



**BIG EASY FLEUR DE LIS PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**2-26-18**



1. Opening prayer
2. Welcome new members: Warren & Nancy Flint; Tom & Barbara Raley; John Worrel  
Please pick up your Welcome Bags !

3. Old Business:

\*Name of LLC: **Big Easy PD** (Allan Murphy)

\* **Dr. Tina Gunaldo will demo the newly redesigned, repopulated WEB SITE:**

Home Page: <https://bigeasyfleurdelis.org/>

The new site is easy to navigate. The options on the top navigation bar include What's New, Calendar, Upcoming Events, Resources, Websites, Merchandise, and a Picture Gallery. **Text in Red** links to more information about that topic. Click **Subscribe** !

\*Dr.'s Office Rack Cards – Need Volunteers to **take a handful to their Doctor's offices.** -  
New cards available now.

\***MARIE & JIM McCLELAND** – Paula Shaffer coordinating food for them –Jim expressed their thanks. Jim needs transportation for appointments. Marie has to avoid crowds due to her treatment. To help, email Paula: [ArtGlass268@gmail.com](mailto:ArtGlass268@gmail.com)

One member presented the information on the Magna Ready shirt, which has the appearance of traditional magnets for easy open and close. Beautiful shirts and not much more in price than a regular shirt. [www.magnaready.com](http://www.magnaready.com) (you should consult with your doctor if you have DBS or a pacemaker.)

Bonnie recommends the book *Parkinson's Diva*, written by Maria DeLeon.

Announcement of the LSVT Support Group at Ochsner will be back

4. NEW BUSINESS:

\***FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP STARTED** – Meetings will be 10-11 am, first Wednesday of each month at the Home Care Solutions office at 3421 Causeway Blvd, Ste. 502 in Metairie. 504-828-0900, [www.HomeCareNewOrleans.com](http://www.HomeCareNewOrleans.com). **Starts March 7<sup>th</sup>**

\***OCHSNER SYMPOSIUM 2018 - April 28<sup>th</sup>** Register now !!

<https://www.ochsner.org/services/neurosciences/parkinsons-disease-symposium/>

Phone: [504-842-8768](tel:504-842-8768) and on the voicemail leave your name, address, phone number, the name of your neurologist and how many will be in your party.

## 5. Our speaker today:

**LEANN HOFFART, BSN, RN** - AbbVie's Duopa Nurse Education & Patient Partner

{Interested patients and caregivers can call a Duopa Nurse at 1-844-438-6721 }

Duopa is a different treatment option for those with advanced Parkinson's Disease.

It is not for everyone.

Presented by Abbvie Pharmaceutical Co. Not affiliated with any local physicians. If you contact them, they can provide the names of physicians in your area who utilize this treatment option.

As PD advances, most people have to take increasing dose, but often still have "off" times when the Parkinson's symptoms are not controlled. (dyskinesias, tremors, balance, speech, slowness, stiffness, etc.) Dyskinesias can actually be caused by the medication.

DUOPA is carbidopa – levodopa – delivered differently, as a gel or liquid type solution.

- Not for those who have been taking medication for depression;
- Before you can use this you need a surgical procedure to create an opening (stoma) to place a tube in through the stomach wall into the small intestine for administration of the medicine;
- Completely bypassing the stomach puts the medicine where it is most effective.
- Provides continuous delivery of Levodopa over sixteen hours;
- The surgical procedure is reversible if necessary.

### Clinical study

- 71 patients had to have at least four hours off time each day
- Double blind study revealed.
  - Duopa group showed 4 hrs less "off" time vs oral medicine group showed 2.1 hrs less "off" time;
  - Results were similar when "on" time was considered, for significant improvement.
  - Patients required significantly fewer levodopa pills (for 'rescue' or nighttime).

Connie, a Parkinson's patient and a nurse, shared her experience with the DUOPA treatment.

### Meeting dates for 2018:

- \*March 26<sup>th</sup> Home Care Solutions - Demo - "Dance for PD"
- \*April 30<sup>th</sup> Dr. Sarah Perez / Impax Labs { Rhythm & Rytary }
- \*May 21<sup>st</sup> Foot Solutions Sheila Bechet –Pedorthist
- \* June 25<sup>th</sup> Lundbeck Pharm. (Nothera) ORTHOSTATIC HYPOTENSION
- \*July 30<sup>th</sup> Baudry Therapy
- \*Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> Jill Siemssen – Apokyn / Xadago
- \*Sept.27<sup>th</sup> Medtronic DBS - Jerry White

**Visit our web site: [BigEasyFleurDeLis.org](http://BigEasyFleurDeLis.org)**

Join us on Face Book: *Parkinson's Support Group in the Big Easy*