

Long Life

A bimonthly publication of the IMMORTALIST SOCIETY

24355 Sorrentino Ct. Clinton Township MI
48035-3239

President	York Porter
Vice President	John Bull
Secretary	Royse Brown
Treasurer	John Besancon

Editorial Staff

John Bull Editor 1cryoguy@gmail.com

York Porter Contributing Editor
Porter@kih.net

John de Rivaz Contributing Editor
John@deRivaz.com

James Yount
jy@mars.biz

Debbie Fleming
Tech Advisor & Proofreader
dfleming10@cfl.rr.com

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Editorial Office 1437 Pineapple Ave #701,
Melbourne, FL 32935 Phone:321 242-1810
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Upper right: David Ettinger

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News & Views—Upcoming elections, Membership Report....	3
Book Review (Continued) Bob Nelson movie.....	5
Cryopreservation Research—Ashwin Reports.....	7
Claus's opinion of US & SA.....	9
Peter Gouras on Suspended Animation —.... Terasem News..	10
CI's 106 Patient— A must read!!.....	11
Cryo Conference—Ben was there!.....	15
Meet Mick Petrick & family.....	17
Die Healthy! What's in honey?.....	19
Can CI handle an influx of patients?.....	21
CI-IS Information.....	22
More on Suspended Animation- (Not the company).....	23
French Cryosurgery	24
Editor's Corner.....	24
Comments on the last issue—Chris Manning.....	25
The Final Word.—Memories of Bob.....	26
Cryonics Support Groups World-Wide—(CSGWW).....	27

Cryonics Institute President's Report

by Ben Best

The "father of cryonics", Robert Ettinger, deanimated on July 23, 2011. A team led by his son David ensured that ice-bath cooling and restoration of blood circulation began almost immediately following the prompt pronouncement of death. Cryoprotectant perfusion and subsequent cooling to liquid nitrogen temperature proceeded promptly and well. David Ettinger followed-up with a press release and media interviews that had a very substantial positive impact.

CI acquired five new Members in the week following Robert Ettinger's legal death, and acquired an additional six new Members in the month of August. Slightly more than one new Member per week is typical.

European cryonics activist Aldo Fusciardi became Italy's first cryonics patient, and CI's 105th. Unfortunately, the legal situation in Italy meant that Aldo could not be certified as dead in less than 24 hours, and he had to be driven to Germany for air-transport to Michigan in order to bypass Italian law requiring embalming of a corpse upon shipment. Some have suggested that cryoprotectant perfusion could be interpreted as a kind of embalming in Italy, which is exactly the interpretation that is used in Michigan, where the Cryonics Institute is regulated as a cemetery.

As of this writing, the Cryonics Institute has 107 patients, exactly matching the 107 patients at Alcor. Some people find this neck-and-neck "competition" to be hilarious. I don't believe any effort is being made to increase the number of patients other than the usual efforts to increase number of Members. Such efforts would be difficult as well as ethically questionable. From my point of view, the matching patient numbers between the two cryonics organizations is simply a bizarre coincidence. 2011 has been an exceptionally busy year for pets at the Cry-



onics Institute. CI has cryopreserved 11 pets since the first of January. In each of the years 2010, 2009, and 2008 CI received 7 pets, and in 2007 there were only 3 pets for the whole year.

A couple of days after ballots were mailed to CI Voting Members for the upcoming CI Directors' election, a document was sent to CI Voting Members which contained statements by a number of CI Directors and Advisors concerning their objections to having David Stodolsky as a Board Member. Connie Ettinger took the initiative to do this mailing to all CI Voting Members. The mailing was not done at CI expense, Connie took responsibility, but asked other Directors and Advisors who wished to reimburse her costs to do so.

I have had a very busy summer of attending conferences, including a biogerontology and libertarian conference where I promoted the Cryonics Institute, but attended at my own expense, and the Society for Cryobiology Conference, where I mainly attended as a learning experience, but did some low-key cryonics promotion, nonetheless. Right now I am busily preparing to attend Aubrey de Grey's fifth SENS conference where I will be giving a cryonics presentation, distributing Cryonics Institute brochures, and meeting with the many very cryonics-friendly scientists who attend these events.

Cryonics_Institute] CI Membership statistics as at 30-August-2011

As at 30-August-2011 the Cryonics Institute has 940 Members, 460 of whom are funded with contracts, of whom 106 have Suspended Animation contracts. Of the 460 funded/contract CI Members, 87.4% are funded by life insurance, 7.0% have pre-paid, 3.5% use a portfolio, 2.0% have other funding arrangements, and there is one person who has funded with a trust. Of the 106 CI Members who have contracted with Suspended Animation, Inc. for Standby, Stabilization, and Transport (SST) services, 97% are funded with insurance, two are funded by portfolio, and there is one person funded by trust. *Ben Best*

In spite of our best efforts, a few memorial messages were corrupted by the time they reached final review. At this point our main concern is continuity from one page to another. One of the messages that was affected was written by of all people, an author, a person who uses words to make a living. Here is Shannon Vyff's original submission: Nice Shirt!

The news of Robert's passing came as a shock to me. I was at a conference and missed the whole passing period to get to my next session after I'd read the message from Ben Best to the CI group on my iPhone. I didn't think Robert would "leave" yet as he was still arguing his case against uploading, even in the weeks before he died. He was still helping people and was active right up to the unexpected end. I knew his age, and that he had been struggling with health issues. Still, his death produced strong qualia amongst his friends and family-exactly the type of emotion he felt would be impossible to recreate in artificial substrate. I hope he gets a chance to be vindicated in his views, or partake of a new paradigm of thinking--as well as to attend all the parties and live meetings cryonicists hope to have with him

I could not keep a dry eye when reading over comments of friends and family who had spent time with Robert, admired him and had been helped by him. I was impressed with how his son was able to give interviews and coherent useful information about cryonics as the news spread Internationally about Robert's death, a death we hope will be legally reversed someday.

He had moxie and heart. He stood up for his beliefs in a rational manner and went out of his way to help others, from tips on how to deal with one's family if they were hostile to cryonics, technical or procedural information about cryonics, sci-fi story idea feedback-- to giving advice from anyone requesting it within his biological family and his larger family of Cryonics Institute. He would answer people's emails in a timely manner and one time he graciously took the time to read my book "21st Century Kids" and give me an endorsement for the cover. I know the entire cryonics community will miss him greatly- emotionally and in a practical manner. There are others within cryonics who are integral to the community and who further research today, but it feels like he leaves behind shoes that can not be filled. I think that feeling comes from the fact that he was one of the founders of cryonics and there is gratitude for that, gratitude and admiration that will likely never go away. He is loved and revered by many. I do hope to meet up with him again in the future, as do many of us. Even if that never happens, I will always appreciate his ideas and what he accomplished.

Shannon had asked whose message got mixed up with hers, at the time we didn't know, well, it's Charles Tandy Ph.D .who wrote asking if Shannon had contacted us about his three paragraphs that were part of Shannon's tribute to Bob, but were actually written by him? Our faces are getting redder by the day! We will correct the online version and print Dr Tandy's tribute in its entirety in the next issue!.

