

## Avigen, Inc. 2007 Speaker Series on Pain Management



Michael Coffee, Avigen Chief Business Officer; Alicia Parlette, S.F. Chronicle Copy Editor; Kenneth Chahine, President/CEO of Avigen; and Maggie Buckley, Board Member of the American Pain Foundation.

In an effort to learn more about pain issues and management in the patients they will be serving, Avigen has initiated an internal "Speaker Series on Pain Management." On January 23, 2007, Avigen welcomed the first two speakers:

**ALICIA PARLETTE** [www.sfgate.com/alicia/](http://www.sfgate.com/alicia/)

Alicia Parlette is a Copy Editor at the San Francisco Chronicle and author of "Alicia's Story," published in segments in the Chronicle since 2005.

On March 2, 2005, Alicia was diagnosed with Alveolar Soft Part Sarcoma. "Alicia's Story" describes the shock and devastation of learning she had cancer at age 23. Alicia has always wanted to be a journalist, and she has certainly found her voice in this ongoing story of her life battling cancer.

Alicia spoke to Avigen employees about her personal life experiences with pain and described her medication regime. Part of Alicia's negative experience in pain management was becoming addicted to a narcotic pain medication. She described how the addiction made her life unmanageable and detailed her struggle and ultimate success in discontinuing this narcotic medication.

## **MAGGIE BUCKLEY**

Maggie Buckley earned an undergraduate degree in social work from Eastern Connecticut State University and M.B.A. in Accounting from Golden Gate University in San Francisco.

After working as an operations manager and controller in the business world, she was forced to retire in 1998 due to the physical challenges of Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. Maggie spoke to Avigen employees about her disease and the pain associated with it. As a Board Member of the American Pain Foundation, she also described the issues with pain in the country today as well as gaps in pain medication and management.

Maggie keeps active as a volunteer and advocate.

- She serves on the Board of Directors for the American Pain Foundation. [www.painfoundation.org](http://www.painfoundation.org)
- She is a local branch leader and former National President of the Ehler-Danlos National Foundation. [www.ednf.org](http://www.ednf.org)
- She is a co-founder of the Women with Pain Foundation, a multicultural, national initiative dedicated to improving the treatment of pain for all women. [Mail: WomenWithPain@yahoo.com](mailto:WomenWithPain@yahoo.com)
- She is a conference speaker and patient support advocate for the National Fibromyalgia Association. [www.fmaware.org](http://www.fmaware.org)

All of us at Avigen are grateful for the insights provided by Alicia and Maggie and plan to use their counsel and life experiences as a strong guide in our neurological pain therapy development.

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