

ANNUAL REPORT 2023





A MESSAGE FROM **DR. TARANTINO**

Dr. Michael Tarantino
BCDI Chief Executive Officer
BCDI Chief Medical Officer

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2023 was an extremely successful year for the Bleeding and Clotting Disorders Institute. This Annual Report gives our community a glimpse of what BCDI has achieved in the past year. It is important to understand the Comprehensive Care model that we use to provide excellent health care. This comprehensive model is central to the clinics that our teams holds throughout the state in ten different clinic locations.

Comprehensive Care brings a team including a hematologist, nurse practitioner, nurse coordinator, social worker, physical therapist, dentist, and other specialists. Each member of the team meets with the patients and then the team designs a personalized care plan for them. This care plan is then shared with the patients other healthcare providers outside of BCDI, as well as with the patient and their family.

Also at the heart of our mission, BCDI aims to educate our patients and the public about bleeding and clotting disorders. In 2023 alone, BCDI providers authored or co-authored 28 different medical and scientific publications regarding bleeding and clotting conditions. BCDI staff spent three days in Washington D.C. and Springfield, Illinois speaking with legislators, and over 300 community professionals were educated through BCDI's in-service training. This is all done in efforts to stay true to our slogan of being "The Blood Experts."

BCDI events took a major step forward in 2023! Our Annual Trivia Night fundraising event was a tremendous success, with over 230 attendees who helped raise over \$100,000 to improve patient program services at BCDI. Family Day 2023 was held at the home of the Peoria Chiefs baseball team, where we welcomed over 180 BCDI patients and their family members to join us for a day of education about bleeding and clotting disorders and fun activities around the ballpark.

This is our 14th year of serving the bleeding and clotting community, and our commitment to provide comprehensive care, treatment and education is as strong as it was on our first day. BCDI has grown to over a staff of 80 employees with four physicians and seven advanced practice providers. Our hard-working team has served over 7,000 patients since 2010, and we are more dedicated than ever to providing the highest level of comprehensive care to our entire community. Thank you for your role in supporting BCDI's success!

BCDI BY THE NUMBERS IN 2023

2024 is our

14th year

Serving Patients

Provide services to over

7,000

PATIENTS

BCDI providers were featured in

28 Publications
on Google Scholar in **2023**



541

patients treated through comprehensive care clinics throughout Illinois

3 advocacy days with patients and staff **educating** about **bleeding and clotting disorders**

TWO IN WASHINGTON D.C.
ONE IN SPRINGFIELD, IL

4 Physicians

7 Advanced Practice Providers

321



community professionals educated through **In-Service Training**

104

Comprehensive Clinics throughout Illinois

12th

Annual

TRIVIA NIGHT

Fundraiser



Raised over

\$100,000

for **BCDI patient program services**

More than **\$105,000**

awarded to BCDI patients for continuing education through the

GREEN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

SINCE 2011



BCDI was awarded

18 different research grants in **2023**

resulting in over

\$525,000

in grant funding



Patients from

24 different states

treated at BCDI



10

different

comprehensive care clinic locations

13

active

RESEARCH STUDIES



CONFERENCES AND AWARDS

Hemostasis and Thrombosis Research Society Trainee Workshop, March 8 – 9, 2023

Dr. Michael Tarantino provided education and guidance to the next generation of hopeful hematologists at the Hemostasis and Thrombosis Research Society (HTRS) Trainee Workshop in Orlando, Florida.

Dr. Tarantino helped lead discussions during two different segments of the HTRS Trainee Workshop. One talk titled "Wait Up HTRS," was focused on Immune thrombocytopenia (ITP), a not uncommon bleeding disorder characterized by a low number of platelets in the blood. Dr. Tarantino is one of the most respected voices in the ITP community worldwide, having authored or co-authored over 125 peer-reviewed papers, reviews and book chapters, many of which focus on his ITP research. During a separate breakout session that Dr. Tarantino hosted, discussion focused on pediatric care in the hemostasis and thrombosis community.



Platelet Disorder Support Association's ITP Conference, July 21 – 23, 2023



Dr. Michael Tarantino and Nurse Coordinator Kelsey Kuhel spent July 21 - July 23 in Chicago for the [Platelet Disorder Support Association's ITP Conference](#), connecting with persons living with ITP and answering questions about this not uncommon bleeding disorder that is characterized by a low amount of platelets in the blood.

