

# THE CONSORTIUM CONNECTION

## National VA Epilepsy Consortium Newsletter

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[www.epilepsy.va.gov](http://www.epilepsy.va.gov)



## An Overview of the National VA Epilepsy Consortium

The National VA Epilepsy Consortium is a network of VA physicians, nurses, therapists, pharmacists, and other allied healthcare providers with interest and expertise in improving the health and well-being of Veteran patients with epilepsy and related seizure disorders through the integration of clinical care, education, and research across the VA healthcare system.

The goal of the National VA Epilepsy Consortium is to support the delivery of optimal care through professional education, collaboration, and

peer support across the collective VA Healthcare System. All interested VA clinicians, including epileptologists, neurologists, gerontologists, general internists, practitioners, and other allied health professionals who serve Veterans with epilepsy and related seizure disorders are invited to participate. Together with the Epilepsy Centers of Excellence (ECoE), the National VA Epilepsy Consortium will create a hub and spoke model of care across the VA Healthcare System, expanding and streamlining the referral

network for specialized epilepsy treatment, advanced neuro-diagnostics, and surgical evaluation. The National VA Epilepsy Consortium will ensure accessibility and continuity of specialized care for Veterans regardless of locality, broadening the impact of the ECoE network.

Clinicians who serve Veterans with epilepsy and related seizure disorders are invited to register as a National VA Epilepsy Consortium Member. Visit <http://www.epilepsy.va.gov/consortium> for more information.

## Benefits of National VA Epilepsy Consortium Membership

The National VA Epilepsy Consortium serves as a direct link to 16 ECoE sites staffed by epilepsy specialists or neurology clinicians. The consortium provides professional collaboration and educational offerings in epilepsy care.

### Provider Education

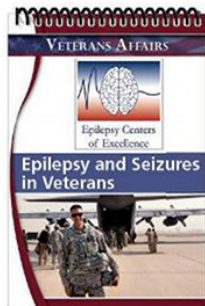
Consortium member are provided with a suite of educational materials and opportunities for their professional development.

**Provider Education Audio Conference** - Audio conferences occur every other month. Find the 2014 Provider Education Audio Conference calendar on page 2 of this newsletter.

**Mini Residency** - The ECoE will host mini residencies for neurologists interested in hands-on training with an ECoE epilepsy specialist.

### Patient Education

The ECoE offers information and learning opportunities for patients and caregivers.



**Epilepsy and Seizures in Veterans QuickSeries Handbook** - This pocket guide is available to consortium members and their Veteran patients with epilepsy.

**Patient and Caregiver Education Audio Conference** - Audio conferences occur every other month. Find the 2014 Patient and Caregiver Education Audio Conference calendar on page 2 of this newsletter.

### Annual Consortium Reception

The ECoE hosts a face-to-face meeting annually in conjunction with national society meetings. This networking opportunity allows members to meet their colleagues and the ECoE team.

### Epilepsy Monitoring Unit Resources

For consortium sites with Epilepsy Monitoring Units, the ECoE has produced a *Safety in the EMU* training video for nurses. This video along with other helpful resources can be found at <http://www.epilepsy.va.gov/nursing/>

### National VA Epilepsy Consortium Workgroup Audio Call

Members providing more comprehensive epilepsy services can assist in the development of clinical processes and procedures by participating in the National VA Epilepsy Consortium Workgroup. This group will meet to discuss best practices.

## Epilepsy Awareness Purple Day is March 26th



The Anita Kaufmann Foundation is a Global Sponsor of Purple Day. In a show of solidarity, the SFVAMC ECoE will be wearing purple ribbons and ECoE pins. These awareness ribbons will be mailed to ECoE and Consortium sites. So, join the movement! On **March 26th**, wear purple and spread the word about epilepsy.

**Heads Up for Vets** is a collaboration between The Anita Kaufmann Foundation and the Department of Veterans Affairs Epilepsy Centers of Excellence. Learn more at [www.epilepsy.va.gov/ECoE\\_Kaufmann.asp](http://www.epilepsy.va.gov/ECoE_Kaufmann.asp)

## Welcome New Members



Join us in welcoming our new National VA Epilepsy Consortium members.

