



## October 2015 Minutes

Member John Fratcher told the group about a new and very informative PD book called "Brain Storms". It is written by Jon Palfreman, a professor emeritus at the University of Oregon. He is also an Emmy, DuPont and Peabody award winning science journalist. Jon has known Dr. Bill Langston the founder of the Parkinson's Institute for over 25 years. Jon had produced a PBS documentary "The Case of the Frozen Addict". The film told the story of how Dr. Langston, an unknown clinician had discovered six drug abusers seriously struck with the symptoms of PD. With research Dr. Langston temporarily reversed their coma-like state with L-dopa. It was determined the young people had injected a bad batch of synthetic "designer" heroin. This event gave scientists a chance to study humans and why cells die in Parkinson's Disease. In January 2011 Jon Palfreman was diagnosed with PD. After a year of processing the news he felt there was no point in denying it. It made sense to embrace it and find out everything he could about PD. He felt his background as a lifelong scientist who had reported on the disease, he was better able to figure out the state of Parkinson's research and what it meant to his future. The book is sold on Amazon. Our library has six copies which may be checked out.

Member Dot Ryan attended an open house for a new "Daycation Senior Center". They provide a daytime program designed to help care for their loved ones. They have exercise programs, art classes, movies among many other activities. Their e-mail address is [www.daycationforseniors.com](http://www.daycationforseniors.com). Their phone number is 916 899-6166.

With there being several different forms of Carbidopa-Levodopa, members said it can be difficult to have more than one version filled by your pharmacy without confusion.

Member Randy Calvert spoke about participating in a clinical trial regarding gene therapy in Germany a few years ago. Randy felt certain right away he was part of the control group and had some regret about his participation in the study.

Our November RPSG meeting is this coming Tuesday November 2nd at Maidu Park in Roseville from 1:30 to 3:00. We have two brief presentations and will give details on our Holiday Lunch.

We do not have anyone scheduled to bring snacks for our November meeting. If you have not provided treats recently I would appreciate a volunteer. We can reimburse you up to \$25.00 for your help. Please contact me if you can. Thank you.

Shelly Butler  
Secretary RPSG