

FAST-MAG Times

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FAST-MAG Hits 50% ENROLLMENT 649 and Counting

On October 23, 2008, FAST-MAG achieved its biggest milestone yet with the enrollment of patient number 649, marking 50% of study completion. Without the diligence and persistence of paramedics throughout Los Angeles County, this important research would not be possible. From Antelope Valley to Long Beach, Santa Monica to Pomona, paramedics have taken the extra effort needed to complete the assessment, make the phone call to the enrolling physician, ensure the consent is signed, and start the study drug – all in record time.

Patient 649 was enrolled by **Los Angeles County Fire Department Squad 30**, now tied for first place in enrollments with **Los Angeles County Fire Department Rescue Squad 111**; each have 15 enrollments through year's end.

Right in line behind Squads 30 and 111 are **Los Angeles County FD RS 28, LAFD RA 102, and Torrance FD 91** with 11 patients each. The highest enrolling fire department is Los Angeles FD with a total of 164 patients, followed closely by Los Angeles County FD with 136 enrollments. The highest-enrolling single city department is Torrance with 31 patients.

Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital keeps top billing with 39 patients enrolled as of December 31, and **Little Company of Mary - Torrance** holds onto second place with 36 patients. **Huntington Memorial Hospital Medical Center** moves up the charts with 35, and **Antelope Valley Medical Center** with 33. Closing out the 30-and-over category at 30 patients each are **Methodist Hospital of Southern California** and **St. Francis Medical Center**.



The study now has 46 participating hospitals with several more anticipated in the coming months.

EVERY CALL COUNTS. Not every call results in an enrollment but every call results in additional knowledge

about stroke in the pre-hospital setting and yields valuable data for the study. Both enrollment and non-enrollment calls are crucial for interpretation of study findings and demonstrate the diligence of the paramedics who continue to call for all patients who meet LAPSS criteria.

FAST-MAG again extends its sincere thanks to all those on the front lines who recognize that their efforts today may one day make a big difference in the life of stroke victims.

RESTOCK SEASON!

FAST-MAG nurses will begin replacing soon-to-expire drug kits in March as the current batch of study drug expires March 31, 2009.

Fire Department Profiles

West Covina Fire Department

The City of West Covina was incorporated in 1923 by 507 residents at a time when it was mostly walnut and orange groves. According to the city's website, the motivation for this action was to prevent the adjoining city from using the land as a "sewage farm." Today the 17-square mile city is home to



110,000 people and the groves have mostly given way to homes and retail centers.

The West Covina Fire Department was founded as a full-time service in

1951. In 1974 it became the first department in the East San Gabriel Valley to incorporate paramedic services. There are now nine rescue vehicles, including six assessment units and three rescue ambulances.

The 55 paramedics and 22 EMT's who work for the department take great pride in being in the forefront of pre-hospital care. They were the first East San Gabriel Valley department to adopt Standard Field Treatment Protocols, use of the interosseous device and transcutaneous pacing procedures. According to Captain Doug Montgomery, they will add the use of continuous positive airway pressure (C-PAP) units in January 2009

Participation in FAST-MAG is in keeping with the West Covina Fire Department's dedication to cutting-edge care. "The paramedics have responded to the study with enthusiasm and hope that it will lead to better care for their stroke patients," says Captain Montgomery.

Montebello Fire Department

Montebello lays claim to a history going back to 1771. The discovery of oil in 1917 changed the area from a tiny 40-acre agricultural enclave to the 8.25 square mile city that incorporated in 1920. At the height of its oil boom, Montebello produced one-eighth of California's crude. Today Montebello serves as a major industrial center.

The Montebello Fire Department, established in 1922, now serves a population of 70,000. Montebello established its paramedic program in 1974 and it has expanded to meet the ever-growing needs of the community. The Fire Department responds to 5,000 calls annually; 74% of



those incidents are EMS-related. Responding to those calls are the 20 paramedics and 56 EMT's who staff three paramedic engines and two assessment trucks in the city's three fire stations.

