

Paul G. Harch, M.D.

228 Audubon Blvd
New Orleans, LA 70118

Malcolm R. Hooper, D.C.
643 Chapel Street
South Yarra, Victoria 3141

October 2, 2016

Dear Dr. Hooper (Mal):

Re: IHMF Presentation

On behalf of the International Hyperbaric Medical Foundation (IHMF) and International Hyperbaric Medical Association (IHMA) and as immediate past president/founder of the IHMF and past president/founder of the IHMA I want to thank you for accepting my invitation to speak in New Orleans, Louisiana 9/911/2016 at the conference: HBOT2016, The Tenth International Symposium on Hyperbaric Oxygenation. More importantly, I want to congratulate you on stunning presentations that garnered the highest reviews by the conference attendees. This is no small feat considering that all of the other speakers are noted highly experienced national and international lecturers, many of them from the faculty of the Louisiana State University School of Medicine New Orleans Hyperbaric Medicine Fellowship and Emergency Medicine Department. Your presentations and the imaging/videos of treated cases left the audience enraptured and awed at clinical outcomes that are rarely seen in medicine. Again, congratulations on superlative lectures.

The quality of your lectures was no surprise to me. I have known you for nearly two decades and have witnessed your accomplishments repetitively over that period of time. You are a brilliant clinician. The breadth of your scientific knowledge is astounding and at a level far beyond any of your peers. More importantly, it is buttressed and underpinned by an extensive knowledge of the medical literature. The application of this knowledge and your techniques/treatments to patients with the following untreatable conditions was remarkable if not sensational:

1. Failed back syndrome: a condition for which there is no treatment. Patients are relegated to a poor quality of life with chronic pain and narcotic addiction. The cases you presented who had failed so many surgeries and who were able to improve their chronic symptoms and quality of life after hyperbaric oxygen therapy had never been witnessed by the conference audience.
2. Large acute herniated disk: The reduction in size of such large herniated disks (nearly 2 cm) to less than 5 mm with repetitive hyperbaric oxygen therapy was astounding. MRI images don't lie. Such a large change in anatomy is typically only possible with surgery.

3. Chronic spinal cord injury/paraplegia: The treatment of the young paralyzed girl with Lokomat and hyperbaric oxygen therapy is something I have only witnessed in the treatment of acute cord injury with hyperbaric oxygen therapy. In the 1990s I had the largest series of acute spinal cord injury cases treated with hyperbaric oxygen therapy in the United States. I enjoyed significant success with incomplete or non-transected cord injury. Since that time I have treated 20-30 chronic spinal cord injured patients. Improvements are minimal except in divers with cord decompression sickness. I have never achieved the degree of motor function you demonstrated in the little girl with chronic paraplegia. The potential for others with chronic cord injury and severe acute cord injury is unequalled by any other therapy I have witnessed with the exception of the extremely invasive omental transposition to the cord.
4. Sports injuries in elite athletes: these cases alone are testament to your clinical effectiveness. To compete at the international professional sports level athletes, rely on the finest nuances of training, diet, and rehabilitation of injury. Mistakes aren't tolerated and are extremely costly. Your success with the application of hyperbaric oxygen therapy and other therapies to this group of athletes, some of whom are world champions, is beyond noteworthy.
5. Use of cytokine and interleukin monitoring in the treatment of patients with hyperbaric oxygen therapy. This is a brilliant scientifically based approach to document clinical outcomes. As you know, one of the largest clusters of genes up-regulated by hyperbaric oxygen therapy is the anti-inflammatory gene cluster and one of the largest clusters of down-regulated genes is the pro-inflammatory' gene cluster. The increases in anti-inflammatory cytokines/interleukins and reductions in pro-inflammatory cytokines/Interleukins nicely tracked the cases you presented. I would suggest that you are pioneering a new method of clinical monitoring in hyperbaric medicine.

All of these examples represent contributions at the forefront of the medical profession. As a result of your clinical achievements, scientific knowledge, and importance to the field of hyperbaric medicine the IHMF board invited you to become a board member. We expect that you will continue your multi-modality groundbreaking achievements in orthopedics, neurology, and sports medicine and that you will significantly help the IHMF lead the advance of hyperbaric medicine worldwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Paul G. Harch, M.D.", written in a cursive style.

Paul G. Harch, M.D
Immediate Past President, IHMF

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