



BIO-THERAPEUTICS EDUCATION & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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36 Urey Court, Irvine, CA 92617 ~ Phone: 949-509-0989 ~ Fax: 949-598-7040 ~ [www.BTERFoundation.org](http://www.BTERFoundation.org)

# ANNUAL REPORT 2004



*A public charity supporting patient care, education,  
and research in biotherapy and symbiotic medicine*



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## Mission Statement

The BTER Foundation was formed to improve human health by supporting patient care, education, and research into symbiotic medicine, commonly known as “biotherapy.”

Specific activities of the Foundation include: a) making information available to therapists and patients, regarding biotherapeutic modalities of care, such as maggot therapy, hirudotherapy (leech therapy), apitherapy (honey bee therapy), bacteritherapy, phage therapy, helminotherapy, pet therapy, canine diagnostics (medical sniffer dogs) and other symbiotic biotherapies; b) working to overcome the financial barriers which prevent individuals in need from accessing these services; and c) supporting research in symbiotic medicine and biotherapy.



## Message from the Chairman of the Board

The BTER Foundation is still in its infancy. Like my own young children, the Foundation is still defining its identity, and pushing the boundaries of what it can accomplish. During its 2nd year, the Foundation stood upright and walked proud and tall, providing patient assistance grants to the uninsured, publishing its first newsletter, and putting together the first maggot therapy workshop.

Like the parents of a young child, the Board of Directors dream and plan for the Foundation's future; a future of even greater achievements in patient assistance, therapist education, and biotherapy research, which you will read about in the pages that follow. But the Foundation is still immature, and needs continued guidance and nurturing. The Foundation needs a lot of support from its family: those who give it life and those for whom it lives. The Foundation needs the support and participation of volunteers, committee members, and the many people who are served by it.

The Foundation's clients, supporters, and benefactors are its Family. You give the Foundation life, and invest in it your desires, your hopes, your dreams. Like a 2 year old child, we at the BTER Foundation would like nothing more than to fulfill those dreams, and to make you proud to see what we have accomplished with your help.

As you review our accomplishments during the Foundation's 2nd year, we think you will smile, like a satisfied parent.

You will be pleased with the work already accomplished;

You will be excited about the challenges and opportunities that still lie ahead;

You will be inspired to stick with us and help us grow;

And you will be comforted by the fact that You, too,

can help us help others,

through "The BeTER Foundation."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Sherman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ronald A. Sherman, MD  
Chair, Board of Directors

## The Year in Review

The year 2004 saw the fulfillment of many programs that had been only a dream just one year earlier. One or more new programs in education, patient care, and research were launched this year, thanks to the hard work of the Board of Donors, thanks to the support of our donors and sponsors, thanks to the requests for our clients, and thanks to the guidance and encouragement of our large, multi-national community.

### Advances in Education

The BTER website, [WWW.BTERFoundation.org](http://WWW.BTERFoundation.org), received a major image boost, when Cauvery Sachdeva Handa (of Cauvery Sachdeva Handa Web Design) provided some new design recommendations. The internet site continues to make the Foundation and its operation more visible to the public, serving over 100 new visitors each week. More importantly, the site is becoming a repository for information, literature, and contacts in the fields of biotherapy.



The first issue of the Foundation's newsletter, The *BeTER LeTTER*, was published in Fall, 2004. The newsletter, issued quarterly, features current events, reports from around the world, and reviews of recent research in the fields of biotherapy. Foundation and Community announcements of interest to readers are also published. Soon, the *BeTER LeTTER* will be accepting scientific reviews and studies.

The BTER Foundation participated in a Rolex Foundation grant proposal. If awarded, the grant will support the training of Egyptian medical personnel in the practice of maggot therapy. Coursework will be developed and delivered by the Egyptian Biosurgical Center at Alexandria University and the BTER Foundation staff.

The BTER Foundation organized the first maggot therapy workshop, entitled "*Principles and Practice of Maggot Debridement Therapy*." The course will feature several hours of teaching in general wound care and maggot therapy, as well as a hands-on training session and a tour of a typical maggot production facility. The first course will be held in Costa Mesa, California, in January, 2005.