Kelsey led a workshop specifically for teens with ITP and helped the group create custom drawstring backpacks based on each individual's experience with ITP. In this group setting, each teen was prompted to answer about the challenges they have faced living with ITP, goals they have set and the means to achieving those goals. All those answers were then brought together to make unique and colorful backpacks.

Dr. Tarantino spoke during a keynote session titled "ITP Through the Ages", which took an in-depth look at the evolution of ITP research and patient care. The first ever ITP Comprehensive Care Clinic in the United States was started at BCDI in 2017, and Dr. Tarantino is leading a national effort to apply this model to all clinics that see persons with ITP.

Dr. Tarantino also presented a discussion entitled "The Impact of ITP on Quality of Life." During this presentation, Dr. Tarantino took an in-depth look at managing ITP in everyday life, with a particular focus on recreational activities such as traveling and playing sports.

Immunoglobulin National Society's National Conference, October 6, 2023

Dr. Jonathan Roberts, Becky Burns and Misty Burke represented BCDI at the Immunoglobulin National Society's National Conference in Denver, Colorado. Dr. Roberts presented a session entitled "Historical and Modern Advancement in the Treatment of Primary Immune Thrombocytopenia."

Dr. Roberts Receives UICOMP Promotion, October 19, 2023

Dr. Jonathan Roberts was promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine with the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria.

"Dr. Roberts is a phenomenal hematologist and all-around great clinician," said one of Dr. Roberts students. "I really appreciate his willingness to go above and beyond in many capacities, from checking in to see how they are doing outside the clinical settings to providing us with useful resources."



Von Willebrand Disease Academy, November 9, 2023

Dr. Jonathan Roberts participated and presented at the University of Miami-VWD Academy for Latin America on November 9. This distinguished group focuses on the laboratory and clinical diagnosis and management of Von Willebrand Disease- which is the most common inherited bleeding disorder. Participants from Mexico, Peru, Argentina, Columbia, Ecuador, Honduras, Brazil and throughout the Caribbean were included in the attendees.



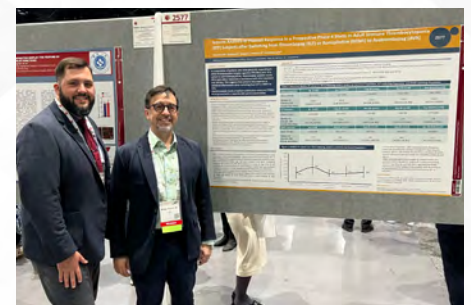
American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting and Exposition, December 9 – 12, 2023

Dr. Michael Tarantino and Dr. Jonathan Roberts spent December 9-12 actively participating at the 65th American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting and Exposition in San Diego.

The ASH Annual Meeting and Exposition is the largest international hematology meeting in the world. Nearly 8,000 abstracts are submitted every year, and BCDI presented at least five posters at the 2023 event.

BCDI led three separate oral presentations. Two presentations were focused on ITP and new drugs that modulate the immune system and helps individuals with ITP overall. The third presentation focused on hemophilia comparing the efficiency of factor therapy.

Dr. Tarantino also presented posters about a study of drugs used for ITP that helps grow platelets and override low platelet counts. Dr. Tarantino partook in the PDSA's medical advisory meeting lunch to provide insight, direction and expertise to support individuals with ITP.



BCDI EVENTS

Trivia Night 2023



BCDI Trivia Night 2023, themed "Head To Toe," was held June 2, 2023, at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in downtown Peoria and proved to be one of the best Trivia Night's yet, with over 230 guests in attendance!

Thanks to the tremendous generosity from donations, raffle items and sponsorships, BCDI's fundraising goal was exponentially surpassed, raising over \$100,000 to support the continued mission of BCDI to provide integrated, family-oriented care, treatment and education for individuals with bleeding, blood clotting and other blood disorders.

During the event, guests enjoyed a cocktail hour, advocacy and education from the BCDI team, dinner, raffles and contests and six rounds of our enthralling trivia contest!



Save the date for Trivia Night 2024!

The theme of our 13th Annual BCDI Trivia Night will be 24 Karat Gold- to embrace the year 2024! BCDI Trivia Night 2024 will be held Friday, April 19, 2024 at the Peoria Civic Center Ballroom. Registration is now open and if you register to attend before March 15, you'll receive our early bird pricing of a \$25 discount per ticket! To learn more about Trivia Night 2024, please see more information on **Page 16**.