In addition to local fire suppression, Montebello FD also works with the US Forest Service, Urban Search and Rescue, K-9 and swift water response teams, and most recently, the FAST-MAG study. "Paramedic response to the study has been very favorable," says Firefighter Paramedic Conrad Lopez, EMS Coordinator for the Department. Lopez says the paramedics are looking forward to all local hospitals being participants in FAST-MAG to increase the opportunity for patients to be part of the study.

Meet Your FAST-MAG Nurse Coordinator

Star Feudi, RN, came to FAST-MAG in 2006 after working for several years in the neurology unit at UCLA Medical Center. She is a graduate of Queensborough College in New York.

Like many FAST-MAG nurses, Star had a curiosity about research but didn't want to give up all patient contact. "I thought that FAST-MAG offered the best of both worlds," she says. "I would still be able to interact with patients, while learning about research and working toward improving the future treatment of stroke victims."

Star found FAST-MAG to be a good fit for her professional goals. "One day I may be in a patient's home evaluating

their recovery and the next day, I'm on a ride-along with the paramedics, waiting for that next stroke call."



In her first experience working with paramedics, Star has found new colleagues

in the health care team. "I like that we are all working toward the same goal and love that we have found a way to begin helping the patient population before they even step foot in the hospital."

Star is the Site Nurse Coordinator for Citrus Valley Medical Center, Intercommunity and Queen of the Valley campuses, San Dimas Community Hospital, Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital, and Pomona Valley Medical Center. She is FAST-MAG liaison to West Covina Fire Department, Montebello Fire Department, and LA County Fire Department Battalions 2 and 16.

Field Administration of Stroke
Therapy: Magnesium
FAST-MAG

After The Enrollment Call Ends

When the enrollment call ends, you are busy starting the study medication and transporting your patient. The enrolling physician is also busy. Their first order of business is to call the ED physician receiving the patient to discuss the case. The enrolling MD then contacts the on-call FAST MAG nurse, who will go immediately to the receiving hospital.

The enrolling RN performs assessments, records study data and obtains source documents; these include the completed mLAPSS form, the signed consent form and the EMS run sheet. The enrolling RN finalizes the signature gathering process on the informed consent. A copy of the completed consent becomes part of the patient's medical record; a copy is also given to the enrollee.

The FAST-MAG RN interviews the patient or family to obtain information about pre-stroke functioning, medical history and current medications. This information is essential for evaluating the patient's progress.

Study subjects are followed at regular intervals for 90 days. At each visit, they are assessed for ongoing stroke symptoms, treatments and recovery. The end-point of the study — the test of whether or not magnesium protects brain tissue — is the subject's functioning at the 90-day visit. One reason some of your stroke patients are not eligible for FAST-MAG is that their baseline functioning is so poor that it would be difficult to measure improvement from the stroke. Even if magnesium were a miracle drug for stroke, it cannot make the patient better than they were at baseline. With your help, we aim to have every person enrolled in the study be an informative subject who could potentially benefit from the study agent.

FAST-MAG Gets FDA Approval to Expand Authorized Representatives **NO CHANGE in Paramedic Procedures**

In an effort to include more patients in the study, FAST-MAG has recently received approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to expand the pool of people who can approve a patient's participation in the study when that patient is unable to consent for themselves.

This expansion of approving persons does NOT change paramedic procedures for enrollment.

One of the steps required to implement this procedure is to conduct Community Consultation and Public Disclosure programs for each enrolling hospital. With the able assistance of area paramedics, we have been conducting meetings at participating hospitals. FAST-MAG thanks the paramedics who have given presentations and we look forward to working with many others as this change is put into effect throughout Los Angeles County.

Remember, there is **NO CHANGE** in enrollment procedures for paramedics. Please call the enrolling phone line for every mLAPSS positive patient regardless of who is at the scene. And be sure to keep family members or others nearby with the patient at the time of the call.