- Ikuko Laccheo, MD** - Hunter Holmes McGuire VAMC, Richmond, VA
- Arletha Patterson-McClain, RN** - Oklahoma City VAMC, Oklahoma City, OK
- Divya Singhal, MD** - Oklahoma City VAMC, Oklahoma City, OK
- Edward Maa, MD** - VA Eastern Colorado, Denver, CO
- Viet-Huong Nguyen, Pharm.D.** - VA Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA
- Mary Wen, Pharm.D.** - VA Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA
- Sunita Dergalust, Pharm.D.** - VA Greater LA, Los Angeles, CA
- Hisanori Hasegawa, MD** - Saginaw VAMC, Saginaw, MI
- Frank L. Smith, RN** - VA Puget Sound, Seattle, WA
- Kamala Rodrigues, MD** - VA Palo Alto, Palo Alto, CA

## Husain named Journal of Clinical Neurology Editor-in-Chief



The Epilepsy Centers of Excellence along with the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS) are delighted to announce that Aatif M. Husain, MD has been appointed the next Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Clinical Neurophysiology, the official journal of ACNS. Dr. Husain takes over as editor on February 1, 2014.

Dr. Husain has been an ACNS member since 2005 and will assume the Presidency of the Society at the 2014 Annual Meeting in February. He is currently a Professor in the Department of Neurology at Duke University Medical Center and the director of both the Neurodiagnostic Center and Southeast Epilepsy Center of Excellence at the VA Medical Center in Durham, NC. Dr. Husain is holds board certifications from ABPN, ABCN, ABEM and ABSM.

Congratulations, Dr. Husain!

## Patient and Caregiver Education

### Patient and Caregiver Education Audio Conferences

Sponsored by the Epilepsy Centers of Excellence & Employee Education System  
Patients, caregivers, and anyone interested in learning more about epilepsy and seizures are welcome to call in.

Dial-in: 1-855-767-1051 Access Code: 81024195  
1:00-2:00 PM Eastern Time  
10:00-11:00 AM Pacific Time

- April 3, 2014** – Epilepsy Medication”  
Tung Tran, MD - Durham VAMC
- June 5, 2014** – “Living Well With Epilepsy”  
Patricia Banks, RN - Cleveland VAMC
- August 7, 2014** – “Mental Health and Epilepsy”  
Collette Evrard, NP – Portland VAMC



## Educational Opportunities for Providers

### Healthcare Provider Education Audio Conferences

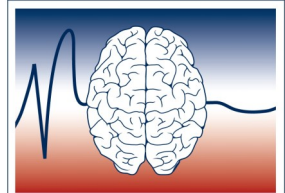
Sponsored by the Epilepsy Centers of Excellence & Employee Education System  
**Provider calls are CME accredited for Physicians and Nurses.**

Dial-in: 1-855-767-1051 Access Code: 81024195  
1:00-2:00 PM Eastern Time  
10:00-11:00 AM Pacific Time

- March 5, 2014** – “Diagnosis and Management of Status Epilepticus”  
Tom Frontera, MD - Tampa VAMC
- May 7, 2014** – “Autoimmune Causes of Epilepsy”  
Manu Hegde, MD – San Francisco VAMC
- July 9, 2014** - “Driving and Epilepsy”  
Allan Krumholz, MD - Baltimore VAMC
- September 10, 2014** – “Epilepsy and Imaging”  
Zulfi Haneef, MD – Houston VAMC

If you have any questions about patient and provider education, contact, Ryan Rieger, National Administrative Director, at 415-221-4810 x4119 or by email at [ryan.rieger@va.gov](mailto:ryan.rieger@va.gov).

## National VA Epilepsy Consortium Newsletter



Epilepsy Centers of Excellence

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

*Improving the health and well being of Veteran patients with epilepsy and other seizure disorders through the integration of clinical care, outreach, research and education.*

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### Helpful Links:

[www.NoMySeizuresKnowMore.com](http://www.NoMySeizuresKnowMore.com)

Get the Right Help at the Right Time

[MyHealthEVet](#)  
[HealthWise Epilepsy Overview](#)

[Human Epilepsy Research Opportunities \(HERO\)](#)  
[epilepsyhero.org](http://epilepsyhero.org)

[Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy \(CURE\)](#)  
[www.CUREpilepsy.org](http://www.CUREpilepsy.org)

### Contact Us:

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*If you would like to submit content to be included in **The Consortium Connection** contact Angela Vargas at [angela.vargas@va.gov](mailto:angela.vargas@va.gov).*



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs