

## GREETINGS FROM OUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



We are proud that the Epilepsy Therapy Development Project (Epilepsy TDP) is joining the University of Pennsylvania Epilepsy Center in sponsoring Antiepileptic Drug Trials IX, a multidisciplinary symposium designed to facilitate the development and evaluation of new antiepileptic therapies from preclinical discoveries through clinical evaluations. Symposium director and chair of the Epilepsy TDP scientific advisory board, Jacqueline French, MD, discusses the goals of this conference at: [http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/ar\\_1172082593.html](http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/ar_1172082593.html)

The conference will take place March 21-23 in Sunny Isles, Florida [http://www.epilepsytdp.org/sec/drug\\_trial\\_IX](http://www.epilepsytdp.org/sec/drug_trial_IX). Warren B. Lammert, Chairman and Co-

Founder of the Epilepsy TDP, will moderate a special section called "Emerging Compounds and Company Forum". There will be discussions at the cutting edge of epilepsy and CNS drug development. It is a chance to learn about emerging products and late-stage/ commercial epilepsy product program updates from industry leaders reshaping the landscape of epilepsy treatment. To read more and to register, please go to: [http://www.epilepsytdp.org/sec/drug\\_trial\\_IX\\_invitation](http://www.epilepsytdp.org/sec/drug_trial_IX_invitation)

*The New York Times* gave us a boost in our efforts to increase awareness about the unmet needs of people with refractory epilepsy. The *Science Times* featured the story of a family whose child struggles with uncontrolled seizures. Warren B. Lammert and Orrin Devinsky, MD, were also interviewed. Orrin pointed out that "the stigma of epilepsy has affected those with the disorder at multiple levels. In their personal lives it impacts their education, work, and social life. But indirectly, the stigma limits fundraising and research. This *Times* article and film bring us one step closer to realizing the need for better therapies." You can view the link directly at: [http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/ar\\_1172862171.html](http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/ar_1172862171.html)

This month we look at two challenges faced by physicians when caring for patients with epilepsy.

- **Hallway Conversations:** Perhaps the single-most serious and difficult epilepsy-related issue for doctors, patients, and their families is Sudden Unexplained Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP). We are pleased to have Martin Brodie, MD, and Elinor Ben-Menachem, MD, two distinguished epilepsy experts, share their thoughts on discussing SUDEP with patients. See if you concur with their perspectives at: [http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/hallway\\_sudep.html](http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/hallway_sudep.html)
- **Challenging Cases:** We're all intrigued by cases that perplex us and learn from our patients as we try to unravel the mysteries of epilepsy. Despite advances in technology, oftentimes original observations hold the key to diagnosis. To read about this month's case, "Attacks of Rising Sensations, Pallor and Loss of Consciousness," please go to: [http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/case\\_2.html](http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/case_2.html)

The Epilepsy TDP is supporting two important events this month and reminding everyone of a major grant proposal deadline:

- Request for Translational Research Proposals in the Field of Epilepsy -- Due: April 1, 2007. Epilepsy TDP is providing grants of \$100,000 on average to scientific and clinical investigators pursuing innovative, high impact projects that demonstrate a clear path to commercialization from the lab to the patient. For more information, please contact [kim@epilepsyproject.org](mailto:kim@epilepsyproject.org). To view the grant proposal requirements, go to: [www.epilepsyproject.org/grants](http://www.epilepsyproject.org/grants)
- "Curing Epilepsy 2007: Translating Discoveries into Therapies" will be held in Washington, D. C. on March 29 and 30 at the National Institutes of Health. Daniel Lowenstein, MD, from the Epilepsy TDP board, will be chairing one of the sessions. Leading scientists, health care providers, and heads of voluntary health organizations will discuss potential targets and

## 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, 2007**  
**National Walk for Epilepsy**  
Washington, DC

technologies for new therapies. To read more, please go to: <http://www.curingepilepsy.ninds.nih.gov/agenda.htm>

- National Walk for Epilepsy is being held on March 31 in Washington, D.C. to highlight the importance of epilepsy awareness and the need to raise funds for more research. You are invited to join our team or participate virtually from anywhere in the world by going to: [http://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)

We are pleased to introduce a new resource to help you inform your patients about their seizure medicines: easy-to-read, understandable AED sheets for you to download, personalize, and give to your patients. <http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/medications.html>

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AED Trials IX in Florida. For those who cannot attend, watch for articles about the sessions that will be reported on this site.

Steven C. Schachter, MD  
Editor-in-Chief



## NEW AT [epilepsy.com](http://epilepsy.com) /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

[epilepsy.com](http://epilepsy.com) /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



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

The [Epilepsy Therapy Development Project](http://epilepsy.com) 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).