Family Day 2023



BCDI Family Day 2023 saw over 180 attendees join our BCDI staff for a Peoria Chiefs baseball game at Dozer Park in Peoria on August 27. During the event, BCDI patients and their family members enjoyed hands on experiences with the BCDI care team through educational sessions. Presentations catered for adults were led by Dr. Michael Tarantino, Dr. Jonathan Roberts, Dr. Maria Espanol, Becky Burns, Beth Helmold and the BCDI Research Department. Fun activities, games and education were also coordinated for teens and children during Family Day! Led by BCDI social worker Marsha Hurn, the teens group worked on a teens transition project.

Four different kids groups participated in activities around Dozer Park- including face painting, balloon art, a do-it-yourself trail mix station and a custom baseball card making station. After the educational sessions concluded, BCDI invited all Family Day guests to lunch at the ballpark and presented tickets to the baseball game between the Peoria Chiefs and West Michigan Whitecaps.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

NBDF Washington Days, March 9, 2023

BCDI CFO/COO Becky Burns, Pharmacist Jenna McMechan and Director of Outreach & Communications Matt McClain spoke with U.S. Congress members in Washington D.C. about obstacles in our community, federal funding for programs and raising support for policies that increase affordability of coverage and access to care. Offices visited with include Senator Dick Durbin, Representative Darin LaHood, Representative Eric Sorensen, Senator Tammy Duckworth, Representative Mary Miller and Representative Sean Casten.



BCDI at Illinois Capitol, March 22, 2023

Becky Burns and Matt McClain visited the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield to meet with local legislatures to spread the word about Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month. During meetings with Senator Dave Koehler, Representative Ryan Spain, Senator Win Stoller, Senator Sally Turner and Representative Bill Hauter, the BCDI team raised awareness about obstacles that BCDI's Illinois patients are facing regarding access to care and insurance.

Arthur Free Screening and Education, April 17, 2023

BCDI lab assistant Ashlee Harvey, education coordinator Brittany Reinken, nurse coordinator Abby Lillie and clinical pharmacy liaison Lyberti Hostetter spent the day in Arthur, Illinois spreading awareness and education about bleeding disorders. Our BCDI team offered free screenings and lab draws for bleeding disorders at our Arthur clinic location during the afternoon. These screenings reached individuals who could potentially have a bleeding disorder but had never been tested before. Later that evening, the BCDI team spoke with Arthur Fire, Ambulance and EMS staff to provide general information on bleeding disorders, emergency care, infusion training and factor mixing.



Hemophilia Alliance Hill Day, June 13, 2023

The BCDI group of Becky Burns, Matt McClain and pharmacy manager, Dane Christ, spoke with members of Congress about the role Hemophilia Treatment Center's play for their patients, the importance of the HTC care model, and raising awareness about the integral part the 340B program plays in providing high-quality care that is offered at HTC's. During this trip, BCDI spoke with the offices of Representative Darin LaHood, Representative Eric Sorensen and Senator Tammy Duckworth, while also holding meetings with staff members from Representative Jan Schakowsky's and Representative Robin Kelly's office.



DH2 Run, Walk or Trot, August 12, 2023

BCDI was honored to host the 9th annual Deveraux Hubbard II Foundation's Run, Walk or Trot 2 Stop Blood Clots event on August 12. This prestigious event in Peoria aims to raise awareness and provides education about blood clots and deep vein thrombosis. BCDI staff members networked with attendees and distributed informational handouts, cooling towels and BCDI-branded stress balls.

NBDF Bleeding Disorders Conference, August 17 – 19, 2023

Members of BCDI expert staff spent August 17-19 at the National Bleeding Disorders Foundation's Bleeding Disorders Conference in National Harbor, Maryland. At the NBDF's (formerly known as the National Hemophilia Foundation or NHF) Bleeding Disorders Conference, Dr. Jonathan Roberts, registered dietitian Beth Helmold and physical therapist Amanda Kilgore hosted educational sessions for individuals with bleeding disorders and medical professionals, while also attending learning workshops to discuss important topics in our community.



ITP Awareness Month, September 2023

BCDI helped raise awareness for Immune Thrombocytopenia Purpura (ITP) Awareness Month throughout September. ITP is a not uncommon bleeding disorder characterized by a low number of platelets in the blood. Platelets are needed for clotting of the blood. In patients with ITP, a person's immune system creates antibodies that mark healthy platelets as "foreign substances" and then mistakenly attack and destroy them. As an autoimmune disease that results in the destruction of platelets, patients with ITP tend to bleed or bruise. Worldwide, it is estimated that there are over 200,000 people affected by ITP. BCDI held weekly trivia contests on Facebook to raise awareness about signs and symptoms of ITP, the BCDI patient lobby was decorated in purple and the BCDI staff wore purple clothing during Sport Purple For Platelets Day on September 29.