UPDATES

Enrollments

689

(through December 31, 2008)

FAST-MAG Hospitals

The hospitals listed below are currently open for enrollment of FAST-MAG patients

Antelope Valley Hospital
Brotman Medical Center
California Hospital Medical Center
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
CFRMC- Marina Campus
Citrus Valley- Intercommunity
Citrus Valley- Queen of the Valley
Garfield Medical Center
Glendale Adventist Medical Center
Glendale Memorial Medical Center
Good Samaritan Hospital
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital
Hollywood Presbyterian
Huntington Memorial Hospital
Kaiser – Sunset
Kaiser –Woodland Hills
LAC – Olive View Medical Center
LAC – USC Medical Center
Lakewood Regional Medical Center
Lancaster Community Hospital
Little Company of Mary--San Pedro
Little Company of Mary--Torrance
Long Beach Memorial Medical Center
Methodist Hospital of So. California
Mission Community Hospital
Northridge Hospital Medical Center
Olympia Medical Center
Pomona Valley Hospital
Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital
Providence Holy Cross Medical Center
Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center
Providence Tarzana Hospital
San Dimas Community Hospital
Santa Monica – UCLA Medical Center
Sherman Oaks Hospital
St. Francis Medical Center
St. John's Health Center
St. Mary Medical Center
Torrance Memorial Medical Center
UCLA (Westwood) Medical Center
Verdugo Hills Hospital
West Hills Hospital & Medical Center
White Memorial Medical Center
Whittier Hospital Medical Center – AHMC

05/25/2008	Bill Britt Gerry Martin	Arcadia FD RS 106
05/27/2008	Matt Anderson Douglas Nuttman	LAFD RA 17
05/27/2008	Josh Organ John Pearce Matt Chaffey	Pasadena FD RA 32
05/29/2008	Nathan Russell Mark Metcalf	LA CO FD RS 20
05/30/2008	Andy Ronnow Fidel Nieto	LA CO FD RS 101
06/01/2008	Vince Dipane J. C. Cabeza De Baca	Redondo Beach FD RA 61
06/03/2008	Julio Miramontes Anthony Chairez	LA CO FD RS 118
06/03/2008	David Danielson Anthony Handy	LAFD RA 88
06/05/2008	Ray Nutt Tory Carlson Kevin Ruger	LA CO FD RS 111
06/06/2008	Reuben Rodriguez Henry Beltran	LAFD RA 25
06/08/2008	Gary Marshall Tom Corbridge Robert Smith	Santa Monica FD ENG 125
06/10/2008	Jorge Villanueva Mike Gonzales	Downey FD RA 642
06/10/2008	Eric Biefeld Michael Bennett	LA CO FD RS 49
06/11/2008	Dwayne Carlton Jason Sutliff	San Marino FD 791
06/11/2008	Kevin Shin Paul Davis	Culver City FD RS 3
06/12/2008	Scott Schweitzer Wayne Chisholm Ken Hultgren	Burbank FD RS 13
06/13/2008	Jim Beach Wes Manning	LAFD RA 107
06/14/2008	Jim Kimbrough Todd Taylor	Long Beach FD RS 2
06/15/2008	Terry Tuzzolino Chris Kuzmicz Michael Finger	LAFD RA 88

06/18/2008	Denny Wren Charlie Tuggle	Arcadia FD RS 706
06/19/2008	Kevin Ruger Ray Nutt Steve Betteridge	LA CO FD RS 111
06/19/2008	John Connolly Larry Campbell John Grapentin	La Verne FD RS 62
06/22/2008	Jason Rios James Callison	LAFD RA 72
06/22/2008	Rob Nowaczyk Jerry Guzzetta Tim Finn Chad Sourbeer	LA CO FD RS 7
06/23/2008	David Johnson Trent Western	LAFD RA 91
06/23/2008	Andy Ronnow Jeff Garrett	LA CO FD RS 101
06/23/2008	Cherif Amin Elan Rober James Honlef	LAFD RA 75
06/25/2008	Steve Heagstedt Fidel Nieto	LA CO FD RS 101
06/28/2008	Mario Generoso Tony Booker	LAFD RA 92
07/01/2008	Marcus Portis Dave Byrne	LAFD RA 265
07/03/2008	Jose Mendez Scott Diekmann Steve Swigart	Torrance FD RA 94
07/04/2008	Samuel Kasahara Michael Sommer	LAFD RA 102
07/05/2008	Justin Clayton Craig Kredell	LAFD RA 65
07/08/2008	Bruce Alpern Pat Armor	LA CO FD RS 111
07/10/2008	Dreon Brown John Heller Julie Wexler	LAFD RA 56
07/11/2008	Christian Gassler Brandon Smith	LAFD RA 7
07/12/2008	Brian Davy Bill Prentice	LA CO FD RS 47

