

# Epilepsy News

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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](http://www.efnj.com).



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## Two Upcoming Education Sessions

## **Saint Barnabas Medical Center & Institute for Neurology and Neurosurgery**

Presents

### **AN EVENING WITH THE NEUROLOGISTS: LATEST TREATMENTS AND UPDATES FOR COMMON BRAIN CONDITIONS**

Featuring three separate tracks - Adult Neurology, Epilepsy and Pediatric Neurology

Thursday, May 13, 2010

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Saint Barnabas

Ambulatory Care Center

200 South Orange Ave. Livingston, NJ 07039

Refreshments will be served.

To register for this program,  
please call 1.888.724.7123, option 4

### **Seizure Management Series 2010 features upcoming webinars**

Part I: What Families and Caregivers Need to Know About Managing Seizures

May 11, Tuesday - 7:00-9:30 PM Eastern DST

Part II: DIASTAT as Treatment for Acute Seizures

July 20, Tuesday, 7:00-9:30 PM Eastern DST

Who Should Attend:

Families and Caregivers; Physicians; Nurses; Educators and School Administrators; Allied Health Care Professionals; Institutions Serving the ID/DD Population: State and privately-held facilities, Military Healthcare personnel.

[To Register click here.](#)

## **EFNJ Scholarship Opportunity**

The Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey is pleased to announce the existence of a scholarship program for New Jersey high school seniors who have epilepsy. We anticipate offering a least two \$1,000 scholarships.

New Jersey high school seniors with epilepsy who plan to attend a college or university are eligible. Academic achievement, participation in activities and financial need will be considered. The extent of a student's disability(s) will be taken into account as well, so that s/he need not be near the top of her/his class to qualify. Final awards will be made by the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey, which reserves the right not to make any awards.

Applications and supporting documents are due May 15, 2009. For an application click here. Please call 800.336.5843 or email [aracioppi@efnj.com](mailto:aracioppi@efnj.com) for more information.

## **Jack Dau Represents EFNJ at Kids Speak Up, Speak Out!**

Jack Dau of Sparta, N.J., traveled to Washington, D.C., Tuesday, March 23rd through Thursday, March 25, 2010 to meet with congressional leaders and gain their support for increased funding for epilepsy programs and research.

Dau, 10, was one of 40 young people from across the country participating in Kids Speak Up!, a national program coordinated by the Epilepsy Foundation. The program rallies young ambassadors with epilepsy between the ages of 8 and 17 to personally petition congressional leaders for aid in assuring better access to care, improved public education and more research toward a cure for epilepsy.

The Public Policy Institute (PPI) and Kids Speak Up!(KSU) programs provide participants with a crash course in advocacy, epilepsy and current Epilepsy Foundation priorities to focus on in order to improve the lives of all people with epilepsy.

This year, the main messages to take to Congress were increased funding for research and programs. On Day Three of the conference, all the participants fanned out across Capitol Hill to the House and Senate office buildings armed with well-honed talking points and honest testimonials. Jack and his family, Eric, Sarah, Kevin, and Eric, were able to meet with staff members in the offices of Senator Robert Menendez, Senator LAutenberg and staff for Congressman Scott Garrett, and Congressman Rush Holt.

Congratulations and thank you to Jack and his family for their hard work!

## Walk for Epilepsy!



## WALK FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

### Shore Area Walk

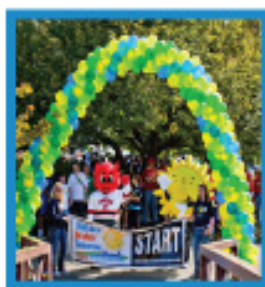
When: Sunday, May 16, 2010

Where: Seaside Park, NJ

Registration 11am - Walk 12pm

Please join the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey for a 5k walk on the beautiful Seaside Boardwalk as we raise much needed funds & awareness for individuals & their families living with developmental disabilities & chronic illnesses.

**For more information please visit [www.walkforabrightertomorrow.org](http://www.walkforabrightertomorrow.org)**



## STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR POSTERS PROMOTING HELMET SAFETY

Wearing a helmet reduces the risk of head injury and brain damage by almost 90%, and these students are helping make sure their friends and parents are protecting themselves.

