

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Nancy DeVault, DeVault Communications  
[WriterDeVault@gmail.com](mailto:WriterDeVault@gmail.com) / (407) 484-4890



## **Stroke Nonprofit, Bcenter, Names Medical Director and Board of Directors** ***Grassroots Organization Continues to Expand***

**ORLANDO, Fla. (June 10, 2013)** – Bcenter, a global stroke resource center serving stroke survivors and their families, has named a medical director, board of directors and advisory council members. The volunteer leadership of the Winter Park based nonprofit will drive philanthropic endeavors to support the discovery of new and existing treatment options and technologies related to stroke prevention and recovery.

“Debilitating illness can strike without warning, but recovery is possible through resources, hope and direction. Bcenter’s leadership will champion awareness while creating fundraising channels that allow supporters and donors to impact our heroic efforts,” said Valerie Greene, Founder & CEO, Bcenter. “This diverse mix of passionate professionals comprised of corporate executives, health experts and stroke survivors will steer our mission to save and improve lives.”

The inaugural slate for Bcenter’s Board of Directors and Advisory Council includes — **Chair:** Jodi Roberts, CEO, DJR Associates Inc.; **Chair:** Dan Roberts, Owner, Quality Care Home Repair / stroke survivor; **Executive Director:** Valerie Greene, Founder & CEO, Global Stroke Resource Inc. & Bcenter / stroke survivor; **Medical Director:** S. Tracy Rhodes, M.D., Physician at Lake Howell Internal Medicine and Medical Director, Central Florida Hyperbaric; **Treasurer:** Jim Lane, CPA, Principal, Averett Warmus Durkee Osburn & Henning; **Co-Treasurer:** Anthony Giles, Accountant/Enrolled Agent, Brass Tax Inc.; **Director of Communications:** Nancy DeVault, Owner, DeVault Communications LLC and Editor, Orlando Family Magazine; **Director of Media Relations:** Secily Wilson, Director of Financial Development at YMCA of Central Florida / stroke survivor; **Director of Community Relations:** Cindy Christmas, President Landscape Builders, Inc. / stroke survivor; **Director of International Relations:** Pam Johnston, Realtor, Parkland International Realty Inc.; **Director of Healthy Eating Programs:** Lois Dorotiak, Healthy Eating Advisor, Whole Foods; **Advisor/Director of Speech Therapy:** Janet Whiteside, Ph.D., Director, UCF Communications Disorders Clinic; **Advisor/Director of Therapeutic Services:** Gay Lacy, LMT, Massage Therapist Extraordinaire; **Legal Advisor:** Peter Latham, Partner, Latham, Shuker, Eden & Beaudine LLP; **Financial Advisor:** Peter Baksh, Advisor, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management; **Scientific Advisor:** Oriana Schoneberg, President, Comacs International, Inc.

In addition to local community programs geared toward stroke survivors and their families, Bcenter is an international resource leader which houses conventional and holistic treatment information, facilitates survivor/caregiver connections, and provides personalized recovery tools and services. Founder Valerie Greene, 49, personally overcame grim diagnostic odds in the aftermath of two debilitating strokes that nearly took her life at just 31 years of age. Acknowledging that her miraculous survival and recovery could impact others afflicted by stroke or any disability, Greene crusaded for years utilizing her personal finances to support healthcare advocacy, programs and education before establishing the 501(c)(3) nonprofit focused on stroke recovery. According to the World Health Organization, 15 million people suffer strokes worldwide annually. Of these, 5 million are permanently disabled. For more information or to make a donation, visit [Bcenter.com](http://Bcenter.com) or call 888-942-Bwell (9355).

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