

A Message from Our Chair



On behalf of the Board of Directors at the Joe Niekro Foundation, it is my honor to wish each of you a very happy New Year. We hope your holiday celebrations were full of the people you care most about.

We trust the new year will offer both opportunities and challenges. We wish you the gift of recognizing and seizing the opportunities and overcoming the challenges.

We plan for even more success for the Joe Niekro Foundation. Your help as volunteers and those whom we serve is both why we exist and why we strive to grow.

- Paul Novak, Chairman of the Joe Niekro Foundation Board

Meet the Staff!



Joanna Nicoletti, Events Manager began her career working within the non-profit sector as a residential counselor and transitioned into development and major events. Joanna worked with several organizations in Singapore on events management, fundraising campaigns, and event execution. She worked with the American-Italian Cancer Foundation and played an instrumental role in executing their annual gala, which raised over \$1.4 million. Joanna currently lives in North Carolina and is an active runner, yoga enthusiast and traveler. Contact - joanna@joeniekrofoundation.org.



Anneliese Sparks is the Social Media & Communications Coordinator at JNF. She holds a Communications degree and started her career at Live On NY, an organ procurement organization where she worked extensively on their Hate the Wait marketing campaign. She expanded her digital marketing knowledge as a Marketing Associate and Social Media Manager for SEM Rush and as a Content Writer for The Crazy Coupon Lady. Anneliese is proudly from the Detroit area. In her free time she likes to camp, take film photography and watch Detroit Tigers baseball. Contact - anneliese@joeniekrofoundation.org.



Ronica Ingram is the Patient Advocacy Program Manager at JNF. She grew up in Oklahoma and attended Oklahoma State University and received her B.S. in International Business with a minor in Marketing and Spanish. She has spent the last 9 years in non-profit management with a focus on volunteer and event management as well as development. She also received her M.S. in International Business and Economic Development. She and her husband enjoy baseball and spending time with their family. They are a blended family and have four beautiful boys together. Contact - ronica@joeniekrofoundation.org.

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Upcoming 2018 Events

10th Annual Houston Knuckle Ball...A Pitch for Life!

The Joe Niekro Foundation™ invites you to join us on April 14th, 2018 at the Four Seasons Hotel for our [Houston Knuckle Ball: A Pitch for Life](#) gala, in support of brain aneurysm, AVM and hemorrhagic stroke research and awareness.

We're looking forward to hosting this year's event at the stunning and revamped, Four Seasons Hotel Houston which is sure to be an amazing evening filled with delicious food, wine and fundraising!

[Click here to purchase tickets for this event!](#)

Are you a survivor? E-mail joanna@joeniekrofoundation.org for information on our Survivor Ticket Rate.



Houston Knuckle Ball 2016



Phoenix Knuckle Ball 2016

4th Annual Phoenix Knuckle Ball...A Pitch for Life!

The Joe Niekro Foundation™ invites you to join us in 2018 for our [Phoenix Knuckle Ball: A Pitch for Life](#) gala, in support of brain aneurysm, AVM and hemorrhagic stroke research and awareness.

Stay tuned for this year's event date and location.

[Reserve your spot here!](#)

Watch our webinar recordings!



Dr. Michael Chen



Dr. Gustavo Pradilla



Dr. Ricardo Hanel



In 2017, the The Joe Niekro Foundation™ launched a series of webinars., featuring Dr. Michael Chen of Rush University Medical Center, Dr. Gustavo Pradilla of Emory University and Dr. Ricardo Hanel of Baptist Health.

[Click here](#) to watch our webinar recordings on the following topics!

- 10 Things to Know About Ruptured Brain Aneurysms
- 10 Things to Know about Unruptured Brain Aneurysms
- Intracerebral Hemorrhage: Advancements in Technology
- AVM Treatment Options Post ARUBA Trial

Join a Support Group!

For those affected by a brain aneurysm, AVM or hemorrhagic stroke



Phoenix, AZ Support Group



San Diego, CA Support Group



Jacksonville, FL Support Group



Can't make it to an in-person meeting? Join one of our online support groups!!!

Brain Aneurysm/AVM Support Group
[Facebook.com/groups/AneurysmAVM](https://www.facebook.com/groups/AneurysmAVM)

Young Adult Brain Aneurysm/AVM Survivors Group
[Facebook.com/groups/YoungAdultAneurysmSurvivors](https://www.facebook.com/groups/YoungAdultAneurysmSurvivors)

Parents of Brain Aneurysm/AVM Children
[Facebook.com/groups/ParentsBAAVM](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParentsBAAVM)

Brain Aneurysm/AVM Caregiver Support Group
[Facebook.com/groups/CaregiversBrainAneurysm](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CaregiversBrainAneurysm)

Brain Aneurysm/AVM Honoring the Taken Support Group
[Facebook.com/groups/HonoringTheTaken](https://www.facebook.com/groups/HonoringTheTaken)

Past 2017 Events

3rd Annual Phoenix Knuckle Ball...A Pitch for Life!

The Joe Niekro Foundation was excited to host the [Phoenix Knuckle Ball 2017](#) at the Omni Montelucia Resort & Spa on December 9th, 2017.

We were honored to have patrons from the Phoenix area come together to support brain aneurysm, AVM and hemorrhagic stroke survivors and those that we have tragically lost.

We were also incredibly grateful to have AVM survivor and American Ninja Warrior superstar, Daniel Moreno, share his incredible courageous story.

We would like to thank the Omni Montelucia for their gorgeous venue, former NFL comeback Norris Thomas for emceeding the event, and our Co-Chairs Anita and Brett Merriman for their support!

Reserve your spot at the [2018 Phoenix Knuckle Ball!](#)



Read our latest Survivor Around the Globe and Facilitator Spotlight!

Survivors AROUND THE GLOBE



STACY



FACILITATOR SPOTLIGHT

"I enjoy being able to give advice, provide calming words, and suggestions for next steps. I hope that my words and presence gives the hope, guidance, and reassurance that someone might need to get through a tough moment, or a rough day."



Aimee Reed
Support Group Facilitator
San Diego, CA



Have a story you want to share? [Submit your story here!](#)



Thank you for your support!

Founder

Natalie Niekro

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 Gary Simms
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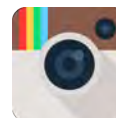
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 Y. Jonathan Zhang, M.D.

The Joe Niekro Foundation™ was established in 2008 in honor of the founder's father, Joe Niekro, who lost his life from a sudden ruptured brain aneurysm on October 27, 2006. The astonishing lack of public awareness and under-support of research of such a widespread and often fatal condition led to the launch of a crusade to educate and encourage awareness about cerebral disorders.

The Joe Niekro Foundation™ is committed to supporting patients and families, research, treatment and awareness of brain aneurysms, AVMs and hemorrhagic strokes. We provide education on the risk factors, causes and treatments of these conditions while funding the advancement of neurological research.

Every donation matters - every dollar counts. The Joe Niekro Foundation™ is a registered 501 (c)3 which means your donations are 100% tax deductible.

"The Joe Niekro Foundation™ isn't a clinically trained organization and all therapy regiments brought before the support group are informational in purpose only and do not represent an endorsement or recommendation of any kind."



Click here to subscribe to the Knuckle-Up Newsletter!