

Epilepsy News

Welcome to Epilepsy News. We pride ourselves at sending you the most up-to-date information about epilepsy events, conferences, and issues that are important to you.

Please consult our website for further information: www.efnj.com.



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Our Administrative Office has Moved!

Our new address is 1 AAA Drive, Trenton, NJ 08691

North Jersey Office

322 US Highway 46, Ste. 220
 Parsippany, NJ 07054
 (973) 244-0850

Central Jersey Office

2416 Highway 35
 Manasquan, NJ 08736
 (732) 528-8080

South Jersey Office

216 Haddon Avenue
 Suite 329
 Westmont, NJ 08108
 (856) 858-5900

Heads Up for Safety

35 Beaverson Blvd.
 Building 11
 Brick, NJ 08723
 (732) 262-8020

Quick Links

Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey
The Family Support Center of New Jersey
The Family Resource Network

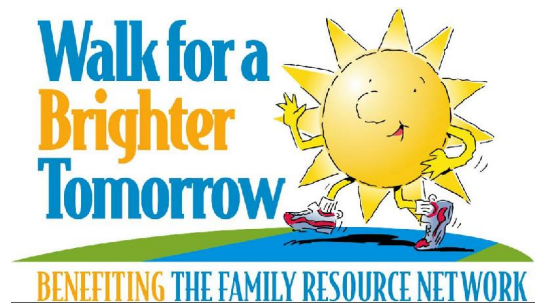
Join our Mailing List!

Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey to Hold Walk-a-thon

Families have begun signing up their EFNJ walk teams, and it's time for you to join in on the fun! Join us on Sunday, October 11, 2009 as EFNJ and The Family Resource Network host a state-wide Walk-a-thon titled Walk for a Brighter Tomorrow at Roosevelt Park, in Edison, New Jersey. This will be a fun filled day for families and friends to walk in support of their loved ones. A casual 5k Walk, entertainment and refreshments will be just a few of the day's highlights.

So call your family, friends and co-workers and start a walk team today! You can find more information and register online at www.walkforabrightertomorrow.org or via phone 1-800-FRN-2345. When registering to walk please note that you can choose to direct all of your money raised specifically to EFNJ. Just choose EFNJ from the drop down menu on the online registration form.

Please join us in our continuing efforts to provide low-cost quality services to New Jersey families living with developmental



disabilities and chronic illness. You can make a difference!

Medication News



Lamictal: The FDA recently approved Lamictal®XR™ (lamotrigine) Extended-Release Tablets as once-a-day add-on therapy for epilepsy patients 13 years of age or older who experience partial seizures with or without secondary generalization. Partial seizures, which are limited to one part of the brain, are the most common type of seizure experienced by people with epilepsy. Patients with partial seizures currently taking immediate-release Lamictal twice-daily may be able to convert directly to once-a-day Lamictal XR using the same total daily dose.

Lamictal XR will be available in pharmacies this summer.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has also approved Lamictal® ODT™ (lamotrigine) Orally Disintegrating Tablets. Lamictal ODT uses a novel drug-delivery formulation in a tablet that has a reportedly pleasant taste and disintegrates on the tongue. This medication offers an option to people who are not able to, or have difficulty, swallowing tablets. Lamictal ODT will be available in 25 mg, 50 mg, 100 mg and 200 mg strengths.



Vimpat: UCB today announced that Vimpat® (lacosamide), a new antiepileptic drug (AED) is available in the U.S. as an add-on therapy for the treatment of partial-onset seizures in people with epilepsy who are 17 years and older. Vimpat will be available in U.S. pharmacies by the first week of June 2009.

High School Throws Dog a ... 'diploma'

By Vincent Todaro, Sentinel Staff Writer

SPOTSWOOD - Graduation is a time to celebrate with family and close friends. For Kate Miller, it was even more special, as she was able to share her June 23 graduation from Spotswood High School with her twin sister and classmate Colleen, as well as her golden retriever Greta.

For the past two years, Greta has accompanied Kate, who has juvenile myochronic epilepsy, in school, since Greta is able to sense seizures coming on and warn her master and others when one is about to happen.

As a result of Greta's skills and hard work, she was allowed to walk with Kate at graduation last week. In fact, Greta received an honorary degree that was created by an employee in the school's main office.

"She is the very first service dog to graduate from Spotswood High School," said Maggie Miller, Kate's mother.