07/13/2008	Eric Miller Ken Wigchert	LAFD RA 51
07/14/2008	Paul Davis Mike Nagy Mauricio Blanco	Culver City FD RS 3
07/18/2008	Jason Walker James Altman Eric Himler	Santa Monica FD ENG 124
07/20/2008	Steve Guerrero Bret Heller	LA CO FD RS 88
07/21/2008	Gary Hill Paul Tippin Donald Sweetnam	LA CO FD RS 6
07/21/2008	Fred Weiss Philip Olivas	LA CO FD RS 40
07/24/2008	Greg Lewis Eric Talamantes	LAFD RA 9
07/25/2008	Mike Ellis Greg Shaw	Glendale FD RA 26
07/25/2008	Chrsi Terhune Doug Eichenlaub	Long Beach FD RS 2
07/29/2008	Paul Sawai William Perez	Torrance FD RA 94
07/30/2008	Brandon Wile Jeff Rodriguez Dennis Ohligschlager	LAFD RA 62
07/31/2008	Gavin Kaufman Warren Sutton	LAFD RA 93
08/03/2008	Robert Coons Travis Bonds Matt Rutan	Torrance FD RA 91
08/03/2008	Tim Guenther Ethan Burlingame	LAFD RA 37
08/07/2008	Pete Garcia Joshua Burton Carl Cook	LAFD RA 72
08/07/2008	Bradley Steel Brandon Smith Christian Gassler	LAFD RA 7
08/19/2008	Kenny Allen Brandon Vaughn Scott Schweitzer	Burbank FD RA 15

08/19/2008	Thomas Kelley Dave Ellis	LA CO FD RS 45
08/23/2008	Phil Working Steve Guerrero	LA CO FD RS 88
08/24/2008	Paul Mercado Dana Crutchfield	LAFD RA 61
08/25/2008	James Michael Stephen Elliott	Glendale FD RS 25
08/26/2008	Robert Williams Ildefonso Felix	LAFD RA 12
08/27/2008	Scott Hassing Mike Hartley	LAFD RA 39
08/29/2008	Robert Garcia Ben Sheen Ed Johnson	LA CO FD RS 33
08/29/2008	David Finger Man Sivaborvorn	LAFD RA 72
08/29/2008	John Connolly Larry Campbell Cory Thompson	LA Verne FD RA 62
09/03/2008	Steve Garcia Andrew Schmad Diter Decker	LAFD RA 66
09/08/2008	Brandon Vaughn Ken Anderson Eric Johnson	Burbank FD RA 15
09/12/2008	Matt Strittmatter Kevin Ruger	LA CO FD RS 84
09/12/2008	Jeff Thralls Mark Veit Marcel Willis	Long Beach FD RS 12
09/12/2008	Andrew Schmad Diter Decker	LAFD RA 66
09/14/2008	Scott LaRue Guillermo Gonzalez	LA CO FD RS 71
09/16/2008	Tom Kelley Gus Aguirre	LA CO FD RS 45
09/21/2008	Phil Hong Alex Gonzalez	LAFD RA 35
09/24/2008	Tory Carlon Josh Binder Michael Cash	LA CO FD RS 131

