

## *A New Way of Thinking: Partnerships For Life*



*Ronald Kamp  
Director of  
Development and  
Communications*

There has never been a more exciting time to invest in medical research. Today, we are on the threshold of discoveries that will change the face of medicine as we know it and Freemasonry is helping to lead the way.

Every Grand Jurisdiction has its challenges, some universal while others are unique. However, one challenge that we can all agree on is that of membership retention and growth! As Director of Development and Communications of the Cardiac Research Institute (CRI) at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL), I am urging every Freemason to consider the universal appeal of medical research as a working tool for your grand jurisdiction. Freemasonry cannot and will not move forward if we always keep looking back. It is time for us to collectively think out of the box and envision Freemasonry as we would like it to be and then take the steps to make that dream a reality.

The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) was founded in 1958. Since then the MMRL has flourished into an internationally renowned state-of-the-art medical research center, highly respected and referenced within the scientific and medical community worldwide. It is the only institute of its kind founded and supported by Freemasonry. Our philosophy remains unchanged, *Money spent on treatment helps the patient; money spent on research benefits humanity.*

Our cardiac research is truly international in benefit and scope. To help enhance the visibility of Freemasonry and better identify our research with the public, we are branding our center as the Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory.

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MMRL Update is a bi-annual publication of the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) published at 2150 Bleecker Street, Utica, NY 13501. The MMRL is an independent not-for profit research and educational institute that conducts basic medical research in the fields of cardiac electrophysiology, molecular biology and molecular genetics.

Vincent Libone.....Grand Master of Masons, State of New York  
Anthony V. Boccabella, Ph.D., J.D. ....President, Board of Directors  
Charles Antzelevitch, Ph.D. ....Executive Director, MMRL

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## *AN Affair OF THE Heart*

DINNER & AUCTION

The Advisory Board of the Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) hosted a gala and charity auction at Pier's and Blake in Utica N.Y. this past fall which raised over \$100,000 for cardiac research.



Advisory Board Co-Chairs, F. Eugene Romano and Theodore Max, MD appointed a special committee to plan and implement this extremely successful event. The event committee was chaired by Fiona Markwood and Mary Ellen Blom, both Utica residents and consisted of community members Mary Lyons Bradley, Susie Divine, Bonnie Fenner, Cara Fenstemacher, Connie Leist, Susan Matt and Melva Max. Dozens of community members and businesses contributed items for the auction. The committee also recruited two well-known community members as celebrity auctioneers, Raymond Meier and Alan Leist.

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Anthony V. Boccabella, Ph.D., J.D.

## Report of the President

The Cardiac Research Institute (CRI) at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory is completing another outstanding year of progress and scientific accomplishments. It is becoming obvious that our Institute has not only become recognized as a world-class cardiac research center studying the causes of arrhythmias but also is being recognized for what Freemasonry does for humanity. The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory is becoming the face of Freemasonry by showing the world that Freemasonry is playing a major role in the 21st Century.


There are several aspects to our research organization. The one obvious factor is that we do cardiac research. However, the factor most people do not attribute to our institution is the strong and wide public relation appeal of our cardiac research. In good measure, we enjoy this success due to the leadership of our Executive Director, Dr. Charles Antzelevitch. The scientific work emanating from our Institute has been outstanding and internationally recognized as being on the cutting edge in its contributions to our understanding of mechanisms in cardiac arrhythmias.

I want to congratulate Dr. Antzelevitch for his achievements and the fact that the American College of Cardiology awarded him the 2011 Distinguished Scientist Award. This award, given in recognition of his major contributions to the advancement of scientific knowledge is made to only one individual in the basic, clinical and translational domain. These achievements get

wide coverage in many media venues and in each article it duly acknowledges Freemasonry's humanitarian role.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to, once again, attend the Conference of Grand Masters of North America in 2012. We look forward to having the opportunity to inform the representatives of all Masonic grand jurisdictions about the Cardiac Research Institute.

