

## GREETINGS FROM OUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



This month we review advances in new anti-epileptic drugs; consider the success of the modified Atkins diet for obesity, which can also be helpful to those with epilepsy; learn about the value of diaries in predicting seizures; report on the controversy regarding the use of seizure dogs; and present another Challenging Case that helped change a physician's perspective. We also pause to say "Congratulations" to our Chairman and Co-Founder, Warren Lammert, on the honors he recently received.

Our newsletter highlights include:

**AED IX** – Leaders in the efforts to advance new therapies for epilepsy met in Florida in late March to discuss ways of accelerating the development of new treatments. To read more about what the future holds for people with refractory seizures, watch our website for highlights and interviews. Reports will be posted "In this section" on Conference News

[http://www.epilepsy.com/epilepsy/cconference\\_news.html](http://www.epilepsy.com/epilepsy/cconference_news.html)

**A Ketogenic Diet** – Based on a study comparing diets for weight loss, the highest marks went to the Modified Atkins Diet. Eric Kossoff, MD, writes about this diet and how it can be effective for people with epilepsy. Go to Dietary Therapies:

[http://www.epilepsy.com/epilepsy/dietary\\_therapies.html](http://www.epilepsy.com/epilepsy/dietary_therapies.html) and our April feature at:

[http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/ar\\_1175289363.html](http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/ar_1175289363.html)

**Predicting Seizures** – Dr. Sheryl Haut and colleagues examined 15,635 diary entries and found that people with epilepsy might be able to predict their own seizures. They published their findings in *Neurology*, and an accompanying editorial praised the work and how it might potentially help people with epilepsy. Please go to:

[http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/ar\\_1175283924.html](http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/ar_1175283924.html)

**The Seizure Dog Controversy** – In our latest Hallway Conversations, we asked two experts: "Can dogs predict seizures?" While few physicians disagree that dogs can be a source of comfort, see if you agree with one of the experts that seizure dogs might be counter-productive for persons with non-epileptic seizures.

[http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/hallway\\_seizure\\_dogs.html](http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/hallway_seizure_dogs.html)

**Challenging Cases** – This month we present a challenging case by the late John R. Gates, MD. A former recipient of the J. Kiffin Penry Award of the American Epilepsy Society, Dr. Gates' work inspired all of us. To read his case, "Seizure Relapse 15 Years After Successful Surgery," please go to: [http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/case\\_4.html](http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/case_4.html)

**Keppra Update** – The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the anti-epileptic drug Keppra® (levetiracetam; tablets and oral solution) as adjunctive therapy in the treatment of primary generalized tonic-clonic (PGTC) seizures in patients 6 years of age and older. In a controlled clinical trial of Keppra® as add-on treatment in 164 patients (ages 4-65) with refractory idiopathic generalized epilepsy (IGE), nearly a quarter (24.1%) achieved complete seizure freedom from all seizure types over the 20-week evaluation period, compared with only 8.3 percent of those who received a placebo in addition to their usual treatment (p=0.009). For more information about Keppra use go to: [http://professionals.epilepsy.com/medications/p\\_keppra\\_indications.html](http://professionals.epilepsy.com/medications/p_keppra_indications.html).

To read the news release about Keppra, go to:

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Upcoming epilepsy-related conferences, symposia and events include:

**July 08-July 12, 2007**

**27th International Epilepsy Congress**  
Suntec City, Singapore

[http://www.epilepsy.com/newsfeed/pr\\_1174483801.html](http://www.epilepsy.com/newsfeed/pr_1174483801.html)

**Congratulations** – Hearty congratulations to Warren Lammert on his well-deserved recognition by FACES (Finding a Cure for Epilepsy and Seizures), which is affiliated with the New York University Comprehensive Epilepsy Center. The FACES Gala is an annual event enabling the group to further provide care and treatment for children and adults with epilepsy. Warren inspires all of us and makes our work possible. Go to: [http://www.epilepsy.com/articles/ar\\_1175536994.html](http://www.epilepsy.com/articles/ar_1175536994.html)

**National Walk for Epilepsy** – We surpassed our goal! Thank you all! To read more, please go to: <http://www.epilepsy.com>

We are pleased to share our news with you, and look forward to your comments and suggestions. Please refer to our professional homepage throughout the month for AED IX interviews and AED updates.

Wishing you renewed energy and spirit as we move into spring.

**Steven C. Schachter, MD**  
Editor-in-Chief




## NEW AT /Professionals

### The Epilepsy Electronic Textbook

This electronic textbook is designed for medical students; neurology, neurosurgery, internal medicine and pediatric residents; and nursing students. It pertains to all facets of seizures and epilepsy. The book was designed as a perpetual textbook that can easily be updated as new therapies and diagnostic strategies for the management of this condition evolves. The text is organized into four sections. Each section consists of PDF text along with Power Point slides so that they can be easily downloaded for use in lectures or other medical educational activities. There is also a section of clinical cases to generate discussion of case management. Go to [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?rid=epilepsy](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?rid=epilepsy)

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

 /Professionals is building a resource section of useful practice tools for the professional community. If you have a form, patient information sheet, or other useful handout for patients with epilepsy, and you'd like to share it with thousands of your colleagues by adding it to the [resource section of epilepsy.com/professionals](http://www.epilepsy.com/professionals), please email it to [jacki@epilepsytdp.org](mailto:jacki@epilepsytdp.org) or fax it to (703) 437-4288, and we'll take it from there. Thanks!!

## ABOUT THE EPILEPSY THERAPY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



**EPILEPSY**  
*Therapy Development*  
**PROJECT**

The [Epilepsy Therapy Development Project](http://www.epilepsytdp.org) is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation. The organization was founded by parents of young children with epilepsy, along with their children's doctor, a leading researcher and clinician in the field of epilepsy. Our mission is to advance new treatments for people living with epilepsy.

The Epilepsy Therapy Development Project is also the sponsor of [epilepsy.com](http://www.epilepsy.com) and [epilepsy.com/professionals](http://www.epilepsy.com/professionals). We are working to build [epilepsy.com/professionals](http://www.epilepsy.com/professionals) into the most comprehensive source of information, tools, and interchange available online for patients, practicing neurologists, and for the research and therapy development community.

To learn more about our programs, please visit our website: [www.epilepsytdp.org](http://www.epilepsytdp.org). To make a difference, we need your ongoing support and contributions. Help us to extend our mission of advancing new therapies for people living with epilepsy. For more information on how you can donate, please visit:

[www.epilepsytdp.org/sec/contribute](http://www.epilepsytdp.org/sec/contribute).