

CURE Newsletter
SPRING '07, VOL 8

CURE

Citizens United for Research in

EPILEPSY

www.CUREepilepsy.org

IN THIS ISSUE

A MESSAGE
FROM THE PRESIDENT 2

CURE BOARD 2

BOARD NEWS 3

GRANTS & AWARDS 4-5

SPREADING THE WORD 6-7

RESEARCH NEWS 8

CURE NEWS 9-11



Julie and Susan Schneider
STORY PAGE 6



A Message from the President

Kind-ness *n.* 1. the state or quality of being kind. 2. an act that shows consideration and caring.

This year, your acts of kindness have resulted in our most successful year yet, allowing us to invest a record-breaking \$800,000 in innovative research toward a cure for epilepsy. We couldn't do it without you.

Hundreds of scientists in the epilepsy community give generously of their time and expertise to review research grant proposals and advise CURE on which research holds the greatest promise.

Many of you—some with personal connections to epilepsy, others without—make donations or conduct your own fundraising events to benefit epilepsy research.

And, we are blessed to have so many goods and services donated to CURE—office space, legal services, graphic design, video production, event planning, the time and energy of numerous volunteers and a new public awareness campaign.

In-kind, *adj.* 1. paid or given in goods, commodities or services instead of money.

In this issue, we begin a new feature, "In-Kind Kindness", (see page 3) to pay tribute to these in-kind donors who, all in all, donate well over \$200,000 in goods and services to this cause. They help ensure that as much as possible of every dollar raised goes directly into research.

We salute all of you who support us in so many special ways with your kindness. You give us hope, it reminds us that we're not alone in this fight, and it takes us closer to the day when seizures will no longer rob our children of their potential and their lives.

Susan Axelrod

CURE board

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University of Wisconsin

“In-Kind Kindness” *A Tribute to Sidley Austin, LLP*

In 1998, three Chicago-area mothers of children with uncontrollable seizures fantasized about creating an organization to fund innovative epilepsy research and raise awareness about the disease. They were desperate to make a difference.

They quickly found out that realizing their dream was not so easy and required, from the very start, legal expertise.

At that time, Sidley Austin, LLP (www.Sidley.com), and one of their attorneys, Lynn D. Fleisher, Esq., offered to provide their legal services at no charge in order to help CURE incorporate and attain its nonprofit status. In this true spirit of giving, Ms. Fleisher brought legal and scientific expertise

(she also has a PhD in genetics) and the compassion of a mother whose child did not have epilepsy, but who could understand the struggles of those who did.

Since then, Ms. Fleisher and her colleagues have continued to provide CURE’s legal services at no charge. In addition, Sidley Austin is a Silver Sponsor of CURE’s Annual Benefit in Chicago.

Thank you to everyone at Sidley Austin for sharing CURE’s vision of a cure for epilepsy and for their help in ensuring that as much as possible of every dollar donated to CURE may go directly to research.

CURE Launches Awareness Campaign

CURE is launching a national public awareness campaign this summer. Designed to put a face on epilepsy and communicate the devastation of this disease, this ad will be placed in mainstream publications and widely circulated throughout the United States.

This awareness campaign was made possible by people who have generously donated their time, expertise and creativity. At this time, we would especially like to thank Randy Siegel, CURE board member, for his leadership in spearheading this campaign, and Creative Director Dan Gitlitz, and Senior Art Director Dave Hedeman, who created this powerful image.

THEY SAY LIGHTNING NEVER STRIKES THE SAME PLACE TWICE. BUT FOR A CHILD WITH EPILEPSY, IT CAN STRIKE HUNDREDS OF TIMES A DAY.

Epileptic Seizures Affect For More People Than You Think, For More Often Than You Think. People with epilepsy experience approximately 10 million seizures every year. 1 in 26 people will have epilepsy at some point in their lives. 1 in 10 people will have epilepsy at some point in their lives. 1 in 10 people will have epilepsy at some point in their lives. 1 in 10 people will have epilepsy at some point in their lives.

It's time we found a CURE.
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO DONATE
CALL 800-765-7118 OR VISIT www.CUREepilepsy.org

CURE
Center for Research in
EPILEPSY

Research!America Honors Susan Axelrod



Susan Axelrod and Randy Siegel at the 2007 Research!America Advocacy Awards Gala

Susan Axelrod, president and founding member of CURE was honored at the Research!America gala Washington D.C. on March 20. Axelrod was named Research!America’s 2007 Gordon and Llura Gund Volunteer Leadership Award recipient for her exceptional contributions as a volunteer advocate in promoting awareness of and research for epilepsy.