We just learned that the CRI ranks in the top 5%, based on the frequency, in which cardiac research is cited by other scientists and physicians in their respective studies. It is noteworthy that every research paper that is published has a citation listing the support of Freemasonry

Our outstanding research not only contributes new scientific facts but also raises new questions to be solved in order to help people with cardiac arrhythmias. The support of Freemasonry is a key component to the continuity of our research programs and more. For instance, your contributions assist us in obtaining needed scientific equipment that cannot be funded by Federal grants and such gifts provide the means to maintain and update our MMRL building as needed. Your support is critical to our mission. Remember, the life saved may be that of your loved one, neighbor, friend or even your own. 



Richard J. Stewart, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts receives a donation for the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) from Tyler W. Seavey, Worshipful Master of Mount Holyoke Lodge with Ronald P. Kamp, MMRL Director of Development and Communications looking on. Donations to the MMRL were also received from the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts and the Masonic Leadership Institute's Masonic Passport Program at the quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts this past December.

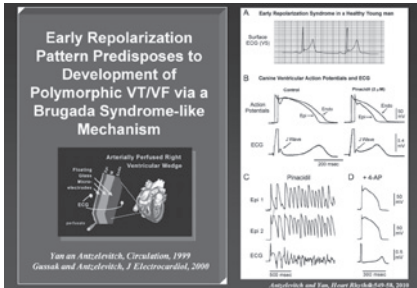


Dr. Charles Antzelevitch

## Report of the Executive Director

### The Birth of a New Syndrome

In 1999, investigators at the Cardiac Research Institute at the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory conducted an experiment that would change the course and future of cardiology. Using a coronary-perfused wedge, a preparation pioneered at the MMRL several years earlier, they observed the development of an early repolarization (ER) pattern in the ECG recorded across the wedge following exposure to pinacidil, an agonist of the ATP-sensitive potassium channel current (IK<sub>ATP</sub>). *In lay terms, the introduction of a drug capable of activating a potassium channel current, normally observed only during a heart attack or ischemia, generated a characteristic early repolarization pattern in the ECG.*



An early repolarization (ER) pattern in the ECG, consisting of a J point and ST segment elevation, had long been reported in the clinical literature and considered to be totally benign. This notwithstanding, MMRL investigators observed the ER pattern in the ECG give rise to a rapid polymorphic ventricular tachycardia, an extremely rapid heart rate known to be life-threatening. In light of this observation we suggested

what at the time was viewed as heretical, that not all early repolarization ECG patterns are benign and that some may be malignant.

Validation of this hypothesis came 9 years later with two publications in the New England Journal of Medicine. The first was a paper from the Bordeaux group in France headed by Michel Haissaguerre reporting that in 31% of their idiopathic (arising from an unknown cause) ventricular fibrillation (IVF) patients, they observed an early repolarization pattern in the inferior and lateral ECG leads. The other was a publication by Nam and co-workers, a collaboration of a talented team in South Korea and the MMRL, showing an early repolarization (ER) pattern in 60% of their IVF patients. This was followed by numerous studies from, Israel, Finland, Germany and Japan, providing additional irrefutable support for our hypothesis. In 2010, we were invited to write a review on this subject for *Heart Rhythm* in which we proposed a classification scheme for the “Early Repolarization Syndromes (ERS)”.

Because an ER pattern is a common occurrence, the challenge moving forward is to identify those individuals who are at risk. The available data suggest that incidental discovery of an ER pattern on routine screening should not be interpreted as a marker of high risk for sudden cardiac death (SCD) since the odds for this leading to a fatal outcome is relatively low. However, mounting evidence suggests that careful attention should be paid to subjects with this pattern who are at high risk.

