CAPITAL AREA PARKINSON'S SOCIETY

(512) 371-3373
www.capitalareaparkinsons.org
APRIL 2009

CAPS MONTHLY MEETING

April presents: Parkinson's Awareness Month
Plummer Movement Disorders Center - We Care!
Dr. Joohi Jimenez-Shahed, M.D.
Co-Director of PMDC and Director of DBS Program
Patricia Simpson, MHSM, RN, BSN
CCRC/PMDC Manager
Christina Herff, LMSW

The Plummer Movement Disorders Center (PMDC) delivers specialized, interdisciplinary services for referred patients with movement disorders. As a National Parkinson's Foundation designated Care Center, we specialize in working with Parkinson's disease patients and their care partners. Our specialists' priorities focus on comprehensive care, educational outreach and research.

We offer our gratitude to Medtronic Neurological who will be providing our wonderful lunch!

Seton Hospital Medical Center Austin is located at 1201 West 38th St. Access to the McFadden Auditorium is located on the ground floor, across from the Emergency Room entrance at the back of the building. Parking is FREE; CAPS will validate your garage ticket.

CARE PARTNERS SUPPORT GROUP

Dawn Lakamsani is coordinating the Quarterly Care Partners Support Group. The difference between this group and the others is that it is focused on the care partner. The FIRST meeting will be held on Saturday, April 25th at 2p.m. in the AGE building located at 3710 Cedar Street, off of 38th St. During the meeting, we will discuss and plan times and locations for future meetings. Please email Dawn Lakamsani with any questions at dawn@seniioritycounseling.com.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have not yet paid your yearly membership dues, please pay the $15 at the April meeting or send a check to:
Parsons House Austin
Attn: CAPS
1130 Camino La Costa, Ste. 320
Austin, TX 78752.

TEXAS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

CAPS members Maxine Jenks and Lorraine Chammah serve on the Board of Texans for the Advancement Medical Research. This Houston based organization supports all forms of stem cell research for the express purpose of curing disease and alleviating suffering. On March 10th, Maxine, Lorraine and CAPS member Earl Dumitru testified in front of the Senate's Health and Human Services Committee on Senate Bill 73, which proposes the establishment of an adult stem cell research program in Texas. More information is available at the following websites:

Texans for Advancement of Medical Research (TAMR): An organization of scientists, physicians, ethicists, leading health groups, and individuals who support biomedical research. www.txamr.org

Texas Legislature Online: Provides information on legislation, committees, house, and senate. www.legis.state.tx.us

To our great disappointment, a rider to Budget Bill SB1 was added that will ban state funding of embryonic stem cell research. This is a real setback. We hope to have the rider removed before the bill leaves committee. If not, we will fight the rider at every step.

PARKINSON'S ACTION NETWORK (PAN) LOBBY CONGRESS

Representatives of PAN from all parts of the United States and several foreign countries met in Washington D.C. on March 15th for the 15th Annual PAN Forum on the treatment of Parkinson's disease. This group included ten members from Texas.

The Forum sponsored teams to visit 280 congressional offices to provide information and to gain support for pending legislation dealing with issues relating to Parkinson's, including:

1. Dear Colleague legislation which requests $55 million for the Department of Defense Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment Parkinson's Research (NETPR). The Dear Colleague Letter currently does not have a bill number for the Senate.

2. Co-sponsoring of the National M.S. and Parkinson's Disease Registration Act. This bill is scheduled to come up in the Senate this session and then later in the House of Representatives (HR.1362).

3. Joining the Bicameral Congressional Caucus on Parkinson's Disease. While it is too early for a final tally, it appears we have 25 additional co-sponsors for the M.S. and Parkinson's Disease Registry legislation. This will bring the total to 46, along with seven new members of the Parkinson's Disease Caucus and 20 new signatories on the NETPR.

We are hoping that more of us can be a part of PAN, continuing to work in the future, pushing for research and clinical trials, so as to make Parkinson's disease a thing of the past.

- Information provided by Kitty Hoskins