Jehan Gordon Booth Press Conference, October 16, 2023

Alongside State Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth, Kristie and Pastor Deveraux Hubbard (Directors of the Deveraux Hubbard II Foundation), BCDI hosted a joint press conference on October 16 to highlight the challenges and treatment for individuals impacted by blood clotting disorders and discussed newly introduced legislation to reduce mortality in Illinois. Rep. Gordon-Booth introduced House Bill 4172 on October 13, which seeks to increase education efforts, boost awareness and help with the diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis. House Bill 4172, which is also known as the "Deveraux Hubbard II Blood Clot Prevention and Treatment Act," was introduced and filed on World Thrombosis Day, which is a day of awareness that aims to reduce the incidence of morbidity and mortality caused by blood clots.

El Tour de Tucson, November 18, 2023

On November 18, Dr. Tarantino participated in his 22nd ride of the annual El Tour de Tucson, a 102-mile bicycle race in Tucson, Arizona in support of raising awareness and money for BCDI program services. Through our "Bike With Dr. Mike" fundraising campaign, our community helped raise \$2,500!



OUR PATIENTS SAY...

We highly value the thoughts and opinions of our patients regarding the quality of care received at BCDI. That's why all BCDI patients are prompted to complete an anonymous survey once annually after a visit with our team. Below is a sampling of anonymous comments the BCDI team received during visits in 2023!

“ This has been **one of the best doctor's visits I've had**. I felt very cared for, seen and taken seriously. ”

“ I've never had a bad experience at BCDI and everyone that I have seen has been helpful, curious and knowledgeable with my bleeding issues! I would highly recommend **Dr. Tarantino**, or any of the BCDI Doctors, the staff and pharmacy to anyone! ”

“ I love BCDI and wish everyone approached healthcare this way. It seems strange to be thankful for a blood issue, but now that I know about this holistic approach to medicine, **I am thankful. Keep it up and tell others to do it too!** ”

“ I have been very impressed with BCDI. I was referred there by my primary doctor two years ago and I couldn't be happier. **Dr. Roberts** took the time needed to explain things to me and gave me a treatment plan that got me back on track with my health again, after several doctors had not been able to. Everyone on staff are kind and courteous. **Dr. Roberts** is the best! ”

“ **Dr. Espanol** was so thoughtful, thorough and knowledgeable. I had a great experience. ”

“ We are so satisfied with BCDI. I have never had a bad experience, spoken to someone who wasn't kind and helpful, or been dissatisfied in any way. **This is the absolute best office we have ever visited.** ”

“ **BCDI is a great team and the nurses that I talk to on a regular basis are fantastic, knowledgeable and really care for me.** ”

“ Everyone here is great at communicating, but beyond that they are very genuinely warm. What a wonderful clinical culture you have. ”

“ **I just want to say I love all the staff at BCDI and the family environment. I feel very well taken care of and looked after.** ”

“ The staff is wonderful. They made me feel well taken care of and comfortable. ”

“ **Professional, patient and kind! More offices should strive for the service provided here.** ”

“ You are all very wonderful and helpful. Keep up the good work! Thank you for everything. ”

“ You guys are always great! I appreciate your support and attention to detail with everything. **Dr. Tarantino** is the best. ”

RESEARCH AT BCDI

Research is at the forefront at BCDI and we are committed to providing the most cutting-edge treatment opportunities to our patients. BCDI feels that it is critical to be a driving force in advancements within the bleeding and clotting disorders community instead of hearing about it from others. We play a crucial role in developing ways to improve the lives of patients not only at BCDI, but around the world.

The research team at BCDI achieved incredible feats during 2023, including multiple research projects to nearly 30 peer review scientific publications.



- BCDI was awarded 18 different research grants in 2023, with over \$525,000 received in grant funding. This grant money is crucial for improving patient care education and ensuring the highest quality of comprehensive care.
- Since January 2023, BCDI providers and experts authored or co-authored to at least 29 different research publications.
 - This includes 12 publications focused on Hemophilia A or B, 7 publications focused on ITP, 5 publications focused on VWD or VWF, and 2 publications focused on sickle cell.
- BCDI led and completed two studies: “Open-Label Study Measuring Safety and Treatment Satisfaction in Adult Subjects with Chronic Immune Thrombocytopenia (ITP) after Switching to Avatrombopag from Eltrombopag or Romiplostim” and “Pediatric DOVA Avatrombopeg Study.”
- BCDI conducted at least five different observational studies in 2023, with over 120 participants.

