

MAY 2007

Gene Therapy goes into Phase 2

Since there is currently no cure for Parkinson's disease, those in the advanced stage of the disease begin to run out of effective therapeutic options. CERE-120, made by Ceregene, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company, may have the ability to offer measurable and lasting benefit after a single treatment.

CERE-120 is composed of an adeno-associated virus (AAV) vector that carries the gene for neurturin (NTN), a naturally occurring protein known to repair damaged and dying dopamine-secreting nerve cells, keeping them alive and functioning normally. Neurturin is a member of the same protein family as glial cell-derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF) which has proven to be essential for the survival of nerve cells.

After encouraging data from the Phase 1 trial of CERE-120 (twelve patients had a 35-40 percent reduction in Parkinson's symptoms six to twelve months after being treated) a double blind controlled Phase 2 clinical trial is now enrolling 51 patients with moderate Parkinson's disease.

Two-thirds of those enrolling will receive CERE-120 using stereotactic neurosurgery to deliver the drug into their putamen—a region of the brain affected in Parkinson's. One-third will be in the control group and receive sham surgery. Patients will be followed for 12 months for safety and efficacy.

From the preclinical and early clinical data, it is hoped that this therapy may not only have the ability to improve the symptoms of Parkinson's disease, but also treat the underlying disease and slow its progression.

The Parkinson's Disease Center at Baylor College of Medicine has been chosen as one of the eight clinical sites to participate in this trial. For more information contact Lina Shinawi at 713-798-5519.

HAPS Annual Symposium 2007 sponsored by TEVA Neuroscience

Houston Area Parkinson Society presented its fifteenth annual Educational Symposium in recognition of Parkinson's Awareness month on Saturday, April 21st at the United Way's Jesse H. Jones Community Resource Center. The event was generously underwritten by TEVA Neuroscience with breakfast provided by Home Instead Senior Care. HAPS Board and staff members welcomed nearly two-hundred people who browsed the resource exhibits and filled the auditorium of this state of the arts facility to hear medical experts from the community speak about the latest trends in treatment approaches to Parkinson's.

A BIG thank you to our 2007 Symposium sponsors

Home Instead
Senior Care



Vernalis
Pharmaceuticals



Dr. Eugene Lai, professor of Neurology at Baylor College of Medicine and Director of the Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Center at the Veterans Affairs Hospital, spoke about non-motor symptoms of PD including sleep disturbances, pain, speech disorders and autonomic dysfunctions, and discussed related treatment approaches.

Jeff Sherer, PharmD, MPH, who is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Sciences and Administration at U of H College of Pharmacy and a pharmacy specialist at St. Luke's Hospital, presented information on PD medications.

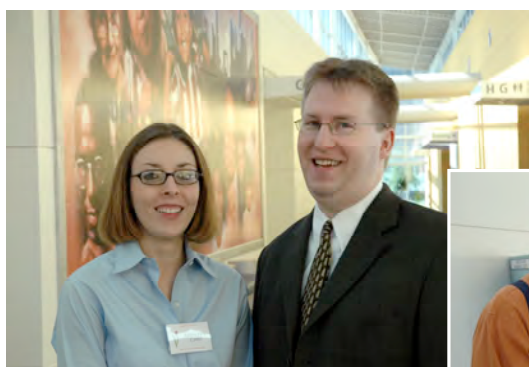
Dr. Sherer spoke about traditional medications as well as recent advances in medicinal treatment for Parkinson's, in addition to addressing the subject of over the counter medications and interaction precautions.

HAPS Annual Symposium - 2007 -

Dr. Christopher Kenney, Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurology at Baylor College of Medicine, focused on the accompanying mental health issues that people living with PD may experience and talked about various therapies that have proven beneficial. Dr. Kenney emphasized the importance of recognizing mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, compulsive behavior, cognitive impairment and psychosis in individuals with PD, and the importance of working with the physician to find the appropriate treatment.

To wrap up the day, Dr. Mya Schiess, Professor in the Department of Neurology and Director of UT Medical School Movement Disorders and Neurodegenerative Disorders Clinic and Dr. Erin Furr-Stimming, also of UT Medical School Movement Disorders and Neurodegenerative Disorders Clinic, held a question and answer session with symposium participants. The Q & A provided the group with an opportunity to “ask the doctor” specific questions.

Participants left the day’s event with comprehensive knowledge on the newest PD treatment and research, as well as information and resources from TEVA Neuroscience, Home Instead Senior Care, Alzheimer’s Association, Care for Elders, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center Parkinson’s Disease Research, Education and Clinical Center, RIDES, Medtronic, Valeant Pharmaceuticals and Vernalis Pharmaceuticals.



HAPS Director of Social Services, Kathleen Crist welcomes Dr. Jeff Sherer



HAPS Executive Director, Anne Martin and Board members, Sneed Lary and Dr. Terry Satterwhite



Dr. Furr-Stimming, Dr. Mya Schiess and Kathleen Crist



Symposium participants visit with Kathleen Crist



Dr. Christopher Keeney, Dr. Eugene Lai and HAPS Board President, Aubrey Calvin



Symposium participants leave with tulip centerpiece prize

HAPS Welcomes New Medical Advisory Board



**Dr. Terry Satterwhite and
Dr. Madhureeta Achari**

On March 27th, Houston Area Parkinson Society proudly launched its newly formed Medical Advisory Committee by hosting a “Meet and Greet” at Trevisio in the Medical Center. Physicians from the medical community shared conversation and refreshments while celebrating the formation of this outstanding team. The evening was generously underwritten by Medtronic.

HAPS welcomes Dr. Erin Furr-Stimming and Dr. William R. Leighton as the newest members of the Medical Advisory Committee.

