

GREETINGS FROM OUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



I recently had the opportunity to travel to India, where I saw patients with epilepsy and spoke with a team of dedicated professionals at a comprehensive epilepsy center in Chennai, India. I was inspired by their dedication. I was also astounded to learn that approximately 9 million people in India with epilepsy are untreated, either because they cannot afford treatments or they cannot travel to see a doctor. This is three times the total number of people in our own country who have epilepsy. I had the honor of delivering the 28th T.S. Srinivasan Endowment Oration and encouraged the audience to find innovative ways to address this treatment gap.

Speaking of treatments, I am looking forward to participating in the Epilepsy Pipeline Conference on March 13th in San Francisco and hope to see many of you there. Sponsored by the Epilepsy Therapy Project, which also supports our websites, the conference is continuing the tradition of the Antiepileptic Drug Conferences (AED I - IX) and will focus on drug development strategies, investing, and business development opportunities.

In other NEWS:

- **Hallway Conversations:** With the controversy regarding generic drugs and epilepsy continuing, we asked Russell Katz, MD, from the Food and Drug Administration and Michael Privitera, MD, Director of the Cincinnati Epilepsy Center, to give us their points of view.
- **A New Drug for Infantile Spasms under Review:** The FDA is reviewing vigabatrin for use in the US for treatment of children with infantile spasms as well as for partial seizures.
- **Epilepsy in Chennai, India:** This will give you an idea about efforts to improve the lives of those with epilepsy in India and read about the Srinivasan Oration.
- **Epilepsy and Disability in India:** W. Curt LaFrance, Jr., MD, PhD, gives us his perspective regarding "An International Consensus Conclave on Epilepsy and Disability."
- **A Message from a Physician:** Robert Fisher, MD, PhD, shares with us a letter he sent to his patients after the FDA issued a medical alert on antiepileptic drugs and suicidality.
- **Ketogenic News:** Eric Kossoff, MD, our ketogenic diet expert, had two publications in February in Epilepsia. We present the abstracts.

For your patients:

- **Epilepsy Camps:** Our comprehensive camp directory is fully downloadable. There are also links to our Seizure Preparedness section with tips to help parents get their children and teens ready for the experience.
- **Chats with Epilepsy Experts:** We now offer meet-the-expert sessions in our Chat Rooms. For those patients unable to join us, we post the transcripts. Recent sessions focused on AEDs, mood disorders and epilepsy surgery. Guests were myself, Andres Kanner, MD, and Orrin Devinsky, MD.
- **The Epilepsy Pipeline Conference:** Read our invitational letter and please share this

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Upcoming epilepsy-related conferences, symposia, and events include:

March 13-March 13, 2008

[Epilepsy Pipeline Update: Portal into CNS Opportunities](#)
San Francisco, CA

April 02-April 05, 2008

[International Symposium on Dietary Therapies for Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders](#)
The Ritz-Carlton Phoenix, Arizona

April 10-April 11, 2008

[International Symposium on Febrile Seizures and Related Conditions](#)
Otsu, Japan

May 04-May 08, 2008

[13th European Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology](#)
Istanbul, Turkey.

with patients who may wish to attend. This is an opportunity for patients and families to learn first hand about the process of bringing new treatments to the market to help people with epilepsy.

To close our month, I would like to remind everyone that the **Second National Walk for Epilepsy** will be held in Washington, DC on March 28th. I encourage you to join the Epilepsy Foundation for this event.

We welcome your suggestions to make this site as informative and helpful as possible.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Schachter, MD
Editor-in-Chief



WE NEED YOUR HELP

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**, please email it to rita@epilepsytdp.org or fax it to (703) 437-4288, and we'll take it from there. Thanks!!

ABOUT THE EPILEPSY THERAPY PROJECT



The **Epilepsy Therapy Project** 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 Project is also the sponsor of epilepsy.com and epilepsy.com/professionals. We are working to build 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 us at: www.epilepsy.com/epilepsy_therapy_project.