09/25/2008	Frances Rodriguez Aaron Mungaray	LAFD RA 85
09/25/2008	Jeff Bird Gerry Martin	Arcadia FD RS 106
09/28/2008	Jason Braff Adelino Jaminal	LA CO FD RS 33
09/28/2008	Daniel Ward Brian Keeney	LA CO FD RS 19
09/29/2008	Scott Diekmann Kevin Carey Mike Buchs Richard Van Tuyl	Torrance FD RS 96
09/29/2008	Rick Canales Mike Hetrick	LA CO FD RS 28
10/01/2008	Clayton Hogan David Laney Pete Garcia Lee Busby	LAFD RA 72
10/06/2008	Derek Moran Victor Osegura Daniel Moore Robert Aceves	LAFD RA 46
10/08/2008	Paul Clark Derek Miller	LAFD RA 96
10/08/2008	Robert Ortiz Matt Heard	LA CO FD RS 32
10/10/2008	Ryan Nassar Bryan Hill Adam Van Gerpen	LAFD RA 75
10/13/2008	Guy Askins/ Ricky Sewell Luis Hernandez	LA CO FD RS 58
10/13/2008	Chen Suen Jeff Patterson	Arcadia FD RS 106
10/13/2008	Justin Voyson Jesus Carbajal	LAFD RA 46
10/13/2008	Kevin Lalor Scott Crosby	LA CO FD RS 98
10/15/2008	Lew Francescon Julio Miramontes Jason Ghorbani	LA CO FD RS 26
10/17/2008	Dan Altruz Matthew Heard	LA CO FD RS 32

10/19/2008	Arturo Contreras Arturo Tarango	LAFD RA 29
10/21/2008	Alex Moreno Jason Reilly	LAFD RA 52
10/21/2008	Jorge Guidos Robert Ortiz	LA CO FD RS 32
10/25/2008	Chad Boozer Steve Blackburn Norman Queen	LA CO FD RS 32
10/27/2008	Eric Miller Frank Espinoza	LA CO FD RS 3
10/28/2008	Steve Jones Anthony Chairez	LA CO FD RS 118
10/28/2008	Gary Durian Dane Deboer Yvette Almarez	LA CO FD RS 30
10/29/2008	Benjamin Sheen Tommy Williams	LA CO FD RS 33
10/29/2008	Josh Organ John Pearce John Bustos	Pasadena FD RS 32
11/01/2008	Tom Corbridge Gary Marshall	Santa Monica FD RS 125
11/05/2008	Tom Nicola Chris Mays Duke Snyder	Glendale FD RS 22
11/06/2008	Matt Strittmatter Frank Vogel	LA CO FD RS 84
11/08/2008	Patrick Mark Jesse Beck Doug Weeda	LAFD RA 17
11/10/2008	Scott Clark Pat Armour	LA CO FD RS 111
11/11/2008	Josh Burton Joseph Scamardo	LAFD RA 72
11/11/2008	Dayton Calhoun Jeff Mabery	LA CO FD RS 135
11/14/2008	Dustin Barnes Clint Tull	LAFD RA 15
11/15/2008	Kevin Carey Steve Swigart	Torrance FD RS 96
11/16/2008	Todd Cloutier Darin Conant	LA CO FD RS 124

11/16/2008	Brian Dudley Tony Arnado	LAFD RA 56
11/16/2008	Brian Nelson Yvette Almarez Dane Deboer Dave Hosch	LA CO FD RS 30
11/21/2008	Chris Stellern Grey Barbera	LAFD RA 21
11/23/3008	Jeff Dodd Gary Garcia	LAFD RA 265
11/25/2008	Craig Larson Tom Nicola	Glendale FD RA 22
11/26/2008	Peter Garcia Nino Lovato Andy Vilchis Dan Butler	LAFD RA 72
11/30/2008	David Tannehill Michael White	San Marino FD RS 791
12/03/2008	Todd Witt Brett Pearson Jessica Schuman	Pasadena FD RS 31
12/04/2008	Cory Thompson Danny Montoya Sam Dominick Kevin Wilton	La Verne FD RA 61
12/06/2008	John Mueller Adam Hecht Cory Thompson Danny Montoya	La Verne FD RA 61
12/09/2008	Ian Cooper Javier Honles	LAFD RA 57
12/10/2008	Larry Campbell John Connolly John Grapentin	LA Verne FD RS 62
12/12/2008	Reies Montes Lisa Tatham	Long Beach FD RS 17
12/12/2008	Dayton Calhoun Tim Dougherty	LA CO FD RS 135
12/17/2008	Charles Qualls Matt Bentley Ryan McKeehan	LA CO FD RS 131
12/18/2008	Ryan Torncello Paul Razo	Sierra Madre FD RS 41