Randy Siegel, CURE board member, and President and Publisher of PARADE Magazine shared his own daughter’s struggles with epilepsy and invited Axelrod up to the stage to receive her award.

George Stephanopolous of ABC News served as master of ceremonies, and other awardees included Senator Orrin G. Hatch and Mike Wallace, CBS News correspondent emeritus. Directors from the various Institutes of the National Institutes of Health, including Elias Zerhouni, MD, Director of the National Institutes of Health, were present, as well as other dignitaries and representatives of the national media.

2007 Awards and Grants

Challenge Awards



Lionel Carmant, MD, PhD
*CHU-Sainte-Justine
 Montreal, Canada*

Preventing Autism and other Long-term Complications of Infantile Spasms (Is)

Infantile spasms are a catastrophic form of epilepsy, because they are associated with an arrest or even a regression in the physical and mental development of children affected. More than 80% of children become mentally retarded and more than 10% develop autistic behaviors. In previous studies, children received a standard protocol of vitamin B6 and high dose vigabatrin for six months, except those with persistent spasms or EEG abnormalities at two weeks, who administered high dose steroids. In addition, in a double-blind manner, children received the neuroprotective treatment (flunarizine) versus placebo. In this two year study, Dr. Camant will evaluate whether this neuroprotective treatment improved the long-term outcome by performing a developmental evaluation at 24 months and another one at 30 months post-diagnosis for autism. If preliminary results prove to be correct, Carmant anticipates that children treated with flunarizine will be more likely to develop normally and less likely to develop autism.



Julie's Hope Award (partial sponsorship)

Gabriella D'Arcangelo, PhD
*Baylor College of Medicine
 Houston, TX*

Generation and Characterization of Mouse Models of Cortical Dysplasia

Epilepsy affects approximately one in every 100 children, and over 30% of these patients cannot be controlled with traditional antiepileptic treatments. Many of these children are found to have malformations of the cerebral cortex (cortical dysplasia). As a first step towards finding a cure for this type of epilepsy Dr. D'Arcangelo will create genetically engineered mice as animal models for cortical dysplasia. This new mouse model will be based on the abnormal activation of the PI3K signaling pathway in dysplastic brain cells. In this three year study, the model will be used to test the effectiveness of specific inhibitors of this pathway which will potentially lead to new antiepileptic agents.

Quest Awards

The Graham Goddard Young Investigator Award

This grant is sponsored by an unrestricted educational grant from UCB Pharma



Janet Soul, MD, CM
*Children's Hospital Boston and Harvard Medical
 School Boston, MA*

Pilot Study of Bumetanide for Refractory Neonatal Seizures

Newborn babies have seizures much more frequently than either children or adults, and their seizures are often associated with serious long-term consequences such as epilepsy, learning disabilities and cerebral palsy. Although newborn seizures are very common, medications currently used to treat them are relatively ineffective and may have serious side effects. A medication called bumetanide shows great promise for treating newborn seizures because the drug blocks special channels present only in the brain cells of newborns. We will conduct a pilot trial to determine whether bumetanide is a safe drug for the treatment of newborn seizures.

The CURE 365 Award



Dwayne W. Godwin, PhD
*Wake Forest University School of Medicine
 Winston-Salem, NC*

Metabotropic Glutamate Receptors - A Strategic Target for Novel Antiepileptic Therapeutics

Epilepsy is a chronic neurological disorder characterized by seizures that involve specific systems of the brain in the case of partial seizures, or seizures that may start in a restricted region of the brain but spread, or generalize, to involve other regions. Glutamate is the predominant excitatory neurotransmitter in the brain, and has a fundamental role in the communication of activity, whether that activity is normal or abnormal. Dr. Godwin's research is focused on a class of glutamate receptors called metabotropic glutamate receptors. These receptors modulate the release of glutamate, and can selectively suppress hyperactive synapses. Dr. Godwin plans to strategically target a specific type of metabotropic receptor that reduces glutamate release at the key sites in the brain where seizures start and spread. By taking advantage of selective pharmacological agents, he hopes to stop or impede the generation of seizures before they start. The modulatory nature of these targets may provide new pharmacological treatment options with fewer side effects than are observed in currently prescribed anti-epileptic drugs, and may be helpful to individuals whose seizures may be resistant to current treatments.

