



# UNIVERSITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

## FOR HEALTH SCIENCES

**Media Contact:**

Eric Brosch

813-476-9782

[ebrosch@usa.edu](mailto:ebrosch@usa.edu)

## **Patient Advocate to Speak June 13 at St. Augustine Parkinson's Disease Support Group**

*Margaret Barnett to explain role and benefits of personal patient advocates and tips on how to navigate the disease*

**St. Augustine, Florida—May 19, 2015**—The [St. Augustine Parkinson's Disease Support Group](#) will welcome guest speaker Margaret Barnett, RN, LPC, a patient advocate for Quintiles/Abbvie Partners in Parkinson's, to its monthly meeting on Saturday, June 13, to discuss resources for patients with Parkinson's disease. The event is free and open to the public.

Barnett's speech will include a multimedia presentation and a question-and-answer session to offer attendees personalized answers to their questions about the disease and managing their care. The presentation will include vital information for everyone affected by Parkinson's—from newly diagnosed patients to those who have lived with the disease for years, as well as their caregivers.



Watch a video about the speaker: <https://youtu.be/tbaTITe-9Jc>

A self-described nurse educator, Barnett helps patients understand the importance of seeking appropriate care from a comprehensive health care team that may consist of movement disorder specialists, general neurologists, primary care providers, and physical, occupational and speech therapists. She will also share tools and resources to help patients and caregivers learn how to hold productive conversations with doctors about medication choices and treatment.

With more than 20 years of experience in psychiatric and geriatric medicine, and behavioral and neurological health conditions, Barnett is uniquely qualified to work with Parkinson's patients and their caregivers. Over the course of her career, she has worked in managed care, nursing home environments, and substance abuse in both private practice and community health settings. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Sarah Lawrence College and a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from Lesley University. She is also a registered nurse (RN) and licensed professional counselor (LPC).

Quintiles/Abbvie Partners in Parkinson's is a community-based program funded by the Michael J. Fox Foundation and administered in partnership with Quintiles that provides free access to advocates and resources to Parkinson's patients and their caregivers.

**What:** St. Augustine Parkinson's Disease Support Group

**Who:** Margaret Barnett, RN, LPC, Parkinson's disease patient advocate

**When:** 2 p.m., June 13, 2015

**Where:** University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, Room 101, 1 University Blvd., St Augustine FL

**Contact:** Melanie Lomaglio, 904-826-0084, ext. 1270, faculty member at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences

### **Other Upcoming Speakers**

**Sept. 19, 2 p.m.:** Chris Larson from Medtronic, a medical device company, will present an overview of Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) therapy, including which patients are eligible for DBS surgery and the clinical outcomes. A DBS patient will join him to demonstrate the benefits of the stimulation.

**Nov. 21, 2 p.m.:** Dr. Zhigao Huang, a board certified neurologist from Baptist Neurology Group in Jacksonville, Florida, will host a question and answer session.

### **About the St. Augustine Parkinson's Disease Support Group**

The [St. Augustine Parkinson's Disease Support Group](#) supports patients with Parkinson's disease by offering year-round resources and access to safe, affordable community-based programs. The group meets every month, alternating a social gathering at City Coffee Company on N. Ponce de Leon Boulevard with events that host notable speakers who discuss their research and share information to help Parkinson's patients take control of their own treatment and live healthy lives. The group is led by Ms. Melanie Lomaglio, an assistant professor at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences.

### **About the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences**

The University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (USA) is a graduate institution that emphasizes health science education through innovative quality classroom and distance education. Founded in 1979, USA has locations in San Marcos, California; St. Augustine, Florida; and Austin, Texas. USA offers degree programs in physical therapy, occupational therapy, athletic training, education and health science, as well as residency, fellowship and continuing education programs. For more information, visit [www.usa.edu](http://www.usa.edu). USA is a member of *Laureate International Universities*, a network of more than 80 institutions in 29 countries and one of the most significant global higher education providers for health sciences. For more information, visit [www.laureate.net](http://www.laureate.net).

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