## Advances in Patient Care

In 2004, the BTER Foundation continued to improve access to biotherapeutic medicine. While our educational programs improved the knowledge and quality of care provided by therapists, the Foundation's Patient Assistance Grants program ensured that no one was denied access to biotherapeutic treatments as a result of financial status.



The Maggot Debridement Therapy (MDT) Policies & Procedures template, first released in 2004, has made it easier and faster for health care facilities to start using MDT. Like any other therapy, each facility must have a policy and establish procedures for performing maggot therapy effectively and safely. Yet, writing policies for a procedure you have never done before can be a daunting task. By producing a comprehensive and editable template for MDT policies, the BTER Foundation has simplified this process, allowing new centers to establish the policies quickly and start delivering care. The Policies & Procedures template can be downloaded from our website. Policy and Procedures templates are now planned for the other biotherapeutic modalities. Contact the Foundation to suggest, or participate in, drafting a Policy and Procedures Template.

In 2004, the BTER Foundation began accepting applications for Patient Assistance Grants. The Patient Assistance Grants program subsidizes the costs of treatment by covering some of the cost of biotherapeutic products. The University of California Maggot Therapy Laboratory was the first supplier to accept our grants -- 50% -75% of the production costs -- as payment in full. Patients awarded a PA Grant are charged only for shipping their Medical Maggots. Efforts are underway to expand the program to other suppliers. To apply for a patient grant, to accept our grants as a supplier, or simply to support the program, contact the BTER Foundation or visit our website.



The Board of Directors — and the Biotherapy community in general — was disappointed to learn that the Foundation's efforts failed to establish Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for medicinal maggots at the national level. On the bright side, there's still 2005 to work on this !

## Advances in Research

The quality of medical care depends on advances in education and research. The year 2004 saw the publication of research by Foundation members who discovered that post-surgical wound infections were significantly lower in patients whose wounds were first cleaned by maggot therapy instead of antibiotics and conventional methods of wound debridement. Check it out: R.A. Sherman & K.J. Shimoda: Presurgical maggot debridement of soft tissue wounds is associated with decreased postoperative infections, *Clinical Infectious Diseases*; 2004.

Also in 2004, the Board of Directors approved up to \$2,000/year to be allocated to support the publication and presentation of biotherapy research, especially by young investigators who might not otherwise be able to present their work before a national audience. Fundraising is now underway to support these Biotherapy Research Presentation and Publication (BRPP) Grants.

### Presurgical Maggot Debridement of Soft Tissue Wounds Is Associated with Decreased Rates of Postoperative Infection

Ronald A. Sherman<sup>1,2</sup> and Kathleen J. Shimoda<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Pathology, University of California, Irvine, and <sup>2</sup>BioTherapeutics, Education, and Research Foundation, Irvine, and <sup>3</sup>Veterans Affairs Long Beach Healthcare System, Long Beach, California

Postoperative complications were assessed for all patients who received presurgical maggot debridement therapy (MDT) and for a matched group of patients who did not. Ten wounds were debrided by maggots within 1–17 days prior to surgical closure. Debridement was effective in all cases, and there were no postoperative wound infections. Six (32%) of 19 wounds not treated presurgically with MDT developed postoperative wound infections (95% CI, 10%–54%;  $P < .05$ ). Presurgical MDT was effective in preparing the wound bed for surgical closure, without increased risk of postsurgical wound infection.

Received 13 February 2004; accepted 11 May 2004; electronically published 1 September 2004.

Reprints or correspondence: Dr. Ronald A. Sherman, BioTherapeutics, Education, and Research Foundation, 36 Uley Ct., Irvine, CA 92612 (RSherman@BTERFoundation.org).

*Clinical Infectious Diseases* 2004; 38:1067–70

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1058-4838/2004/3807-1067\$15.00

BRIEF REPORT • CID 2004:39 (1 October) • 1067



And just think . . .

2005 will be even **BeTER** !