The research team at BCDI is always looking for participants who apply to ongoing studies! To learn more about the ongoing clinical trials and data collection studies, and to see if you may be a good fit to participate, please scan the QR code or visit ilbcdi.org/our-services/research.



BCDI has ambitious goals and objectives for research in 2024 and beyond!

- BCDI is working hard to expand the research world with treatment, observational, and chart review studies. Thanks in part to their generous contributions, The Dills Family Foundation Center For Research provides the platform for BCDI's research team to continue being at the forefront of research among Hemophilia Treatment Center's nationwide.
- BCDI research participated in a quality improvement project for patient education and newly diagnoses Von Willebrand patients, and recently was accepted as an abstract at the Thrombosis & Hemostasis Summit of North America 2024.
- One of our major goals for 2024 is the continuation of the Emicizumab for Severe VWD and VWD/Hemophilia patients clinical trial. BCDI is the sponsor and Dr. Roberts is the lead investigator of this U.S., multi-site, clinical trial. The goal is to reach 40 individuals but if the inclusion criteria is met, more can enroll!

BEACON TIPS: THE IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING NOSEBLEEDS

Nosebleeds are a common symptom in patients with bleeding disorders. If serious, they may cause severe anemia. However, most stop on their own and can be treated safely at home. Nosebleeds tend to occur more often in the winter and when the air is dry.

WHAT TO DO:

- Sit up with you head tilted slightly forward. Do not lean back- this may cause gagging, coughing, or vomiting.
- Pinch the soft part of the nose (just below the bony part) and apply pressure for at least five minutes.
- Release the pressure to see if the bleeding has stopped. Gently blow out any soft clots. If bleeding continues, reapply pressure for another five minutes. Continue these steps until the bleeding stops.
- If the bleeding has not stopped, additional treatment may be indicated.
- Seek medical care if you: tend to bruise easily or have heavy bleeding from minor wounds, or recently started a new medication.

PREVENTION:

- To help prevent dryness in the nose, use saline (salt water) nasal spray or drops (or put petroleum jelly on the inside edges of the nostrils) and use a humidifier.
- Avoid smoke exposure.
- Avoid nose picking or forceful blowing of the nose.
- Avoid any known allergens.
- Keep fingernails short to avoid accidentally scratching inside of the nose.



During your office visit at BCDI this winter, ask your provider if you are eligible to receive a BCDI Nosebleed Awareness kit, featuring hypertonic saline spray, adhesive bandages, a nose clamp and an informational nosebleed magnet!

CONTACT BCDI IF:

- You have a nosebleed lasting longer than 10 minutes.
- You have frequent nosebleeds.
- You recently started a new medication.

SEEK EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE IF BLEEDING:

- Is heavy.
- Is accompanied by dizziness or paleness of the skin.
- Continues after 2 or 3 attempts to apply pressure.
- Is the result of a blow to the head or fall.

If you or someone in your family experiences frequent or heavy nosebleeds, consult with your physician as this may be a sign of a bleeding disorder. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out BCDI at [309-692-5337](tel:309-692-5337).

BEACON SPOTLIGHT: ALLY CARLTON

After being diagnosed with Immune Thrombocytopenia Purpura (ITP) at age 11, there were more questions than answers for Ally Carlton. But in 2011, Ally met BCDI Founder Dr. Michael Tarantino and everything changed.

Before Ally's freshman year of high school, she took part in a study group led by Dr. Tarantino for romiplostim, which is a prescription drug used to treat low blood platelet counts. After vigorous testing, Ally started using Nplate and her platelet counts stabilized. Now after more than a decade of dedicated care at BCDI, including participating in the clinical trial, Ally's ITP is now in remission.

"I think that's what makes BCDI so different- all the programs to make having ITP the most accessible thing for people," Ally said. "It's been really cool to be able to be on a study drug, have it be successful and then watch it save lives and help other people. What Dr. Tarantino has grown, developed, and continues to grow is pretty much lifesaving for anybody that walks through those doors at BCDI. I think he's phenomenal, I think he sets the standard for healthcare."