With this in mind, MMRL scientists have performed genetic analysis to discern the genetic basis for this

inherited sudden cardiac death syndrome. Thus far, ERS has been associated with mutations in six different genes. Four of the six were discovered at the MMRL. Interestingly, mutations in the two genes (*KCNJ8* and *SUR2A*) that encode the potassium (IK<sub>ATP</sub>) channel were found to be a common cause of ERS. Mutations in these genes were found to cause a gain of function of K<sub>ATP</sub> current. Thus, 12 years after we observed by serendipity that an IK<sub>ATP</sub> potassium agonist can produce ERS, we have discovered that gain of function mutations in the genes that encode the potassium (K<sub>ATP</sub>) channel are often responsible for the disease.

Armed with this information, we hope to develop patient-specific therapies for ERS. The CRI/MMRL has been awarded a \$1 million grant from NYSTEM in order to develop induced pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiac cells from skin biopsies. Fibroblasts from the skin biopsies are reprogrammed using transcription factors to turn on certain gene complexes so as to transform them into stem cells. The stem cells are then directed to differentiate into cardiac cells. At this stage, we have cardiac cells that have the same genetic makeup as the diseased patient’s heart. Using these cells, we will be able to further clarify the pathophysiology of the disease and custom-design innovative new therapies to undo the effects of the genetic mutations.

The CRI/MMRL’s solid track record of success in providing new insights and approaches to therapy of inherited arrhythmic diseases like ERS stands as testament to the effectiveness and clinical impact of the highly focused, integrated multidisciplinary approach bridging basic and clinical science. Once again, research conducted at the MMRL has provided physicians valuable guidance in the diagnosis and treatment of a life-threatening inherited cardiac arrhythmia syndrome. ▲

Thirty-two community leaders and businesses sponsored the event, with the lead sponsorship provided by Central New York Cardiology. Chester's Flower Shop, Connie Leist Interiors and Sikora Interiors generously provided floral arrangements and decorative treatments for the venue. Over 220 community and business leaders and spouses attended.

Funds raised by *An Affair of the Heart* will be applied in support of cardiac research at the CRI/MMRL. Anthony Boccabella, MMRL Board President said, "Events such as *An Affair of the Heart* provide us the opportunity to tell our compelling story and hopefully expand our base of support which is so necessary to be able to search and discover the cures and treatments to help those afflicted with heart disease."

The Advisory Board of the MMRL consists of corporate and civic leaders as well as medical and scientific professionals from across the New York State. "Members of our Advisory Board play a critical role in identifying and qualifying potential research funding sources and thus serve as advocates for the enhancement of medical research in our field," said Executive Director of the MMRL, Dr. Charles Antzelevitch. "Our Advisory Board plays an important and vital role in the promotion and support of our Institute", he added. ▲



## *José Di Diego, M.D. Reflects on his 20+ Years at the MMRL*



*José Di Diego, M.D. A native of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Dr. Di Diego received his M.D. from the School of Medicine at Buenos Aires University in Argentina in 1984. He joined the MMRL as a postdoctoral fellow in 1988 and accepted a research scientist position in 1993. Dr. Di Diego was recently promoted to the position of Manager of the Experimental Cardiology Department.*

Dr. José Di Diego joined the Experimental Cardiology Department when they were just beginning to uncover the significant electrical heterogeneity inherent to the ventricles of the heart. With the introduction of the Molecular Genetics Department in 2002, the massive amount of information obtained in the previous 14 years paved the way for the development of experimental models of inherited diseases, like the Brugada syndrome, as well as potential treatments. Dr. Di Diego states, "Our numerous important discoveries and contributions prepared us well for the challenge of the fascinating era of (adult) Stem Cell." Di Diego actively participates as an experimental cardiac electrophysiologist in technologies that may one day regenerate the human heart. One of the most promising goals of the MMRL Stem Cell Center is the development of hearts tailor-made from the individual's own cells using induced Pluripotent Stem Cell (iPS) technology. This long-term research project has the potential to provide an alternative to heart transplantation without the concern for rejection. The ability to use one's own cells to grow a replacement heart or to use the cells to restore function to damaged hearts is an exciting venture with wide-ranging implications.

