and to educate more than 300 doctors and patients at our annual symposia.

In addition to our successful Annual Fund campaign, this past year we partnered with several companies who recognize the value in the work NATF is doing and have been generous supporters. Without this funding, and that of our Annual Fund, we would not be able to continue the important work we are doing to improve patient lives through education.

Your gift is a meaningful investment in the lifesaving educational services NATF provides. We appreciate your generosity and want you to know that your support is making a difference in the lives of many patients. Thank you on behalf of the entire NATF board, staff, and volunteers. We have ambitious growth plans for 2015, and we look forward to sharing these with you.

Sincerely,

Ron Feinstein
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NATF Staff Members

CIVRY MELVIN
Assistant Director

Civry joined NATF in July 2014 after receiving her Bachelor’s degree from Harvard University in May. While at Harvard, Civry gained experience in non-profit management through working and interning at various arts organizations in the Boston area. At NATF, Civry is in charge of executing development and communications initiatives, such as Annual Fund campaigns, donor cultivation events, updating NATF’s website and social media platforms, creating videos of patients and doctors, organizing online patient support groups, and helping to plan new initiatives.

KAT MARRIOTT
Assistant Director

Kat joined NATF in July 2014 after working at an eCommerce website and receiving her Bachelor's degree in Marketing from the Isenberg School of Management at UMass Amherst. At NATF, Kat is in charge of executing marketing and educational initiatives, such as planning NATF’s annual educational symposia, developing marketing strategies for all events, composing email blasts, designing brochures and other printed promotional materials, creating website graphics, writing press releases, as well as outreach and social media communications.

An Update from the Chair of the Patient Advocacy Committee

2014 was an important year for the NATF Patient Advocacy Committee (PAC). We formalized committee membership. We drafted a mission statement and set goals. We held our first-ever Patient Advocacy Committee Luncheon at the annual Thrombosis Summit. We developed new patient-focused programs and initiatives.

All of this helped to lay a strong foundation for what is sure to be a successful year for the PAC. In 2015 we plan to expand patient support groups, redevelop the patient portion of the NATF website (including translating some material into other languages!), and start work on a new Women’s Health Initiative. None of this would be possible without the generous support of our donors and corporate sponsors, for which I am truly grateful.

Kathryn Mikkelsen
Patient Advocacy Committee Chair
NATF’s mission is to focus on unmet needs and issues related to thrombosis and cardiovascular diseases such as deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, acute coronary syndromes, atrial fibrillation, and stroke. NATF is dedicated to improving patient care, outcomes, and public health by utilizing a multidisciplinary and inclusive approach to advance thrombosis education.
NATF’s Annual Programs and Initiatives

Thrombosis Summit – Every September, NATF hosts a large educational conference for healthcare providers, patients, industry representatives, and the public covering many topics related to the latest research in cardiovascular medicine. Over 300 individuals attend educational events and meetings throughout the weekend. We hope you will join us for our 2015 Thrombosis Summit on September 26.

Spring Educational Program – This annual dinner program, fondly nicknamed the “Mini Summit”, is a unique opportunity for healthcare professionals and patients to gather in a more intimate setting. The evening includes a cocktail reception, three short lectures on topics related to thrombotic illnesses, and a networking dinner.

Speaker’s Bureaus – Throughout the year, NATF coordinates community outreach events, bringing experts in the field of cardiovascular medicine to speak at community centers around Massachusetts. In 2014, NATF reached over 200 individuals in the Winchester and Needham communities.

Support Groups – Dr. Sam Goldhaber, NATF’s president, hosts a monthly PE support group at Brigham and Women’s Hospital that has been meeting for over two decades. NATF also coordinates a quarterly online patient support group and patient email list.

Arthur A. Sasahara, MD Lectureship – This annual award and honor is given to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding work in the field of cardiovascular medicine. The Arthur A. Sasahara, MD Lectureship recipient delivers the keynote lecture at the Thrombosis Summit.

Atrial Fibrillation Action Initiative – The mission of this ongoing initiative is to create resources for healthcare professionals and patients to better understand the new FDA-approved treatment options for stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation.

Her Heart Health – This new women’s initiative aims to educate women about risk factors and provide resources for maintaining a heart healthy lifestyle.
NATF is pleased to recognize the extraordinary generosity of the following 2014 individual and corporate contributors. Their continued support allows us to execute educational programs and initiatives that help to save and improve lives.

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- William Rosenberg Family Foundation

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