Grants highlighted in black borders were funded by families and individuals who organized fundraisers that raised \$50,000 or more.

The Matthew Siravo Memorial Award



Nicholas Poolos, MD, PhD
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

Kinase Mediation of Antiepileptic Drug Action

Many of the antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) in clinical use today have mechanisms of action that remain unclear. One AED in particular, lamotrigine, appears to lack a direct action on the ion channel (the HCN channel) that may be responsible for its effectiveness across a broad spectrum of seizure types. Dr. Poolos will investigate the novel hypothesis that lamotrigine may regulate HCN channels not by direct interaction, but instead by altering the behavior of intracellular enzymes (kinases) that in turn control ion channel activity. If this hypothesis is proven, it will suggest new pathways for development of improved drugs against epilepsy.

Multidisciplinary Awards



Carl Faingold, PhD &
Victor Uteshev-Gaard, PhD
Southern Illinois University
School of Medicine
Carbondale, IL

SUDEP Prevention - Experimental Serotonergic Mechanisms in DBA/2 Mice

Sudden unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP) results from breathing failure after seizures. The DBA/2 mouse model also shows seizures and death due to breathing failure. Fluoxetine, a drug which increases the brain chemical serotonin, prevents breathing failure in DBA/2 mice. This collaborative project between Dr. Faingold, an epilepsy researcher and Dr. Uteshev-Gaard, a basic neuroscientist, will determine if novel drugs acting on serotonin will block SUDEP in DBA/2 mice with lower doses and fewer side effects. They will also examine how these drugs act on a brain region (solitary tract nucleus), which controls breathing to observe the nature of the defect causing death in DBA/2 mice.

2007 Northwestern Dance Marathon Award



Brenda Porter, MD, PhD
& Julie Blendy, PhD
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia,
Philadelphia, PA

The Role of CREB in Epileptogenesis

The goal of this project is to identify cellular and molecular changes that contribute to the development of epilepsy after an injury to the brain. A large number of molecular, cellular and physiologic changes have been described following brain injury, including neuronal cell loss, and changes in the expression of genes and proteins. Dr. Porter, an epilepsy researcher, and Julie Blendy, a pharmacologist will examine whether one of the master regulators of neuronal survival and gene expression, CREB, is necessary for animals to develop epilepsy after brain injury.

The Rhode Island Award

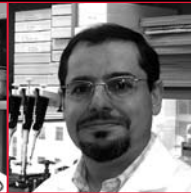


Scott Baraban, PhD &
John Rubenstein, MD, PhD
University of California
San Francisco, CA

GABA Progenitor Cells as a Treatment of Epilepsy Disorders

Transplantation of neuronal progenitor or "stem cells" offers great promise for developing an epilepsy cure. Because transplanted progenitors can migrate and integrate as new neurons in the host brain, manipulation of these cells could be a powerful means to stop seizures before they start. Dr. Baraban's lab has developed a method to transplant embryonic progenitor cells that integrate exclusively as inhibitory interneurons. In a parallel study, they developed a mouse mutant characterized by interneuron loss, reduced inhibition and late-onset epilepsy. Combining the expertise of Dr. Baraban, an established epilepsy investigator and Dr. Rubenstein, a world-expert on interneuron development, this CURE study will combine these two projects into a critical "proof-of-principle" trial aiming to determine whether transplanted GABA-progenitor cells restore normal levels of inhibition and rescue these mutant mice from developing epilepsy. This study is a necessary next step toward development of appropriate clinical treatments utilizing progenitor cells.