HAPS Medical Advisory Committee

Chair, Richard K. Simpson, Jr. M.D, Ph.D., F.A.C.S.

Madhureeta Achari, M.D.
Leanne Burnett, M.D.
Ranjit Chacko, M.D.
Steve Croft, M.D.
Edward Escobar, D.O.
Stanley Fisher, M.D.
Robert Grossman, M.D.
Cindy Invanhoe, M.D.

Joseph Jankovic, M.D.
Teresa Kaldis, M.D.
Christopher Kenney, M.D.
Eugene Lai, M.D., Ph.D.
William R. Leighton, M.D.
Kimberly Monday, M.D.
William Ondo, M.D.
E. Lee Poythress, M.D.

Terry Satterwhite, M.D.
Mya Schiess, M.D.
Joohi Shahed, M.D.
Erin Furr-Stimming, M.D.
Ron Tintner, M.D.
Gage Van Horn III, M.D.
Michelle York, Ph.D.

Advocacy Awareness Day in Austin



HAPS social workers, Kathleen Crist and Celeste Guerrero met Advocacy Chairs, Nina and Joe Brown, in Austin April 3, 2007 to promote Parkinson Awareness.

Before the group began their visits to the legislators, with packets explaining what it is like to live with Parkinson’s, Representative Byron Cook came to speak to the advocates that had come from all over the state. Representative Cook explained how much consideration legislators give to calls and faxes on issues and how important it is to make your voices heard.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Your donation is much appreciated. Your thoughtfulness helps HAPS continue to provide much needed services to people with Parkinson's and their families.

GIFTS

Mya Schiess, M.D.
Cardenas Family
Mary A. Young
Mary Phillips
Patricia Fuller

F. Kenneth Rogers
Ramona Heard
Mr. & Mrs. Issac Kerridge
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Locheed

Mr. & Mrs. Carlos San Miguel
Marty File
Alice Smith
Alberta Pavelko

IN HONOR OF

Esther Bermann's Birthday

Edie Orlin
Barbara Sadof

Diane Newman

Elaine Heller
Selma Leiber

IN MEMORY OF

Robert White

Kelia Ballou
Marjorie Treadway
Earline Williamson

John Hayes

Susan & Joe Johnston
Joseph Bennett

Annarose Scharck

Dan M. Leonard

Alfonso Stewart

Mr. & Mrs. Marion Skains
Lee Fabling
Julia Theiss
Leigh Sickler

Bob Sims

Jay & Susan Graham
Bonnie & Stanley Deming
Lynley & Michael Allen

Neva Hodge Pettit

Sheila Keating

Louise Henckel on her Birthday

Diana E. James

Christian A. Weirich

Hattie Weirich
Allan Garner
Ann G. Roberts

Israel Louis Schwartz

Sara Lerner
Mr. & Mrs. Marty Mintzer
Russell Barnett
Mu Alpha Chapter
of Delta Kappa Gamma
Andra P. Chon
Ellen Milstead
Marilyn & Babe Schwartz
CCISD Special Education Staff
Susan M. Edmondson
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Sklar
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Kantor

William Howard Derrickson

Thomas Meadows
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Hathaway

Carl Galloway

James Edward Horne
T. F. Hurr
Annie Rae Whisler
Mr. & Mrs. William S. O'Donnell
Cliff Crabtree
Laura Rackham

Eliza Cassels

Maxine Meyers
Mandana Katz
Janice Peters

In Memory of John Henry

Jalaine & Gary Shirley

Joseph Bayard

Ann Murdock

DeWeese Campbell

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Mecom

Your donations are tax deductible

**Three things in life that, are once gone, never come back:
time, words and opportunity.**

HAPS HAPPENINGS

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Mr. Aubrey Calvin

Vice President/Secretary: Ms. Nina P. Brown

VP/Treasurer: Mr. M. Sneed Lary

Assistant Treasurer: Ms. Liz Lary

Mr. M. Louis Bernell

Mrs. Ted (*June*) Bowen

Mr. Joe A. Brown

Mr. Robert Casey

Mr. Ted Gilbreath

Ms. Kathy Grady

Mrs. Robert (*Ellin*) Grossman, Ph.D.

Ms. Mary Hart

Eugene C. Lai, M.D., Ph.D.

Mr. Quin McWhirter

Mrs. Quin (*Marti*) McWhirter

Mr. George Puig

Ms. Koyne D. Smith, Esq.

ADVISORY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Honorable Chris Bell

Dr. Leanne Burnett

Mr. Roy H. Cullen

Mr. Robert Cruikshank

Mrs. Robin (*Virginia*) Elverson

Mr. John E. Hankey

Ms. Harriet Hart

Mr. John O. Hawkins

Mrs. Truett (*Harriet*) Latimer

Mr. Robert A. Martone

Mr. W. O. Neuhaus, III

Mr. Malcolm Pettigrew

Mr. Jeff Rosenberg

Mrs. Henry (*Marion*) Rosenwald

Dr. Terry Satterwhite

Ambassador Arthur Schechter

Mrs. Joyce Proler Schechter

Mr. Malcolm Slatko

Ms. Patricia Temple

Mrs. Horace (*Mary Lee*) Thomas

STAFF

Mrs. L.A. (Anne) Martin, Executive Director

Mrs. Anne Thobae, Director of Development

Mr. Alfonso Hernandez, Director of Therapeutic Services

Ms. Kathleen Crist, LMSW, Director of Social Services

Ms. Celeste Guerrero, LMSW, Social Worker

HAPS HAPPENINGS is published monthly by the Houston Area Parkinson Society

Editor: Nina P. Brown