Throughout Ally's ITP journey, she spent significant time at the hospital and at BCDI. The level of care that she received motivated her to help others in similar situations. Ally now works as an Intensive Care Unit nurse and wants to give back.

"Dr. T and the BCDI staff made me want to be a healthcare professional to some degree and my mom is a nurse also so that is a double reason why I went into it," Ally said. "I really just have a heart to help other people. I wanted to be a part of something that I love and get to help people, and I love working with critical patients."

Ally is also using her experience with ITP to advocate for awareness and help educate others. In July 2023, Ally presented at the Platelet Disorders Support Association's ITP Conference in front of hundreds of people about her journey.



"I think Dr. T does a really good job of giving patients their voice back, and I try to tell others that patients are in control of their healthcare and that ITP is so unique and individualized for each person. I think that is the biggest piece is just to advocate for yourself and what you want and treatment goals."

"I highly recommend BCDI for any patient, whether they've already been diagnosed or just became diagnosed, all walks of life," Ally added. "One thing that you will hear me say over and over is how good Dr. T and all the BCDI staff is. They take time to answer your questions and sit down with you to make sure you're comfortable. They have a whole crew of people that treat you as a whole person versus just one specific part, which I think is important, especially as a child. That way you don't really feel like something wrong with you."

BCDI PHARMACY

Did you know the Bleeding and Clotting Disorders Institute has an in-house pharmacy specially designed to provide pharmacy services to patients with bleeding and clotting disorders? The BCDI Pharmacy is a fully licensed pharmacy with capabilities to deliver and ship medication throughout Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Florida.



As our pharmacy is located within the BCDI facility in Peoria, we work closely with BCDI providers to ensure the best outcomes for our patients are achieved. If necessary, we can deliver medication the same-day orders are requested via our BCDI courier system. This is achievable as the pharmacy's goals are completely aligned with those of the BCDI comprehensive care clinics and our providers.

'Patient First' is our approach and we believe this shows in the quality of our work. The BCDI Pharmacy, under the supervision of Dr. Tarantino, helps to create care plans within the patient management program. Reaching out to patients to ensure an adequate supply of medication is always available, directly transferring patients to BCDI clinical staff if clinical interventions are required, and providing continued education to patients are just some examples of our efforts within the patient management program. The BCDI Pharmacy engages with patients monthly, and those relationships can inform the clinical care team of patient goal progression or challenges that may need addressed. Through complete integration with the comprehensive care model, the BCDI Pharmacy provides exceptional care to our patients.

The BCDI Pharmacy is dual accredited through URAC and ACHC. To earn these accreditations, our pharmacy must prove we provide top quality care, and we have designs in place to increase patient safety and quality improvements. Through the approval process and reaccreditation process, we are constantly improving our policies, procedures and performance, allowing us to maintain the high standard of care our patients expect from the BCDI team.

The BCDI Pharmacy is also taking an active role to ease the burden patients may face with receiving deliveries. When we deliver via BCDI courier, our pharmacy uses reusable insulated totes to transport the medication. Our drivers deliver all medications and supplies, in a validated cold chain process, directly to the patient without having to burden the patient with a physical insulated box that ultimately must be thrown into a landfill. While material waste in the healthcare system is challenging, BCDI is committed to doing its part to minimize our footprint and overall supply chain waste.



The BCDI Pharmacy strives to be available for all patients of BCDI. While we wish to be able to service any patient interested, we may not be able to provide services to you depending on insurance provider networks or state licensure requirements. If you are a BCDI patient and are interested in using our pharmacy, please ask your comprehensive care team if you may be eligible. Our team will work with you, your employer and your insurance provider to determine if you will be able to use the BCDI Pharmacy.

BCDI BLOOD DROP SOCIETY

At BCDI, we rely on the philanthropic support of our community and donors to help us fulfill our integral mission of providing integrated, family-oriented care, treatment and education for individuals with bleeding, clotting and other blood disorders.

With that in mind, BCDI has created a brand-new donor society for our community: The **BCDI Blood DROP Society**. DROP serves as a acronym that has a major impact on the mission of this new fundraising group: Donors Recognizing Our Purpose.

Members of this honored group will support vital services that will benefit the entire bleeding and clotting disorder community throughout Illinois, every day, thanks to their generous contributions. Those who donate or raise \$1,000 or more within a calendar year for BCDI are acknowledged as members of the BCDI Blood DROP Society and will also receive name recognition for at least one calendar year on our new BCDI Donor Wall. This beautiful piece of art is set to be unveiled in our BCDI patient lobby in 2024 and is sure to be an eye-catching and spectacular addition to our facility.