Central New York Award *In memory of Christopher Donalty and Kyle Coggins*



Anne Anderson, MD
& Matteo Vatta, PhD
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX

Myocardial Ion Channel Remodeling: A Candidate Mechanism for Sudden Death in Epilepsy

Sudden unexpected death in epilepsy, (SUDEP) is the most common cause of mortality in individuals with epilepsy. This study hypothesizes that cardiac ion channels may be affected by primary genetic or acquired alterations associated with epilepsy, which represent candidate mechanisms in SUDEP. Cardiac ion channel alterations due to either of these mechanisms would predispose the heart to arrhythmia, which is a risk factor for sudden death. The studies will be performed as an interdisciplinary collaboration between Dr. Anderson, an epilepsy researcher, and Dr. Vatta, a cardiovascular researcher with expertise in myocardial remodeling and channelopathies. The interdisciplinary approach between the fields of epilepsy and cardiovascular sciences represents a novel and unprecedented opportunity in the field of epilepsy research and specifically in the area of SUDEP.

Letters of Intent for the 2008 funding cycle are due on Monday, September 17, 2007.

JULIE'S STORY

Susan Schneider



Julie has had seizures at the Milwaukee Zoo. She's had seizures at Disney World...



... She's had seizures while we were driving at 65 mph down the Edens Expressway in Chicago. She had a seizure during her brother's Bar Mitzvah, and at more Passover dinners than I care to remember. She's had seizures all alone in the bathroom, as we stood helplessly outside the door that was blocked by her little body, listening to her head hitting the door. She's had seizures on airplanes, and while we tried to navigate security at airports. She's had seizures in swimming pools and on top of climbing bars.

Julie's seizures were partially controlled with medication until puberty. We tried a dozen medications, sometimes up to four at a time, without improvement. I pushed to try every new drug combination, and became angry when others wanted to give up. My husband Jim, a physician, understood that after two or three failures, drugs were unlikely to help, and Julie was at increased risk of status epilepticus (nonstop seizing). I didn't realize that Julie could die from the seizures, or that frequent seizures would affect her cognitive abilities. We had never heard of SUDEP (Sudden Unexplained Death from Epilepsy) at that time.

Eventually, surgery was our only option. At 14, Julie underwent her first surgery, a left temporal lobectomy. Within five months, her seizures returned, just as she was starting high school. She attended school as best she could, sitting in a wheelchair with a nurse beside

her at all times. I sat outside the classroom in the hallway. After one or two classes, I would take her home where she would sleep and have seizures the rest of the day. She lost 40 pounds, due to medication side effects, and was disappearing from us . . . physically and cognitively.

Further testing revealed that Julie had diffuse cortical malformation of the left side of her brain, and so a different type of surgery was suggested—a functional hemispherectomy, which would disconnect her malformed left hemisphere from the rest of her brain. This procedure would hopefully prevent the spread of the seizures. The price was high. We were told she would lose the function of her right arm and hand, and the entire right side of her body would be weakened.

We didn't understand the full implications and the extraordinary challenges ahead during her post-operative rehabilitation. We only knew that we were losing our precious daughter, and that we had this chance to save her. The decision wasn't hard. We felt lucky that she was a candidate for this surgery.

Rehabilitation was long and difficult. She had to relearn to walk, talk, and retrain bowel and bladder control. She continues in therapy to this day, five years later. She still does not have functional use of her right arm or hand and has lost her vision in the



right side of each eye. She drools profusely. Over the next two and a half years, Julie's seizures gradually returned. Her third surgery in less than six years was performed, removing more brain tissue and severing any remaining connections between her left and right hemispheres. She continues to have periodic seizures, and remains on four medications.

Julie's story has had an indelible impact on our entire family. Our other children, Lindsay and Michael, had childhoods of uncertainty, worry and fear and, I'm sure, to some degree, embarrassment. The constant monitoring and care required by Julie's special needs took time and attention away from her siblings. Michael's childhood was punctuated by extended stays out of state for Julie's surgeries, and Lindsay found herself alone at numerous parent weekends at college. They have always been Julie's greatest cheering squad, but we know that Julie is not the only one who has paid a high price. The physical and mental strain of caring for Julie often sapped all of our energy and patience.

We were introduced to CURE shortly after Julie's first surgery. CURE gave us hope. For the first time we dared to think that scientists could develop cures for these aberrant neurological explosions that destroy the quality of life, and even life itself for so many.

I became active in fundraising and reaching out to other families. In April 2005 Jim testified before Congress on the need for increased funding for epilepsy research and has joined CURE's Research Board, participating in the grant review process. We were pleased to be Honorary Co-chairmen of CURE's 2006 Annual Benefit, and our now yearly 'Drive for CURE' golf outing is a product of the love and support of our friends and extended family.