12/18/2008	Veronica Ponce Daniel Timboe	LA CO FD RS 11
12/21/2008	Cheryl Hoffman Yvette Almarez	LA CO FD RS 30
12/21/2008	Eric Zanteson Don Dunn Jordan Barnes Kris Saxon	South Pasadena FD RS 81
12/22/2008	Julian Zermeno Chris Berry Jeff Venezia Nick Jones John Flores	Santa Monica FD RS 121
12/22/2008	Pete Sweeney Chris Barth	LA CO FD RS 106
12/22/2008	Stephen Jones Mike Goudchaux Simon Jaime	LA CO FD RS 118
12/28/2008	James Cermak Bryan Esser	LA CO FD RS 37
12/30/2008	Michael Le Bryce Lahiff Tony Wu	LA CO FD RS 36
12/30/2008	Otto Monzon Chris Thompson Andrew Respicio	Monterey Park RS 62
12/30/2008	Ryan Nassar Adam Van Gerpen	LAFD RA 75
12/30/2008	Tony Barbi Dan Watje Ryan Demamiel	Santa Monica FD RS 123
12/31/2008	Ryan Waddell Doug Eichenlaub	Long Beach FD RS 11

- ★★★★★ **FAST-MAG Quick Guide** ★★★★★
- ◆ ID potential stroke and perform mLAPSS
 - ◆ If mLAPSS positive, determine destination
 - ◆ If FAST-MAG hospital, introduce study
 - ◆ If patient interested, pull hospital specific consent
 - ◆ Call enrolling physician, keep family/friends close by
 - ◆ MD obtains consent, paramedic obtains signature of patient or proxy on green pages
 - ◆ When MD says okay, hang **GREEN** field dose
 - ◆ Complete transport
 - ◆ Leave mLAPSS, run sheet, **YELLOW** bag with ED RN

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Visit FAST-MAG On The Web!
www.fastmag.info

FAST-MAG

“Because Time is Brain”



RESEARCH 101: Source Documents

Paramedics of Los Angeles County are key members of one of the most important stroke research projects in the United States. The study has generated enormous interest among researchers and practitioners all over the world. FAST-MAG has the potential to revolutionize the way that stroke patients are cared for, as well as the way that stroke research is done in the future.

For those who have not been involved research, some of the rules and expectations may seem unnecessary or insignificant. In this issue of *FAST-MAG Times*, we begin a new series exploring principles of research. We hope this information will enhance your understanding of your role in the study.

Every piece of information that goes into the study's database must be backed by supporting documentation. These *source documents* can take many forms: laboratory results, radiology reports, physician's history and physical. Two source documents that may be familiar to you are the mLAPSS form and the EMS run sheet.

The questions on the mLAPSS form are important to the overall conduct of the study. For example, the last known well time and the time of initiation of the field dose of study drug will be used to determine if magnesium is effective in stroke if given in the first one hour or the first 1-2 hours. The results of the motor exam will be compared with subsequent exams to determine if the subject's condition changes after enrollment in the study. It is imperative that every data point on the mLAPSS be complete.

The EMS run sheet provides several critical data points including 911 call time and pre-study vital signs. Please ensure that you leave a legible copy of the completed run sheet with the ED RN.

Some information is so vital that you are required to enter it on both the mLAPSS form and the EMS run sheet. If a data field is left blank or is not legible, you can expect a call from a FAST-MAG study coordinator. Thank you in advance for your help in documenting these important data points.

Next topic: Informed consent process