33% of neuropathy patients are diagnosed as idiopathic, meaning that the cause of their neuropathy is unknown and unable to be determined, making it very difficult to find effective treatment. A recent study retested patients who had been diagnosed between 2002 and 2009 and found that only 8% of those patients tested positive for diabetes or prediabetes and 20% had CIDP (autoimmune). The remaining 22% included causes such as other autoimmune issues, vitamin deficiencies, hereditary, and toxicity.

This study suggests that patients may want to consider repeating routine evaluations, including genetic testing and a nerve biopsy, in case a cause may end up becoming more clear.

Is your Diagnosis Idiopathic Neuropathy?

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Update From the Board

by Marshall Lyles, Board Member

I have had the honor and privilege of serving on NATX’s Board for over five years. By whatever metrics used, we have grown by leaps and bounds. NATX grew financially secure to be able to hire employees to better meet client needs. There are more volunteers involved now than at any point in NATX history. We have grown from one support group to four in Austin and one starting in Houston in January 2018! As a CFM patient (Chevrot-Marin-Tooth is an inherited form of neuropathy), I have been a lifelong neuropathy sufferer. On an emotional level, being a part of NATX has brought me tremendous positivity and comfort. I’ve been continually impressed and inspired by the warmth and determination of this community and by the sincerity of compassion that runs through all of our work. Part of NATX’s mission statement is to “empower the neuropathy community to live their best lives.” I definitely feel empowered by all of my experiences with NATX, and it is with much appreciation that I look forward to the amount of good work we will accomplish over the next five years. Thank you so much to all who have been and will be part of that legacy.

Who supports you in living well with your neuropathy?
Now is your opportunity to thank and appreciate them.

Thank you for your support.

Thank you to our supporters since the Summer newsletter.

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Fall 2017

Living with Neuropathy

thanks to thank and appreciate them.

Whether it’s your spouse, friend, neurologist, healthcare provider, neighbor, caregiver, or someone close, honor them this holiday season by making a donation to Neuropathy Alliance of Texas. Tell us about your Hero and we will notify them of your gratefulness and support. Once again, thank you to all that have supported and donated by signing up here: neuropathyalliancetx.org/hero
Researchers Identify Protein that May Prevent Chemo-Induced Neuropathy

Researchers at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute have found a potential new approach to prevent peripheral neuropathy caused by certain chemotherapy drugs. About one-third of cancer patients develop nerve damage from chemotherapy, which can get better after treatment ends, while for some the symptoms may be long-lasting.

While the brain is protected from many harmful chemicals by a physical barrier, nerve axons are exposed to substances that flow in your blood. The journal Neuron reports for the first time how taxes, a group that promotes well-being, can kill sensory axons.

Knowing this, researchers say that it might someday be possible to give cancer patients a drug prior to chemotherapy to reverse or prevent neuropathy symptoms. Researchers have discovered that a protein called Becl7α plays a unique role in blocking another protein that causes nerve damage. Such drugs aren’t likely to become available any time soon, but researchers believe that being able to predict which patients will develop neuropathy based on whether they have higher or lower levels of Becl7α because of their genetics will be incredibly beneficial in the future.