Lindsay and her husband Brad, and our nieces, Ali and Gigi, are members of CURE's Junior Board. Michael gave a speech at his college about epilepsy and the need to support epilepsy research, and hopes to make CURE a priority for his fraternity philanthropic committee.

Our family is grateful for the opportunity to support CURE and channel our feelings of helplessness into working together for a cure. It is probably too late for Julie, but hopefully future generations will not have to suffer the dire effects of this disease. Parents should not have to lead their children into operating rooms, knowing they are sacrificing their child's arm and hand for the mere chance at seizure control. A family should never have to lose a loved one to epilepsy.

CURING EPILEPSY 2007

Translating Discoveries Into Therapies

Following up on its historic, groundbreaking conference in 2000, “Curing Epilepsy: Focus on the Future,” the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) partnered with other government agencies and private organizations, including Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy (CURE), to sponsor “Curing Epilepsy 2007: Translating Discoveries Into Therapies.” The conference was held on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) campus in Bethesda, Maryland from March 29-30, 2007.

Hundreds of leading scientists, health care providers, and representatives of voluntary health care and patient advocacy organizations gathered to discuss potential targets and technologies that may lead to new therapies and a cure. Topics included genetics, mechanisms in the brain which may lead to epilepsy, associated cognitive and psychological issues, and advances in imaging/technology.

A special junior investigators program was held on March 28, prior to the opening of the conference, which gave junior investigators the opportunity to listen to scientific presentations from their peers and view posters on a variety of new, exciting research.

Sherry Healey, CURE volunteer, was selected to share her personal experiences with epilepsy by describing the devastating impact uncontrollable seizures have had on her son Michael’s development. Her presentation, along with stories shared by other patient representatives, helped to connect researchers and clinicians with the urgent needs of those who struggle with epilepsy.

Members of CURE’s Scientific Advisory and Research Boards and CURE grant recipients who were invited to participate in this conference included:

Scott Baraban, PhD

Amy Brooks-Kayal, MD

Gabriella D’Arcangelo, PhD

Gregory Holmes, MD

Frances Jensen, MD

Sooky Koh, MD, PhD

Arnold Kriegstein, MD, PhD

Jeffrey Noebels, MD, PhD

Asla Pitkanen, MD, PhD

Brenda E. Porter, MD, PhD

Jenna Rickus, PhD

Alexander Rotenberg, MD, PhD

Helen Scharfman, PhD

Kerry-Ann A. Stewart



Left to right: Jeff Noebels, MD, PhD, Baylor College of Medicine; Walter J. Korosbetz, MD, Deputy Director, NINDS; Amy Brooks-Kayal, MD, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; Story C. Landis, PhD, Director, NINDS; Frances Jensen, MD, Harvard Medical School; Dennis Spencer, MD, Yale School of Medicine; Manisha Patel, N., PhD, University of Colorado School of Medicine; Gerald Fischbach, MD, Columbia University

For more details on the Conference, please visit:
www.curingepilepsy.ninds.nih.gov

Scientific Advisory Board Meets in Chicago

Comprised of renowned national experts in epilepsy, the CURE Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) plays a vital role in helping CURE reach its goals. At the end of April, the SAB met in Chicago with the CURE Board of Directors and CURE Research Board for an in-depth discussion of research goals and funding for 2007. CURE’s role in promoting epilepsy research, and strategies to most aggressively pursue its goal of ‘no seizures/no side effects’ were vital topics for consideration at this annual retreat.

The 2007 SAB Retreat was supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Ortho-McNeil Janssen Scientific Affairs.

CURE thanks the 2007 Scientific Advisory Board members:

Amy Brooks-Kayal, MD
Children’s Hospital of
Pennsylvania
University of Pennsylvania

Frances E. Jensen, MD
Harvard Medical School
Children’s Hospital
Department of Neurology

Brian Litt, MD
University of Pennsylvania
Department of Neurology
and Bioengineering