## BTER Foundation in the NEWS

The following stories appeared in 2004,  
featuring the BTER Foundation, its activities, and/or its Board of Directors:

### *Radio & Television*



September 10, 2004



September 22-29, 2004

### *Print Media and/or Internet*

#### **Dermatology Times**

The Leading Newsmagazine for Dermatologists

Maggot debridement therapy promising  
By: Rochelle Nataloni Mar 1, 2004  
<http://www.dermatologytimes.com/dermatologytimes/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=90118>



August 10, 2004



Maggots and leeches: Good medicine  
By Rita Rubin, USA TODAY 7/7/2004  
[http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2004-07-07-leeches-maggots\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2004-07-07-leeches-maggots_x.htm)

#### **The Seattle Times**

Leeches, maggots and parasitic worms can play healing role  
By Carol M. Ostrom Wednesday, August 04, 2004  
[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/health/2001995746\\_healthleeches04.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/health/2001995746_healthleeches04.html)

*Print & Internet*



HARVARD MEDICAL  
INTERNATIONAL

Leeches and maggots: Not appealing, might help with healing  
[http://hmiworld.org/hmi/past\\_issues/](http://hmiworld.org/hmi/past_issues/)



Maggots heal stubborn wounds - Old-time remedy earns new respect, approved by FDA  
Lauran Neergaard, (AP); Published: 08.03.2004  
<http://www.dailystar.com/dailystar/relatedarticles/32600.php>

**Arizona Daily Star**



International Biotherapy Society  
NEWSLETTER 8 (NOVEMBER, 2004)  
<http://biotherapy.md.huji.ac.il/newsletter%208b.htm>

**NATURAL  
HEALTH®**

Medical breakthroughs  
By Rachel Down. Nov 2004

THE DIGITAL  
**COLLEGIAN**

PUBLISHED  
INDEPENDENTLY  
BY STUDENTS AT  
PENN STATE



Creepy, crawly science -  
Maggots, leeches becoming more common in medicine  
By Josh Bosack , Collegian Staff Writer  
Tuesday, April 19, 2005



Tiny surgeons: Maggot therapy clears the dead tissue cleanly  
Tuesday, July 13, 2004  
By Christopher Snowbeck, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/04195/345382.stm>

**wacotrib.com** A product of: Waco Tribune-Herald

12/07/04 Maggots remain means of helping the sick By John Allen

*Print & Internet*

Pittsburgh  
**post-gazette** Tiny surgeons: Maggot therapy clears the dead tissue cleanly  
Tuesday, July 13, 2004  
By Christopher Snowbeck, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Press Release; September 15, 2004; by Jeff Miner  
Maggot Therapy Linked with Reduced Post-Operative Wound Infections  
[http://www.idsociety.org/Content/ContentGroups/News\\_Releases/CID/Maggot\\_Therapy\\_Linked\\_with\\_Reduced\\_Post-Operative\\_Wound\\_Infections.htm](http://www.idsociety.org/Content/ContentGroups/News_Releases/CID/Maggot_Therapy_Linked_with_Reduced_Post-Operative_Wound_Infections.htm)



San Francisco Business Time, September 3, 2004  
Daniel S. Levine: "Doctors say maggots work magic on wounds; Leeches gaining popularity, too"



September 28, 2004

Medical News Today



Maggot Therapy Linked with  
Reduced Post-Operative Wound Infections  
<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=13479>



## The Future: Great Expectations

The high productivity of the BTER Foundation during its first two years of existence has inspired the Board of Directors to set their sights even higher for 2005. Of course, a 5-member Board and a small group of volunteers can not tackle all of these projects alone. The first order of business during 2005 will be to revise the bylaws so as to open the Foundation to general membership. Second order of business: Selecting the Membership Committee. All those interested are welcome to apply.

Here are just a few of the other projects currently underway, or being planned:

### Advances in Education

The first maggot therapy workshop (“*Principles and Practice of Maggot Debridement Therapy*”) will be presented January, 2005. Invitations have been received by prospective co-sponsors, wishing to bring the workshops to their cities.