A foe so formidable as cardiovascular disease and specifically cardiac

arrhythmias must be attacked on many fronts. Physicians and scientists at the Cardiac Research Institute are using many subspecialties and disciplines to discover new knowledge that will prevent heart disease and improve care for patients with irregular or abnormal heartbeats. The CRI is one of the few institutes in the world that have the capability to conduct this multi-faceted approach under one roof.

Some of Dr. Di Diego's research is funded by a grant from the American Heart Association. The focus of his work will provide clinical cardiologists alternative and more effective approaches to prevent and treat life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias brought about due to an acute myocardial infarction (heart attack) or caused by the inherited arrhythmia, Brugada syndrome which is major cause of sudden cardiac death that claim the lives of more than 250,000 people per year in the United States.

Di Diego also serves as the Cardiac Electrophysiology Program Manager providing Dr. Antzelevitch valuable assistance with scheduling and coordination of research protocols as well as supervision of research assistants. He also has responsibility for scientific equipment and laboratory maintenance and coordination of



some aspects of MMRL's collaborative research with Mo-

hawk Valley Heart Institute, Gilead Sciences and Cornell University Veterinary Medical School.

Dr. Di Diego also serves as a reviewer for several scientific journals, including *American Journal of Physiology*, *Cardiovascular Research*, *Journal of Cardiovascular Electrophysiology*, *Journal of Electrocardiology*, *Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology*, *Heart Rhythm Journal* and *Pacing and Clinical Electrophysiology*. ▲

We have received support from numerous Masonic Organizations, foundations and corporations and individuals across the globe since our inception. We are most honored to have the support of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of the State of New York. Their support has contributed to much of the growth of our physical plant over the years. In 1994, the MMRL began receiving support from the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida and that support continues today. Special legislation was passed designating the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory as their Flagship Charity in 1997. We welcome the recent support of the Grand Lodges of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, as well as the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star in the State of New York, Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star in the State of Wisconsin and the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in the State of Florida to name a few.

You may not be aware that the MMRL has attended the North American Conference of Grand Masters for the past 16 years. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Grand Lodge of Florida for introducing us to the Conference in 1996. The MMRL is naturally looking to expand our base of support to other grand jurisdictions so that Masons everywhere can be identified with the humanitarian ideal of providing a healthier tomorrow for all.

The CRI/MMRL will be hosting a breakout session titled, Cardiac Research: *Enhance the Visibility of Freemasonry* at the 2012 Conference of Grand Masters in Atlanta. We are also sponsoring *Every Heartbeat Counts™* Ladies Breakfast that will address Women and Heart Disease as another step of thinking outside the box to broaden our base of support.

Nowhere is there a better example of medical research enhancing the visibility of Freemasonry than in Florida.



The Grand Lodge of Florida recently held the First Annual *Doughnuts for the Heart Challenge* to benefit the Cardiac Research Institute. The fundraiser was organized and administered by Masters and Wardens Association of District 26. The first time event had over 26 corporate sponsors with Krispy Kreme as the lead sponsor. Over 250 runners and organizers participated. Two state



representatives along with Brevard County Commissioner and business leaders participated in multiple media PSAs to promote the event to the public and all of them participated in the Challenge. The committee estimates that the Grand Lodge of Florida received over \$100,000 in free media coverage for this event! This is an excellent example of thinking outside the box and we have no doubt that this event will continue to grow.

The Cardiac Research Institute offers every grand jurisdiction and Masonic organizations a unique opportunity to revitalize your existing membership and membership development by using our medical research to help raise the visibility of Freemasonry. We can accomplish this by creating bridges of communication, understanding and partnership with the corporate and business world by asking them to invest in the future health of family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. It is a win-win situation.

I can hear you thinking...Why would the public want to support the Car-

diac Research Institute at MMRL. For the simple reason, that no other institute our size has had a greater influence on the world of experimental cardiology over the past 10 years than the CRI. We are an internationally acclaimed leader in the field. Allow me to cite just 4 examples.