Jeffrey L. Noebels,
MD, PhD
Baylor College of Medicine
Department of Neurology

Thomas P. Sutula, MD, PhD
University of Wisconsin
Department of Neurology



Tim Russert Honors CURE Fathers

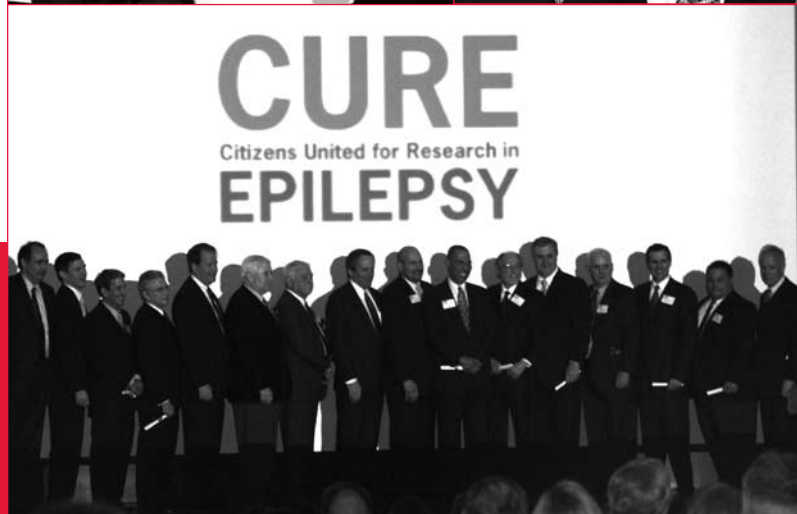
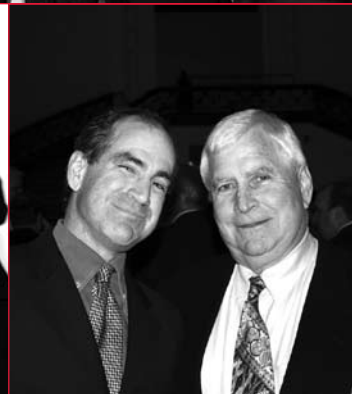
CURE's 9th Annual Benefit

Chicago, Illinois

Meet the Press moderator and best-selling author Tim Russert joined CURE at the 9th Annual Benefit to honor the fathers of children with epilepsy. Over six hundred people attended to show their generous support of finding a cure for epilepsy at Chicago's Field Museum.

President and Founder, Susan Axelrod, invited each father to join her on the stage to honor their commitment to their children and this cause. The event also featured a special video presentation honoring the fathers of children with epilepsy.

This year's fundraiser was supported by generous donations from key sponsors, including Exelon, Proud Parent of ComEd; Glaxo-SmithKline; Pfizer; UCB Pharma, Inc.; Fred Eychaner; UBS Investment Bank; Susan and David Axelrod; Forrest Claypool and Daina Lyons; and Richard J. Dennis.



*Clockwise from top: Tim Russert, Lauren Axelrod, and her father David Axelrod
Richard Jasculca, Richard Landau, Kay Fricke, Michael Axelrod, Tim Russert,
Bettylu Saltzman, Jim Terman, Paul Saltzman
Susan Axelrod and father Richard Siravo Phil Jr. and his father Phil Doran
The fathers of CURE*

Upcoming Events

Cedar Rapids Benefit to Support CURE

June 21, 2007
Cedar Rapids, IA

For more information, contact Fordtodd@aol.com

19th Annual Children's Epilepsy Benefit & Golf Tournament

June 14, 2007
Lake Geneva, WI

For more information contact, Mike Smyk, michael.smyk@loeffelsteel.com

DRIVE FOR A CURE

August 29, 2007
Thunderhawk Golf Club
Beach Park, IL

For more information contact, Susan Schneider 847-498-1962, jschny@comcast.net.

New York Benefit to Support CURE

Fall 2007 (to be announced)
New York, NY

2007 Christopher Donalty CURE Benefit Celebrity Roast

September 6, 2007
Utica, NY

George F. Aney will be roasted by Ray Meier, Linda Romano, and Carl DelBuono. For more information contact Jeanne Donalty, 315-724-2560, email jdonalty@verizon.net

2007 CURE Data Blitz

December 1-4, 2007
Philadelphia, PA

A fast-paced presentation of CURE-funded research activities at the American Epilepsy Society annual meeting

CURE's 10th Anniversary Gala

February 2008 (to be announced)
Chicago, IL

CURE 365

March 8, 2008
North Beach, IL

For more information, contact Amy Cooke, cooke2335@comcast.net

International Symposium on Dietary Therapies for Epilepsy

April 3-6, 2008
Phoenix, AZ

Presented by the Charlie Foundation and co-sponsored by CURE.



