



These UOAA UPDATES are our way of communicating what is happening to you, our members. It is our hope that this information is being passed on to your members, either by including some of the news in your newsletters or by discussing it at your local support group meetings. People continue to ask, what is UOAA doing for me, and this is our way of answering this time-old question. We continue to look forward to working with you and to being an active resource to ensure your success.

MAY 8, 2008

May is National Fitness and Family Wellness Month

GREAT COMEBACKS VENTURE

For those of you that planned to follow the exploits of Rob Hill, as recorded in blogs from his team's base camp in Nepal, the 34-year-old ileostomate mountain climber from British Columbia, and ConvaTec's international ambassador, who took on the challenge to climb the tallest mountain on each of the seven continents, you will be disappointed to learn that the mission to climb Mt. Everest had to be scrubbed when Rob experienced a major flare-up of his Crohn's Disease. Having climbed six of the seven highest mountains only Mt. Everest remained in his "**No guts, know glory**" challenge to be the first ileostomate and Crohn's patient to make the climb. You can carefully plan logistic details, train for high altitude and in general do everything possible to ensure success, but Crohn's Disease is that one uncontrollable factor that patients have to live with. Due to his courageous spirit and determination we know that Mt. Everest has not seen the last of Rob Hill. We all will have the opportunity to share his moment of glory ... not this year, but surely in the future.

CONVATEC SOLD

The following news report is shared with you for your information.

NEW YORK - (Business Wire) [Bristol-Myers Squibb Company](#) (NYSE:BMJ) announced that it has signed a definitive agreement to sell its [ConvaTec](#) business unit to Nordic Capital Fund VII ("Nordic Capital") and Avista Capital Partners ("Avista") for \$4.1 billion. ConvaTec is a world leader in the development and marketing of innovative wound therapeutics and ostomy care products.

Dave Johnson, who will remain the CEO of ConvaTec, said, "I am excited to partner with Nordic Capital and Avista Capital Partners as we transition ConvaTec to a stand-alone company. Both firms have a proven track record of success in the healthcare industry. They are passionate believers in

ConvaTec's future growth and will be strong supporters of the ConvaTec business. Their deep experience in guiding strategy and backing companies will help take ConvaTec to the next level of success as an independent company. The transaction is subject to customary regulatory approvals and delivery of ConvaTec's audited 2007 financial statements. The closing is anticipated in the third quarter of 2008.

GYGIG 2008 RIDE SCHEDULE

Spring is here, and with it the start of the Get Your Guts in Gear bike rides. The first ride will start at Pier 54 on the waterfront in New York City on Friday morning June 6th at 6:00 am and finish up 210 miles later at the Skidmore University campus in Saratoga Springs, New York, on Sunday afternoon, June 8th. Despite wind, rain, heat and attacks from startled deer, we know that this valiant group of riders will make it through ... promoting the fact that neither an inflammatory bowel disease nor an ostomy can limit your ability to accomplish great things!

The 2008 GYGIG ride schedule is:

- In the **New York Area** on June 6th to the 8th
- **Seattle, WA Area**, August 1st to the 3rd
- In the **Austin, TX Area**, October 17th to the 19th



One of the requirements to ride in a GYGIG event is to raise \$ 1,900. In order to show your support for Team UOAA, a contribution can be name in the name of the following riders at:

www.ibdrive.org/donate.asp?p=involved

UOAA riders in the New York event:

Bob Baker NY-74
Chris Baker (Bob's son) NY-75
Emily Mallar NY-65

FALL 2008 ELECTION CANDIDATES

Again this Fall you will be asked to elect two Directors. The four candidates who will be running for these two director's chairs are:

Tillie Horak, Baltimore Ostomy Association
Lynne Kramer, Philadelphia Ostomy Association
Bob Parish, Hemet-San Jacinto Ostomy Association
Kaytie Torango, Salem Township Hospital, Illinois

More information will be appearing about these candidates on the UOAA website and in *The Phoenix* magazine.

ASG LEADERSHIP ADVISORY BOARD

The newly instituted UOAA ASG Advisory Board is up and running. The four members of this Board presently include:

Eileen Bohrer, St. Paul Ostomy Association
Demi Cotrupe, Ostomy Support Group of North San Diego County, and,
Harvey Shatz, Lowcountry (SC) Ostomy Association
Bob Parish, Hemet-San Jacinto Ostomy Association
Their terms will expire December 31, 2009.

Mary Lou Thomas of the Anne Arundel County MD Ostomy Association was invited to be a member, but she declined at this time for health reasons. Bob Parish was selected by the MBoD as her replacement.

If you have any issues that you would like to have the ASG Advisory Board address, please communicate with the Advisory Board Chair, Bob Parish.

Based upon your recommendations, 4 additional members of the ASG Advisory Board will be appointed by the MBoD to serve a two year term commencing January 1st, 2009

With this new Board in place it will ensure that UOAA's management body is in tune with the needs and interests of the ASGs. It is hoped that this action will also stimulate grass-root level interest in UOAA's management affairs and national concerns.

SOUTHEAST ASG LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

On Saturday, **June 21st**, UOAA will hold another in its series of ASG Leadership Seminars at the Best Western Lakeside Hotel in **Kissimmee, Florida**. See the attached flyer for detailed information. Remember **each ASG** that sends a representative is entitled to an expense rebate from UOAA of \$ 100.

Please contact Steve Strizic if you plan to be there. We have much to discuss and need your input!

NORTHWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

A Northwest Regional Conference will be at the SEA-TAC Airport Clarion Hotel, on September 12th to the 14th. See attached flyer for details.

Events include a social mixer sponsored by Coloplast on Friday evening, educational programming on Saturday and a Leadership session on Sunday morning.

For those planning to attend please contact Janet McNiven.

MEDICAL COMMUNITY CONTACT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Steve Strizic, Chair of UOAA's Leadership Resource Program recently sent out a set of guidelines for the Medical Community Contact Program. These are designed to help each ASG establish a stronger working relationship with members of their local medical community.

Due to technical problems experienced by our webmail host, some of you did not receive these guidelines. Because of their importance Steve asked me to resend them as part of this UPDATE.

FOW-USA PROJECT S.H.A.R.E. RELOCATION

Ival Secret, President of, FOW-USA, has reported that Friends of Ostomates Worldwide -USA has relocated its collection and sorting facility from Glenview, IL to Louisville, KY. The new address for sending ostomy supplies or a financial contribution is:

FOW-USA
1500 Arlington Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206-3177

The website www.fowusa.org should be updated by the week of 12 May 2008.

The support of UOAA's Affiliated Support Groups and individuals is greatly appreciated. We have incurred a cost to relocate and any financial support will be appreciated.

IN CONCLUSION

To all of the Mothers in our group ... enjoy your day this Sunday ... and to all those who are thinking about starting a family ... tonight is a good time to start!

I hope that this message finds you in the best of health and in good spirits!

Ken Aukett - President, UOAA