The Foundation committed its assistance and participation with the Egyptian Biosurgical Center at Alexandria University, in the training of Egyptian medical personnel about maggot therapy. If funding is awarded by the Rolex Foundation, the project would begin in 2006.

The BTER website, [WWW.BTERFoundation.org](http://WWW.BTERFoundation.org), will expand its role as a repository for information, literature, and contacts in the fields of biotherapy. The foundation’s Website committee continues to increase the site’s information content, provide access to primary reference material and therapist contacts, and develop message boards and enhanced networking.



The first issue of the Foundation’s newsletter, The BTER Letter, was published in Fall, 2004. During the upcoming year, this will become a quarterly publication, expanding its size and coverage to include more local and international events, announcements, scientific reports, reviews, and research papers.

Following the donation of lecture slides and other educational materials, the Foundation produced several Maggot Therapy Slide Sets, which were sold to support our training programs. The Foundation also provided lecture slides to several speakers, editors and journalists. The Lecture Slide program is currently on hold, while the Foundation prepares to apply for accreditation to offer Continuing Medical Education. When accreditation is granted, the CME committee will re-examine the Slide Sets, edit as needed, and re-release those which meet the highest standards. Target date: 2006.



## The Future of Patient Care

Over 45 Million Americans are without adequate medical insurance coverage. Most of these individuals work at least one job, but do not earn enough to pay for insurance and are not provided insurance through their employer. Many of these citizens are the very laborers who are injured in farm accidents and industrial machinery mishaps --- the very people whose limbs are traumatically torn away, requiring emergency reconstructive and vascular surgery. When their reattached or reconstructed limbs fail to take hold, they may need maggot therapy to tackle the infected, gangrenous tissue, or leech therapy to reduce the venous congestion long enough to re-establish venous drainage and save the limb.

The Patient Assistance Grants program subsidizes the costs of treatment by covering biotherapeutic product costs. Already, the University of California Maggot Therapy Laboratory accepted our grants -- 50% -75% of the production costs -- as payment in full. Patients awarded a Patient Assistance Grant are charged only for shipping their Medical Maggots. During the coming year, the Foundation will work with distributors of other biotherapeutic products to forge similar arrangements.



Health care facilities need policies and procedures (P&P) in place before they can institute a new treatment modality. Yet, writing such policies can be laborious and exhausting. The BTER Foundation's free P&P template for maggot debridement therapy (MDT) has become such a highly requested item that the Board has decided to create templates for additional treatments, beginning with leech therapy. All P&P templates will continue to be downloadable from the Foundation website.

## Advances in Research

The BTER Foundation will start accepting the first applications for the Biotherapy Research Presentation and Publication (BRPP) Awards in late 2005 or early 2006. Applications will be posted on the BTER Website.

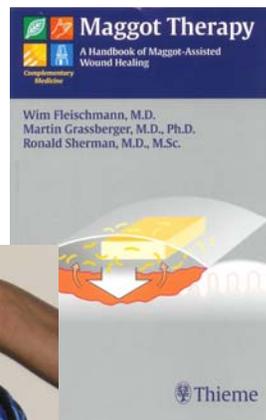
The Foundation's own research agenda will continue with a study of the current uses of maggot therapy in the US. Maggot therapy already is embraced by many in the wound-healing field; yet the indications for which medicinal maggots may be marketed are very specific. Foundation researchers will explore whether or not practitioners are restricting their maggot treatments to those indications.



## Fundraising

The BTER Foundation has teamed up with InkBank and the University of California Maggot Therapy Laboratory laboratory to raise money — while protecting the environment — by recycling used laserjet and inkjet printer cartridges. Recycling these used printer and fax machine cartridges through the Foundation can bring in as much as \$14 each. Best of all, anyone can participate in this fundraising, on behalf of the BTER Foundation, by sending the cartridges to us, or directly to the Ink-Bank, using pre-paid envelopes that we can provide. More information about the program is available from our website, or by contacting the Foundation Secretary.