Northwestern students dancing with Stacy and Bob Dodd

Northwestern Students Dance for a CURE

CURE was selected to be the 2007 primary beneficiary of funds raised at the Northwestern University Dance Marathon (DM). One of the world's largest student-run philanthropies, is a dance-a-thon involving over 600 students at Northwestern University. Students began raising money for CURE in the fall.

Their efforts culminated the first weekend in March as they celebrated their hard work with thirty hours of dancing. As the primary beneficiary, CURE received 90% of all proceeds raised during this time. This partnership with Dance Marathon doubled CURE's research budget for the year.

Six hundred dancers and 400 committee members rallied to make this effort a huge success. Nadia Rawls, event co-chair said, "We are incredibly proud of DM07's success and are so grateful to the wonderful partnership we developed with CURE and with our dedicated CURE liaison, Kathy Dodd. Everyone involved in DM07 loved getting to know the families behind CURE and through that relationship, we have raised awareness about epilepsy on campus and in our community."

CURE greatly appreciates the opportunity to work with such dedicated students to increase awareness about CURE, epilepsy, the daily struggles of those dealing with repeated seizures and the need for a cure.

There are many ways you can help fund epilepsy research

- Make a donation to CURE in honor or in memory of someone special
- Double your donation through your employers' corporate matching program
- Select CURE as the non-profit beneficiary on www.idofoundation.org, www.justgive.org, or www.giveline.org
- Plan a local fundraiser

Questions? Visit our website, www.CUREepilepsy.org or contact Michelle, info@CUREepilepsy.org



Carly Otis, Katy Cooke, and Shannon Ahern line dancing

CURE 365

CURE funded an additional grant due to an energetic group of friends and an evening of family fun. Amy Cooke heard about CURE from her daughter's softball coach. She and a group of friends decided to organize a fundraiser, and they wanted it to be family oriented. In February, 220 adults and children met at North Beach Chicago for an evening of beach volleyball, tug of war, karaoke, and a silent auction. Next year's event is scheduled for March 8, 2008.

Friends Helping Friends

Parents Erin and Pat Leyden hosted a local Chicago fundraiser to honor their 3 year old son Emmett. Over 150 of their closest friends and family members came out on Saturday, April 14 to support the Leyden's efforts to raise money for epilepsy research.



Erin and Pat Leyden



Deb Siravo of the Matthew Siravo Memorial Foundation presents CURE Board member, Lee Ann Brigido Johnson, with a check to further epilepsy research

Rhode Island Fundraisers Benefit Epilepsy Research

CURE Board member, LeeAnn Brigido Johnson, hosted her annual fundraiser in Harrisville, Rhode Island. This year's theme was "Dance for a CURE;" over 400 attendees enjoyed an evening of dancing, a raffle and a silent auction. The highlight of the evening was when Deb Siravo presented CURE, with a generous donation to further epilepsy research. Deb, with her husband, Richard, founded the Matthew Siravo Memorial Foundation in memory of their son, Matthew. Each winter the foundation hosts the Snow Angel Ball to raise funds to promote epilepsy awareness and research, and this year the Ball was held in Warwick, Rhode Island and proceeds were donated to CURE.

Cookies for CURE

This year, each classroom at Assumption Academy in Fairfield, Connecticut selected a worthwhile cause for a group project. The students in Paula Sobolewski's kindergarten class are raising funds for CURE. Twice a month, students purchase cookies baked by Paula's husband, Ricky. Proceeds from the cookie sales and a future cookbook featuring all of the recipes used will go to CURE.



Paula Sobolewski and her kindergarten students

CURE

Citizens United for Research in

EPILEPSY

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Chicago, IL 60610

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FX: 312.255.1809

www.CUREepilepsy.org

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Letters of Intent for the 2008 funding cycle are due on Monday, September 17, 2007.

OUR MISSION

Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy (CURE) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to finding a cure for epilepsy by raising funds for research and by increasing awareness of the prevalence and devastation of this disease.

3 MILLION AMERICANS 50 MILLION WORLDWIDE

HOPERESEARCHCURE

Founded in 1998 by mothers of children with epilepsy, CURE's success is a direct result of the passion and dedication of families and volunteers around the country. To get involved email info@CUREepilepsy.org.