

OFF THE LEASH FOR EPILEPSY

We would like to thank all of our sponsors, contributors, speakers, and volunteers for their commitment to our Off the Leash fundraiser in November. The fundraiser was a huge success in raising both awareness to the community about epilepsy and funding for the programs and services the Epilepsy Foundation of MS provides for clients.



NEW STAFF

The Epilepsy Foundation of MS would like to extend a warm welcome to Kristin Lape, our newest staff member to join our team. Kristin is from Waveland, MS, and a graduate of Mississippi State University. She has recently married Brent Lape, art director at Mojoloco, LLC in Brandon, MS. Kristin will be over our education and client services department and brings a personal side to this position. She has recently reached the 2 year mark of being seizure free after having brain surgery in December 2006. She has lived with seizures for over 20 years and has a great passion in helping others with epilepsy.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TBA

Legislative Day
MS State Capitol

First Monday of every month at 6:30 pm

Tupelo Epilepsy Support Group Meeting
All Saints Episcopal Church
608 West Jefferson St.
Tupelo, MS

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

12:00 Noon
Board Meeting
Flowood Library

Saturday, March 28, 2009

The National Walk for Epilepsy
Washington, D.C.

March 29-31, 2009

Public Policy Institute—Kids Speak Up!
Washington, D.C.

June 2-6, 2008

Alvin P. Flannes Summer Camp
Camp Wesley Pines
Gallman, MS

KIDS SPEAK UP!

Mahogney Ivory of Meridian has been chosen by a panel from the national office to attend Kids Speak Up in Washington, D.C. We are happy to have her representing MS and our children who live with epilepsy daily. She will be bringing a



great attitude to Washington and sharing with our congressmen and women what she goes through in dealing with her epilepsy and continuing to be a kid.



Department of Mental Health Funding Acknowledgement

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FDA APPROVES RUFINAMIDE AS ADJUNCTIVE TREATMENT FOR LENNOX-GASTAUT SYNDROME

Eisai Corporation of North America, announced on November 14th that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved BANZEL™ (rufinamide) for the adjunctive treatment of seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (LGS) in children 4 years and older and adults. BANZEL is a triazole derivative that is structurally unrelated to currently marketed antiepileptic drugs (AEDs). It is believed to exert its effect by regulating the activity of sodium channels in the brain which carry excessive electrical charges that may cause seizures.

A double-blind, placebo-controlled pivotal study of LGS patients treated with BANZEL as adjunctive

therapy showed a 42.5 percent median reduction in frequency of drop attacks, seizures compared with a 1.4 percent median increase for placebo-treated patients. LGS is one of the most severe forms of childhood epilepsy and characterized by multiple and frequent seizures. Children usually experience the onset of LGS between the ages of 1 and 5 years old. LGS accounts for 1 to 4 percent of all childhood epilepsy cases; approximately 300,000 children under the age of 14 in the U.S. have epilepsy. The condition is difficult to treat, with patients often taking multiple AEDs in attempts to control the seizures.

UCB'S VIMPAT® (LACOSAMIDE) APPROVED BY FDA AS ADD-ON THERAPY FOR PARTIAL ONSET SEIZURES IN ADULTS

UCB recently announced that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Vimpat® (lacosamide), a new antiepileptic drug (AED). Vimpat® is approved for use as an add-on therapy for the treatment of partial-onset seizures in people with epilepsy who are 17 years and older. In preclinical studies, Vimpat® has also been shown to bind to the collapsin response mediator protein-2 (CRMP-2), an important target that affects the way that nerves differentiate and grow. The precise nature of the interaction between Vimpat® and CRMP-2 and between CRMP-2 and seizure control is not known.

Patients began experiencing a reduction in seizures during the titration phase and maintained or improved seizure control throughout the studies. The

most common side effects reported in these trials included double vision, headache, dizziness and nausea. More than half of the patients completing the clinical trials opted to continue treatment, some for as long as five years. Vimpat® will be designated a controlled substance. The recommended classification is still under review by authorities, however this is expected to be finalized in early 2009 at which time Vimpat® will be available in U.S. pharmacies. At the end of August 2008, the European Commission approved Vimpat® for the adjunctive treatment of partial onset seizures with or without secondary generalization in patients with epilepsy, age 16 and over. In September Vimpat® was launched in Germany and the UK with other European countries to follow in the coming months.

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Office Numbers: 601-936-5222 or 1-800-898-0291

The Epilepsy Foundation of Mississippi needs your help. The Foundation provides assistance to over 50,000 Mississippians living with seizure disorders.

Please remember the Epilepsy Foundation and the people we serve by making a **tax deductible** gift. Your donation will assist with emergency medication or summer camp for a child, and help continue the educational programs and services we provide for people with epilepsy in Mississippi.

_____ I want to support the Epilepsy Foundation of MS programs/services

_____ I want to contribute to the Dr. Victor G. Dostrow Emergency Medication Fund

_____ Enclosed is my contribution of \$

_____ I would like to become a member of the Epilepsy Foundation with my annual gift of **\$25.00**.

Please Print

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Thank you for your support!

EFM Mission

The Epilepsy Foundation of Mississippi is a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention and cure of seizure disorders, the alleviation of their effects and the promotion of independence and optimal quality of life for people with epilepsy. The Foundation seeks to accomplish this mission through education, research, advocacy and direct client services.

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