

## GREETINGS FROM OUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Given the unpredictability of seizures, living in fear of the next seizure is probably the single biggest factor affecting the quality of life of our patients. Several research groups around the world are searching for physiological predictors of imminent seizures. A recently published study in *Neurology* reported that patients who kept a daily diary for a full year were able to reasonably predict a seizure that might occur the following day, and could also predict seizure-free days (see study highlights in *US News & World Report* [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com)) This is an important finding, and gives us hope that eventually we'll be able to predict when seizures will occur in at least a subset of our patients.

Of course, the most certain way to improve quality of life is to find a cure for epilepsy. We at the Epilepsy Therapy Development Project are pleased to be making preparations for the National Walk for Epilepsy. To join us please go to [www.walkforepilepsy.org/site/TR?team\\_id=1510&pg=team&fr\\_id=1030](http://www.walkforepilepsy.org/site/TR?team_id=1510&pg=team&fr_id=1030) and learn more at [www.walkforepilepsy.org](http://www.walkforepilepsy.org)

As we look towards recent innovations in epilepsy treatment, we highlight our request for proposals for the Epilepsy Research Foundation, and report on research to pinpoint seizure onset, and gamma knife radiosurgery.

- The Epilepsy Research Foundation provides grants supporting the research and development of new therapies in both the academic and commercial settings worldwide. Consistent with the theme of translational research, all grant proposals must demonstrate a clear path from the lab to the patient. To learn more about how to apply to our New Therapy Grants Program, please go to [www.epilepsytdp.org/sec/support\\_translational](http://www.epilepsytdp.org/sec/support_translational). To read more about our December 2006 award recipients, please view: [www.epilepsytdp.org/sec/pr\\_1168533505](http://www.epilepsytdp.org/sec/pr_1168533505). We look forward to receiving your applications.
- Hal Blumenthal, MD, PhD at Yale has developed a method for localizing seizure onset using a tracer dye and single photon emission computed tomography. To read more, please go to [professionals.epilepsy.com/page/ar\\_1170099668.html](http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/ar_1170099668.html)
- Drs. Nicholas Barbaro at UCSF and Mark Quigg at the University of Virginia have reported on the minimally invasive Gamma Knife Radiosurgery for mesial temporal lobe epilepsy as an alternative to open brain surgery. To read about their study, please go to [professionals.epilepsy.com/page/gamma\\_rays.html](http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/gamma_rays.html)

Sometimes treating patients with epilepsy simply stumps physicians. This month we are beginning a new series called Challenging Cases. If you are curious to see how experts learn important lessons from their patients, please go to [professionals.epilepsy.com/page/challenging\\_cases.html](http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/challenging_cases.html)

Tammy Still, RN, at Alberta Children's Hospital and colleagues studied parents' reactions to their children's first seizure. To see their suggestions for working with parents, please read more at [professionals.epilepsy.com/page/conf\\_news\\_first\\_seizure.html](http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/conf_news_first_seizure.html)

Thanks again for your support of our site. We remain committed to bringing you the most up-to-date findings in the field of epilepsy. As always we welcome your comments.

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**Mark the Date**  
**April 1, 2007**  
**RFP's are due!**

Upcoming epilepsy-related conferences, symposia and events include:

- March 19 -21, 2007**  
**Taking Flight**  
**Sixth Annual Forum for Improving Children's Health Care**  
San Francisco, CA
- March 21-March 24, 2007**  
**Antiepileptic Drug Trials IX**  
Sunny Isles, Florida USA
- March 29-March 30, 2007**  
**Curing Epilepsy 2007**  
Bethesda, Maryland
- March 31-March 31, 2007**  
**National Walk for Epilepsy**  
Washington, DC




## 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://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



The [Epilepsy Therapy Development Project](http://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://epilepsy.com) and [epilepsy.com/professionals](http://epilepsy.com/professionals). We are working to build [epilepsy.com/professionals](http://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).