The family received Board of Education approval to have the assist dog in school with Kate in October 2007. It was the first time Spotswood had a request for a dog to accompany a student in school, and it is believed to be one of the first such cases in New Jersey.



Greta, who is with Kate 24 hours a day, has helped on numerous occasions during her junior and senior years.

To continue reading the full article, please [click here](#).

Purple Event



The Anita Kaufmann Foundation, will be holding a fund raising event on September 10, 2009. An evening of fashion, food and wine to support SHARE, our fifth grade epilepsy education program will be featured. There will be a fashion show with purple looks from over sixty designers worn on the runway by celebrities, professional models and leaders within the American epilepsy community. The night will include a performance by Elliott Yamin of American Idol along with an appearance by special guests Alex McCord of The Real Housewives of NYC and Kristen Bell of the hit series Gossip Girl. The honorary co-chairs will be Alan Faneca of the New York Jets and his wife Julie. Advance tickets are \$100 a person and can be purchased online at www.akfus.org.

Youth Council

EFNJ's newly developed Youth Council is comprised of young adults with epilepsy who want to make a difference and become leaders in the epilepsy community.

The goals of the Youth Council are to create programs and events where youth with epilepsy can socialize and share ideas, be mentors to others with epilepsy, and to spread awareness of epilepsy and its effects on the community.

We are looking for more members to aid in the growth and expansion of this effort. The Youth Council's first meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 22nd at 1:00pm in EFNJ's Administrative office. If you are interested in attending the meeting or becoming a part of the Youth Council, please email Nicole Hartmann at NHEFNJ@aol.com. Also, visit the Youth Council on facebook at www.facebook.com/epilepsynj.



Diabetes Drug May Hold Potential as a Treatment for Epilepsy



Two years ago, University of Wisconsin-Madison scientists reported they had suppressed epileptic seizures in rats by giving them a glycolytic-inhibitor, inhibiting the brain's ability to turn sugar into excess energy and blocking the expression of seizure-related genes. The discovery was greeted with excitement and hope for a new class of drugs for epilepsy, which afflicts more than 50 million people worldwide.

Dr. Avtar Roopra of the University of Wisconsin-Madison explained that the next step in his research may mean a drug known as Metformin, already widely used by people with diabetes, could also be an effective and safe therapy for epilepsy. This treatment would be especially beneficial for those people living with refractory epilepsy or uncontrolled recurrent seizures despite using the best available anticonvulsant medication.

"Dr. Roopra and his colleagues are now testing Metformin in the brains of mice to see how it affects the functioning of the hippocampus, the part of the brain involved with learning and

memory and also the seat of seizures of many patients with epilepsy. The goal is to tamp down a mechanism called Long Term Potentiation enough to reduce the rate of epilepsy but not enough to affect the brain's ability to learn and remember." Sciencedaily (April 11, 2008)

Dr. Roopra reports that at this early stage of research that Metformin appears to be doing all the right things and the effect on memory and learning have not been an issue in any of the adults or children who have been using the drug for years for controlling diabetes.

Dr. Roopra explains that the drug's effect is very much like the effects of the Ketogenic diet on the person. Although the earlier work by Dr. Roopra and his colleagues marked the first time a compound had been used for metabolic regulation of neuronal genes, epilepsy patients had been attempting to achieve the same goal - fewer seizures - for centuries through severe dietary restriction. In some cases, with near starvation, more often with a high-fat, high-protein diet completely free of starches and sugars. Half of all drug-resistant people with epilepsy experience seizure control with this kind of severe ketogenic diet (although even a mild lapse can sometimes result in seizures).

Dr. Roopra states that the next step will be to research Metformin in mice with epilepsy and says that it's still early, but the researchers already are pleased with the increased understanding of the likely mechanism of the positive effect of the ketogenic diet on epileptic seizures but may also be able to tap into this same biological pathway bypassing the Ketogenic diet altogether.

If you would like to read more on this new research, visit <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/04/080408132158.htm> or <http://molpharm.wisc.edu/faculty/roopra/Pub17041593.pdf>

(ScienceDaily (April 11, 2008))



Thank you for reading Epilepsy News! If you have any information you would like included in our e-zine, or know of anyone that would like to be added to our listserv, please email me at aracioppi@efnj.com or click the "Join Our Mailing List" button on the top right side of the newsletter.

Sincerely,

Andrea Racioppi
Associate Director
Epilepsy Foundation of NJ

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