- The CRI/MMRL has provided knowledge essential for implementation and advancement of life saving devices like the pacemaker, implantable defibrillator (ICD) and automatic external defibrillator (AED).
- Authored a study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that provided the first direct evidence linking Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) to an abnormal heart rhythm. It is now estimated that 10-15% of SIDS is due to cardiac arrhythmic disease.
- Discovered the majority of genes associated with Brugada syndrome, short Qt Syndrome and numerous genes responsible for long QT syndrome. These inherited sudden death syndromes claim the lives of infants, adolescence and adults.
- Discovered a drug combination that is both safe and effective for Atrial Fibrillation, the most prevalent cardiac arrhythmia. Clinical are expected to begin in 2012.

We create Partnerships for Life. The life saved maybe that of a loved one, neighbor, friend, or even your own.

*Please contact me at [kamp@mmrl.edu](mailto:kamp@mmrl.edu) or 888.888.6675, ext 127 to learn more. Remember you need not be a Freemason to support the CRI/MMRL's research nor do you need to be one to benefit from its findings and achievements. Visit [www.mmrl.edu](http://www.mmrl.edu) to make an online donation. 🚩*



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## *MMRL Celebrates 50th Anniversary of Summer Fellowship Program*

Nearly 50 alumni and staff of the Cardiac Research Institute at Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) met on Saturday, November 26 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Summer Fellowship Program. The reunion provided an opportunity for former Fellows to reconnect, reminisce and to learn about the current research at the MMRL.



Prominent surgeon and dean of Summer Fellows in attendance (1965 and 1966), John DeTraglia, M.D. said of his experience, "I considered myself very fortunate to have been selected as a Summer Fellow. We were taught to plan a project, prepare samples and were even able to work with a local surgeon. When our project was complete it was printed in the *American Heart Journal* and I was a bit of a celebrity when I returned to school. We were asked to explain our findings and prepare models of arrhythmias for the cardiologists at the University of Rochester. From that time on there was no question that I would become a surgeon."

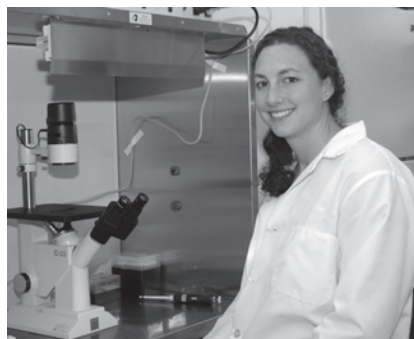
The Summer Fellowship program, established in 1960, provides college students who are focusing their career on the life sciences an opportunity to spend 10 weeks working alongside one of the many talented scientists at the MMRL. Over 400 individuals have spent a summer at the MMRL, many of which have gone on to become well known researchers in their own right at institutions such as Johns Hopkins University, Duke

University, and the Cleveland Clinic to name just a few. Other Alumni have become doctors, lawyers and teachers all over the United States. One prominent common thread each former Summer Fellow shares is the fact that they credit the MMRL for giving them their start in science or their chosen career.

Another alumnus of the Summer Fellowship Program, Jonathan Blazek said, "It was a great privilege to work alongside such prestigious mentors as a Summer Fellow. I was challenged intellectually every day and learned many things that will stay with me for the rest of my life. I am grateful for the opportunity." Jonathan recently completed his Bachelors of Science degree at the University of Albany and is applying to graduate school.

For more information on the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory Summer Fellowship Program, please visit [www.mmrl.edu](http://www.mmrl.edu) and select education/training. ▲

## *Jennifer Fleischer All Star on the Court and in the Lab*



Jennifer Fleischer is a professional basketball player. During the off season, she decided to pursue her dream career in medicine or science by participating in the 2010 and 2011 Summer Fellowship Program at the Cardiac Research Institute.

