

GREETINGS FROM OUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Welcome to our September issue! We have features ranging from plans to help veterans at risk for developing epilepsy to reactions to an announced \$20,000 increase in the price per vial of ACTH, which is used to treat infantile spasms. Additionally, we have a special interview with Randy Siegel, President and Publisher of PARADE magazine, newly published research related to the ketogenic diet, and much more in our monthly features -- including a perspective on cutbacks in epilepsy research funding.

Here are the details:

Medication in the News – A substantial price increase has been announced for H.P. Acthar Gel (R), a natural form of adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) that is used to treat infantile spasms, from \$1,650 a vial to \$23,000 a vial. We bring you special interviews and updates so that you're prepared and know how to access patient assistance plans.

http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/ar_1189197304.html

Operation Giveback – Many soldiers who experienced head trauma while serving our country are at increased risk for developing epilepsy. Read our interview with Marc Dichter, MD, PhD, who is spearheading an ambitious and collaborative project.

http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/ar_1188342190.html

Special Interview – Randy Siegel, President and Publisher of PARADE, recently talked to *Newsweek* and *epilepsy.com* about his daughter with epilepsy. We think you will find Rebecca's story to be an inspiration.

http://epilepsy.com/articles/ar_1188921111.html

Our Monthly Features:

Challenging Cases – We are pleased to present "Vigabatrin Treatment In A Patient With Visual Field Defects," by Roy G. Beran, MD, from Australia. We are especially appreciative that Dr. Beran reviewed and updated the case with new recommendations regarding this medication, which is currently under review by the FDA.

http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/case_8.html

Perspectives – Announced budget cuts at the National Institutes of Health will impact the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, which oversees epilepsy research, resulting in even fewer grant awards than in 2006. Joyce Cramer, president of the ETDP, says, "This is bad news for people with epilepsy who need new therapies." You will want to read her perspective.

http://professionals.epilepsy.com/page/ar_1187905182.html

Ketogenic Diet News – Dr. Adrianna Amari at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore writes about her recently-published research that shows children with epilepsy may instinctively know what to eat – and the ketogenic diet appears to be on their menu!

http://epilepsy.com/epilepsy/keto_news_september07.html

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

CURE Grant Award Deadline: Sept 17, 2007

Submit a letter of intent to apply for CURE's 2008 funding cycle.

2008 CURE Quest Award
A 1-year award up to \$50,000

2008 Christopher Donalty and Kyle Coggins Inter-disciplinary Research Award
A 1-year award up to \$100,000

2008 CURE Challenge Award
Multiple-year award, up to \$250,000

November 02-04, 2007
50th anniversary of the seminal study on "Syndrome of Acquired Aphasia with Convulsive Disorder in Children"
Alden-Biesen, Belgium

November 03, 2007
Advances in Tuberous Sclerosis: From Pathway to Therapy
Sydney, Australia

Ongoing Updates:

2007 International Epilepsy Congress – We continue to bring you abstracts from members of and contributors to *epilepsy.com*.

http://www.epilepsy.com/articles/ar_1184684994.html

Breaking News – We have been following the story of an immigrant who died in custody in Rhode Island. New reports and release of 911 calls show that this story is a tragic case of an immigrant with epilepsy.

http://www.epilepsy.com/articles/ar_1186693759.html

We are in the midst of a new website redesign that will make it easier than ever to search for and find information that helps you take care of your patients with epilepsy.

As always, feel free to contact me with your thoughts, ideas, and requests for new features.

Sincerely,

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 PowerPoint 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

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](#), 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 DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



The [Epilepsy Therapy Development 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 Development 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 our website: 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.

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