There are various levels of becoming a BCDI Blood DROP Society Member and each have different perks that play a key role in membership:

The official concept and design of the BCDI Blood DROP Society will be unveiled soon, with the BCDI "Blood Huggers" logo at the forefront.



ANNUAL MEMBER: \$1,000 +

- 1-year recognition on the Blood DROP Society Donor Wall (small size).
- Welcome Kit including BCDI swag, information and the BCDI Beacon Newsletter.
- VIP Invite to special BCDI events.
- Invitation to Annual BCDI Blood DROP Society Appreciation Event.
- Special merchandise availability, tour of BCDI facility, and more!

CHAMPION MEMBER: \$5,000 +

- 1-year recognition on the Blood DROP Society Donor Wall (medium size).
- Preferred seating at BCDI events.
- All benefits of Annual Member Level.

LIFETIME IMPACT MEMBER: A ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF \$10,000.

- Lifetime Recognition on the Blood DROP Society Donor Wall (large size).
- Lifetime membership to the donor society.
- All benefits of Champion and Annual Member Levels.

These generous gifts directly benefit the mission of BCDI and help improve and expand patient services to support our community physically, emotionally and psychosocially.

If you are interested in learning more about the BCDI Blood DROP Society, please scan the QR code or contact Matt McVey at **309-692-5337 (extension 188)** or by email at matt@ilbcdi.org.



TRIVIA NIGHT 2024



We are excited to welcome our community to the 13th Annual BCDI Trivia Night event! This year's event will be hosted at the Peoria Civic Center Ballroom (201 SW Jefferson Ave, Peoria, IL 61602) on April 19, 2024! The night will be full of fun trivia questions and the opportunity to win some of our best prizes ever, including a beer and wine pull, a gift card pull, plus a plethora of exciting raffles!

The theme of BCDI Trivia Night 2024 is "24 Karat Gold" - which pays homage to the year 2024! We invite all of our guests to wear your favorite outfits based around the color gold! This is not a formal attire event, as we want to see your most unique gold outfits and BCDI will judge the best dressed individuals and award prizes to the lucky winners!

Registration is now **OPEN** for all attendees! You can take advantage of our early bird pricing by March 15 and get \$25 off for each attendee! You can sign up individually or as a part of a group and we will place you with another group, or you can register for a full table of ten and create your own dream-team trivia group!

Since BCDI Trivia Night was founded in 2010, our community has banded together to help raise awareness and money to support BCDI's mission goals of providing integrated, family-oriented care, treatment, and education for persons with bleeding, blood clotting and other blood disorders. All proceeds raised will provide crucial resources to benefit patient program services and various advancement programs, such as the Green Family Scholarship Fund.

To register to attend BCDI Trivia Night, please scan the QR code or visit our website, bcditrivia24.cbo.io. To learn more about potential sponsorship and fundraising opportunities for BCDI Trivia Night 2024, please contact Matt McVey via email at matt@ilbcdi.org or via telephone at **(309) 692-5337**, extension **188**.



BLEEDING DISORDERS AWARENESS MONTH

March is Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month and BCDI is dedicated to being a leader in spreading awareness about bleeding disorders throughout the community. Bleeding disorders affect thousands of Americans and oftentimes, become a life-long diagnosis requiring frequent doctor's visits, expensive medications and mindfulness of potential symptoms and lifestyle choices.

Bleeding disorders are a group of conditions that share the inability to form a proper blood clot. They are characterized by extended bleeding after injury, surgery, trauma or menstruation. Sometimes the bleeding is spontaneous, without a known or identifiable cause. Improper clotting can be caused by defects in blood components such as platelets or clotting proteins, also called clotting factors. The body produces 13 clotting factors; if any of them are defective or deficient, blood clotting is affected. A mild, moderate, or severe bleeding disorder can result. Some bleeding disorders can be inherited or acquired, while others can occur from such conditions as anemia, cirrhosis of the liver, HIV, leukemia or vitamin K deficiency. Bleeding disorders can also result from certain medications that thin the blood, including Aspirin, Heparin and Warfarin.

While learning about bleeding disorders, it is imperative to know what the signs and symptoms of a potential diagnosis are, including:

- Bleeding into joints, muscles and soft tissues.
- Excessive nosebleeds.
- Prolonged, heavy menstrual periods.
- Unexplained bruising.
- Extended bleeding after minor cuts, blood draws or vaccinations, minor surgery or dental procedures.

