



ASAP

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30th Anniversary

www.ASAP.org

ASAP

American Syringomyelia & Chiari Alliance Project, Inc.

The American Syringomyelia & Chiari Alliance Project, Inc. (ASAP) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), member supported organization, chartered in May 1988. Don and Barbara White started ASAP as a grassroots organization in their spare bedroom due to the frustration that they encountered when Barbara was first diagnosed. Since then ASAP has become an international CM/SM resource providing information to tens of thousands throughout the world. ASAP has been able to fund multiple projects including the Duke Genetic Study. ASAP is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors, while all of our medical information is vetted by our Medical Advisory Board.

ASAP's mission: to improve the lives of persons affected by syringomyelia, Chiari malformation and related disorders while we find the cure

Syringomyelia (SM) : (sear-IN-go-my-EEL-ya)

SM is a chronic spinal disorder. Spinal fluid is forced into the spinal cord, forming a cavity called a syrinx. This damages the nervous system and can result in disabling symptoms such as pain, paralysis, loss of sensation, loss of bowel and bladder control, scoliosis etc. The most common cause is the Chiari malformation. It can also occur as a result of spinal cord injury, tumor, meningitis, or tethered spinal cord. Patients may be subjected to multiple surgeries and there is no known cure.

Chiari malformation (CM): (Kee-AR-ee)

CM is a condition in which the lower portion of the brain (cerebellar tonsils) descends into the upper cervical (neck) region. This can result in a wide variety of symptoms such as coordination problems, muscle weakness, vision and swallowing difficulties, severe headaches, etc. Patients are often misdiagnosed with other disorders and may also under go multiple surgeries.