Dr. Michael Xavier Jesudoss served as her mentor and introduced her to the field of molecular genetics and

stem cell research using an exciting new technology of induced Pluripotent Stem Cell (iPS). She was tasked with studying techniques capable of facilitating the development of differentiation if iPS cells into cardiac cells.

"The ability to transform fibroblasts from skin biopsies into heart cells to create models of human heart disease has tremendous potential and wide-ranging implications to those afflicted with heart disease," said Dr. Jesudoss. "Jennifer is an excellent summer fellow and is very driven and enthusiastic about her work in the laboratory. I have no doubt she will have a bright career in science and medicine and will go on to become a great physician or scientist in her next career."

Jennifer grew up in the New Hartford, N.Y. area, only a few miles from the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL), but was unaware of the existence of the MMRL until she developed an interest in science and medicine. She credits the Clarkson Horizons Program for sparking her fascination with medical science when she was in 7th grade.

After graduating from high school, Jennifer attended the University of Pennsylvania where she played and excelled on the basketball team. She finished her college career ranked second all time for blocked shots in the Ivy League. She signed to play professional basketball in places like France, Slovakia, Belgium, Poland, Ukraine, Russia and Israel where her team won a gold medal in the 2005 Maccabi Games.

"The Summer Fellowship Program is unique in that it gives participants an opportunity to work on their own project under the direction of a preceptor. This guided independence presents a wonderful education opportunity. The MMRL offered me the opportunity to engage in challenging and stimulating research while still having the chance to spend time with my family during my brief time off from professional basketball," said Jennifer. ▲

## *MMRL Tours: An Adventure in Science*

Cardiac Research Institute at the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) hosted several tours during the summer of 2011. As the only major biomedical research facility in the greater Utica and Mohawk Valley area, the MMRL has long considered it an important responsibility to provide in depth tours and access to our researchers for interested students and the community.

Hundreds of students come through the doors of the MMRL in any given year. Area schools such as Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC), Utica College, SUNY Institute of Technology and surrounding local school districts send both students



and teachers to learn more about the state-of-the-art research facility right in their own back yard. In response to her tour one MVCC student remarked, "The MMRL has given me an opportunity to renew my interest in chemistry and biology." Another student said, "We were so welcomed by the staff. I am amazed by the technology as well as the experiments that occur there."

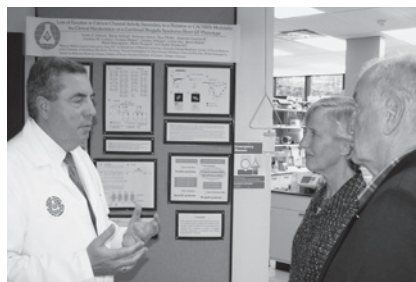
Recently, Utica City Schools worked with the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Program at SUNY IT to bring the teachers to the MMRL. The MMRL was able to demonstrate the opportunities available to their students after graduation. Working together we hope to encourage students to pursue careers in science, said Elizabeth Rossi, the STEM K-12 Outreach Director. "The members of the STEM professional development program were very ex-

cited to learn more about an Institute that has such a worldwide reach and impact."



Several community groups also take advantage of the MMRL's auditorium to hold offsite meetings which are followed by a presentation and tour by the development staff. Kuyahoor County Historical Society President wrote after their visit that, "everyone was impressed by the facilities and the staff."

Many scientists and medical professionals also visit to the MMRL to learn more about our research. The Executive Director of the American Osteopathic Association John B. Crosby, J.D. was part of one of these groups. He stated after his tour, "All of you should be extremely proud of the groundbreaking work being conducted at the MMRL to save lives and benefit all of humankind."