The Foundation plans to increase its funding through grants during the coming year; although donations will likely remain the major source of support. We will also continue to support our programs through conference registration fees, guest lectureships, Corporate sponsorships, and the sale of merchandise through our web pages (maggot travel bags, maggot therapist scrubs, etc). Corporate associations provide the Foundation with a percentage of purchases made through our web-site, from Amazon.com, Barnesandnoble.com, Readers Digest Publishers.





got maggots?

We do.

The BioTherapeutics, Education, and Research Foundation  
[www.BTERFoundation.org](http://www.BTERFoundation.org)



**Financial Status -  
Profit & Loss, 2004**

**Income**

Campaign & Fundraising Income	35.00
Contributions Income	
Restricted	529.00
Unrestricted	<u>9,602.20</u>
<b>Total Contributions Income</b>	<b>10,131.20</b>
Donated Goods	185.00
Miscellaneous Income	117.18
Program Fees	
Therapist Training Materials	475.00
Sale of Donated Assets	108.34
Services Provided to other Biotherapy organizations	324.90
Unrelated business income	12.45
Interest	<u>9.38</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>11,398.45</b>

**Expense**

Bank Service Charges	95.00
Fundraising Costs	
Service/Merchant/Vendor	856.91
Insurance	2,393.45
Miscellaneous	15.77
Office Supplies	
computer software	558.99
Office Supplies - Other	49.28
Postage and Delivery	115.60
Printing and Reproduction	51.72
Program Expense	
Therapist Training Video	882.00
Rent	2,482.00
Supplies	
Marketing	73.55
Other Expenses	<u>147.91</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>7,722.18</u></b>

**Net Income**

**3,676.27**

# Financial Status

## Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2004

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

##### Checking/Savings

WashMutual\_Checking 4,825.24

WashMutual\_Savings 4,774.04

Total Checking/Savings 9,599.28

##### Accounts Receivable

Accounts Receivable 175.00

Total Accounts Receivable 175.00

Total Current Assets 9,774.28

#### Other Assets

Donated Assets & Items 185.00

Total Other Assets 185.00

**TOTAL ASSETS 9,959.28**

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Liabilities

##### Current Liabilities

##### Credit Cards

Citi MasterCard 376.08

Total Credit Cards 376.08

Total Current Liabilities 376.08

Total Liabilities 376.08

#### Equity

Retained Earnings 4,065.83

Net Income 5,517.37

Total Equity 9,583.20

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 9,959.28**

## The Board of Directors

The Foundation Directors have worked hard and tirelessly --- OK, just hard --- to support the needs of the Foundation's constituents: Patients, therapists, students, and the lay community. Indeed, the Foundation is ready to serve just about everybody. Thus, the Foundation Directors have been among the greatest donors of all. Building and sustaining the infrastructure of biotherapy is a big job; and it is getting bigger, as the number of patients and therapists continues to grow exponentially through the coming years. Thank goodness, the Board is here to handle it all.



**Ronald A. Sherman, MD**  
Irvine, CA

Chairman of the Board  
Chief Executive Officer



**Randall Sullivan, RN**  
Long Beach, CA

Secretary  
Education Committee



**Samuel G. Kohn**  
Irvine, CA

Treasurer  
Finance Committee



**Sharon Mendez, RN,  
CWON**  
Clayton, Washington

Programs & Grants Committee  
Finance Committee



**Pamela Mitchell**  
Akron, OH

Programs & Grants Committee  
Education Committee

## Consultants and Assistants to the Board

Eve Iversen, Consultant  
Joanne Preston (Preston Consulting)  
Alison Schorger, CPA  
Julie Sherman, Administrative Assistant  
Monica Nguyen, Administrative Assistant

### THE BeTER LeTTER Staff & Contributors

Ronald A. Sherman, Editor  
Christina Hur, Assistant Editor  
Catalina Wang, staff writer  
Tarek Tantawi, contributing writer

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Catalina Wang

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### Contact Information:

#### **BioTherapeutics, Education & Research Foundation**

36 Urey Court

Irvine, CA 92617

Phone: 949-509-0989

Fax: 949-509-7040

E-mail: [Info@BTERFoundation.org](mailto:Info@BTERFoundation.org)

[www.BTERFoundation.org](http://www.BTERFoundation.org)



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