Treatment for bleeding disorders varies depending on condition and severity. For some bleeding disorders, there is clotting factor concentrate that is infused as a preventive measure or on-demand at home to prevent or treat bleeds. For other bleeding disorders, there are topical products, nasal sprays and fresh frozen plasma, which is administered in a hospital setting.

MARCH
**BLEEDING
DISORDERS**
AWARENESS MONTH



While there are some commonplace treatments and remedies for individuals with bleeding disorders, each case should take the patient's entire health record and journey into account. That's why BCDI implements a comprehensive care approach that supports our patients and their families with thorough physical, mental and psychological attention and care. At BCDI, patients themselves are an integral part of their support team. This starts with proper education, not only about their specific diagnosis, but also in recognizing symptoms of bleeds, preventing injuries and general lifestyle choices like travel, physical activity and family planning. Through community events and patient advocacy group meetings, BCDI patients can connect with others with similar diagnosis. This type of relationship building helps families cope and learn about their loved one's diagnosis. From education to supportive services, the staff of BCDI is with the patient every step of the way.

During March, BCDI invites you to join the conversation in raising awareness about bleeding disorders and advocate on behalf of bleeding disorders patients! BCDI will be shining the spotlight regarding bleeding disorders, providing education, and helping spread awareness about these conditions that is held dear to BCDI's mission.

If you would like to learn how you can get involved and take part in Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month, be sure to keep tabs with the BCDI Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ILBCDI) throughout March!

Follow us on Facebook
Facebook.com/ILBCDI



IN MEMORIAM: JIM TARANTINO

It is with great sadness that BCDI says goodbye to a dear friend and fervent supporter of our mission. Jim Tarantino, the brother of BCDI CEO/CMO Dr. Michael Tarantino, passed away unexpectedly on January 15, 2024.

Jim was the type of person you are lucky if you meet once in your lifetime. He not only volunteered his many talents to his community and those in need, he was a deep believer in helping everyone around him be the best they can be. He was always there with an infectious smile and helpful hand.

In 2022 at BCDI's 11th Annual Trivia Night, Jim Tarantino was awarded and presented the BCDI Hero Award for his lifetime of support to the bleeding disorders community. Whether through generous donations or lending his expertise to drive the construction of BCDI's state of the art campus, Jim's support of BCDI and the Illinois bleeding disorders community was abundant. He gave of himself freely and without reservation, taking great joy in helping those around him.



Jim's legacy lives on in the lives of all those he has touched. Please join the BCDI team in saying goodbye to a beloved brother, friend, and patron. May those of us fortunate enough to have been touched by Jim's generosity continue his work here on earth as he enjoys his heavenly home.



BCDI ACROSS THE STATE

BCDI has over 7,000 patients across the state of Illinois through our ten different comprehensive care locations. During a comprehensive care visit, a patient sees a variety of expert caregivers. From hematologists to social workers, a nutritionist and everything in between – patients learn to live life to the fullest, regardless of their diagnosis. This united approach leads to a timely diagnosis, comprehensive treatment plans and optimal long-term care of patients with bleeding and clotting disorders.

- **Arthur** HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Building
525 N. Vine St. Arthur, IL 61911
- **Carbondale** SIU Center for Family Medicine
300 W Oak St. Carbondale, IL 62901
- **Champaign** OSF Medical Group – Primary Care
1405 W Park St., Suite 306 Urbana,
IL 61820
- **Decatur** Crossing Healthcare 320 E. Central
Ave. Decatur, IL 62521
- **Macomb** Medical Arts Building Visiting
Physician Office 527 E. Grant
St. Macomb, IL 61455
- **Moline** Pediatric Specialty Clinic
515 Valley View
Drive Moline, IL 61265
- **Ottawa** Fox River Cancer Center
1200 Starfire Dr. Ottawa, IL 61350
- **Peoria** Bleeding & Clotting Disorders Institute
427 W Northmoor Dr. Peoria, IL 61614
*Women's Service Clinics, Thrombophilia
Clinics, and Immune Thrombocytopenic
Purpura (ITP) Clinics are located at the
Peoria location.*
- **Springfield** SIU Healthcare
400 N. 9th Street, 3rd Floor
Springfield, IL 62701





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www.ilbcdi.org/about-us/newsletter