To arrange a program or a tour of the Cardiac Research Institute at MMRL, please contact Ronald Kamp, Director of Development and Communications or Myron Thurston, Assistant Director of Development and Communications at [development@mmrl.edu](mailto:development@mmrl.edu) or (315) 735-2217. ▲

## *Masonic Medical Research Laboratory Advisory Board*

The Cardiac Research Institute at the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) continues to add community leaders to its Advisory Board. The MMRL Advisory Board consists of corporate and civic leaders as well as medical and scientific professionals from across Upstate New York. "Members of our Advisory Board play a critical role in identifying and qualifying potential research funding sources and thus serve as advocates for the enhancement of medical research in our field, ensuring a better quality of life for infants, children and adults afflicted with cardiac arrhythmia and sudden death syndromes." MMRL Executive Director and Director of Research Dr. Charles Antzelevitch stated when asked about the advisory board.

The Advisory Board of the MMRL was created through a partnership between the Board of Directors and two community members, Theodore Max, M.D. and F. Eugene Romano in 2006 and held its first meeting in February of 2007. Sherwood Boehlert, former member of Congress and Chairman of the House Science Committee, had been a staunch supporter of the Laboratory for years and was selected as the Honorary Chairman of the Advisory Board.

In a concerted effort to engage individuals who would add expertise and experience to the Advisory Board, business leaders were recruited from diverse backgrounds. There are currently 27 members including top executives from 8 area businesses, 9 doctors, 3 attorneys, an internationally renowned architect, a member of the pharmaceutical industry and an investment banker. All of these professionals share a strong belief in the value of having a world-class research institution such as the MMRL in the Mohawk Valley. ▲

**MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY**  
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**Federal Tax ID Number: 13-5648611**  
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## *Son Runs NYC Marathon as Tribute to Dad*



Ross John Goodfellow, M.D. ran his first New York City Marathon on November 6, 2011. What made this milestone even more special is he dedicated his run in memory of his father, Ross M. Goodfellow who was a member of the Grand Lodge of New York, Free and Accepted Masons for over 40 years before his death in December of 2010.

When asked why he was running the race to benefit the MMRL, Dr. Goodfellow replied, "Dad was a just and upright man and Mason, always using the Square of Virtue to square his actions. I am running the race to give thanks for, as well as to honor his memory and to raise money for the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory a charity he thought very highly of. I am a Fellowcraft member of Merritt Island Lodge 353 in the Grand Lodge of Florida. It was there that I learned that the MMRL, my father's favorite charity, is also the Flagship Charity of the Grand Lodge of Florida. I love to run and I am also a practicing cardiologist. I have great respect for the humanitarian work of the MMRL and understand fully the importance of the science research and genetic screening projects on-going at the Institute. Combining my love of running in support of a Masonic Charity that was near and dear to my father seemed like the natural thing to do."

Dr. Goodfellow was selected as one of the 47,000 participants of the race out of more than 140,000 applicants. He finished with a time of 4 hours and 1 minute, which was a pace of just over 9 minutes per mile and placed 15,665th. The New York City Marathon just finished its 41st running and had over 2 million spectators at the event and a worldwide audience of 330 million people. Brother Ross John Goodfellow, M.D. was able to honor his father with his strong performance and raised over \$2,000 to support vital research into cardiac arrhythmias, sudden cardiac death and inherited cardiac diseases at the MMRL.

Congratulation Brother and Dr. Goodfellow and thank you to all who followed his training on Facebook and made donations to this worthy cause. 🙏

## *Get Connected – We are Going Green*

The Cardiac Research Institute (CRI) is constantly seeking more effective methods of communication with our supporters. It is our desire to keep you well informed and up-to-date with fast breaking communications regarding our cutting edge heart research and we believe that internet communication and social networking is an important and vital means to accomplish this goal. It is fast, easy and a cost-effective means of communication that allows us to make more effective use of your donations.

To get connected, just go to [www.mmrl.edu](http://www.mmrl.edu)/email and you will receive our e-newsletter, and press releases.

To request a DVD/Tour/Presentation go to [www.mmrl.edu](http://www.mmrl.edu)/press-2

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Learn more about Abnormal Rhythms of the Heart [www.impactmovie.com/mmrl](http://www.impactmovie.com/mmrl)