TRENTON, NJ - In the Statehouse Annex, with a crowd of their peers and family members watching, six students ranging from 2nd grade to 5th grade, from all across the state, were presented with certificates for their posters that promote the proper use of helmets while riding a bike, scooter or rollerblading. The ceremony was the 10th Annual Heads Up for Safety Poster Contest held by the Epilepsy Foundation of NJ (EFNJ).



The ceremony was held at the State House where each winning child received a certificate and a savings bond, and all children who attended received a bicycle helmet, specially fit for them. Following the ceremony, a luncheon was held in honor of the winning artists, after which, the children and their families participated in a private tour of the State House.

The poster contest award ceremony was the 10th annual event, run by the Epilepsy



Foundation of New Jersey's "Heads Up For Safety" program. Heads Up For Safety, funded by the NJ Office for the Prevention of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, is a public education campaign to increase

community and professional awareness of the importance of wearing a safety helmet while engaged in wheeled activities. The program strives to reduce the risk, severity and incidence of traumatic brain injuries. For the past 10 years, EFNJ has held "Heads Up For Safety" assemblies at schools across the state teaching young children the importance of wearing their helmets while bike riding, skateboarding and rollerblading with the slogan, "Wheels on your feet, helmet on your head!"

#### Helmet Safety Statistics:

Wearing your helmet is the single most effective way to prevent head injuries, brain damage and long term effects of injuries following a bicycle accident.

A properly worn bicycle helmet reduces the risk of head injury and brain damage by almost 90%.

Nearly 690 children are injured daily due to bicycle-related crashes

60% of all childhood bicycle-related deaths are more likely to occur on residential streets close to home.

"If it sounds like I am trying to scare you, it's because I am," said Carol Dorn, "Heads Up For Safety" Coordinator at the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey, as she addressed the crowd of students and their parents. "It's so important to wear your helmet, even when just riding around the corner or down your driveway. You guys are ambassadors now. You need to make sure all your friends are wearing their helmets all of the time, and even your parents!" Dorn said, which returned giggles from both the kids and adults.

To date, only 21 states, the District of Columbia, and at 149 municipal localities have enacted age specific bicycle helmet laws. Most of these laws cover bicyclists less than 16 years of age. 14 states have no state or local helmet laws at all. One study showed that within the five years of the passage of a state mandatory bicycle helmet law for children ages 13 and under, bicycle-related fatalities decreased by 60%.

#### Winning Posters:

Skylar Bruno, grade 4; Elmer Elementary, Elmer, NJ; Salem County

Claudia Moudatsos, grade 4; C.A. Dwyer Elementary, Rockaway, NJ; Morris County

Katlyn Nichols, grade 5; East Dover Elementary, Toms River, NJ; Ocean County

Chelsea Estacio, grade 3; Hope Township Elementary, Hope, NJ; Warren County

Ariana Mack, grade 3, Holy Family School, Pleasantville, NJ; Atlantic County

Patrick O'Neill, grade 2; St. Peter's, Pennsauken, NJ; Camden County

**Local Advocates Get involved in Epilepsy Research and Awareness**

Zelda Bethea an advocate living with epilepsy organized a fundraiser at Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Englewood, NJ on March 21st. Guest presenter Dr. Kirk Levy of Bergen Neurology Consultants presented. A light brunch, and jewelry and handbag sales were all part of the festivities. Funds will be directed toward epilepsy research.

Andrea Biddle a freshman at Colts Neck HS spearheaded a Purple Day fundraiser to benefit EFNJ. Students & Staff were asked to wear purple in support of the cause. Students collected donations during lunch and distributed purple ribbons and bookmarks to raise awareness. For a \$5 donation staff members at Colts Neck were able to wear jeans for the day.

We'd like to send a huge "Thank you!" to Zelda and Andrea for organizing these great events. If you would like to host an epilepsy fundraiser, please call our office or [click here](#) for more information.



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](mailto: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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