



Q4

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# Child Neurology Foundation Newsletter

## DC Update:



*Speaking at a NORD luncheon on October 13th, Social Security Commissioner Michael Astrue announced that 13 additional medical conditions have just been added to the list of Compassionate Allowances.*



*The Compassionate Allowances Program fast-tracks disability decisions to ensure that Americans with serious disabilities receive their benefit decisions within days instead of months. CN*

## From the desk of President Larry Brown

Here is a riddle for the fall season: what do professional football and child neurology have in common?

For the past 3 years we have been hosting an event for first and second year medical students who have an interest in child neurology. It all started with a meeting with the management of the Philadelphia Eagles to discuss how the team could support the work of the CNF. We came

**“We were  
ahead of the curve”**

with a list of potential ideas for projects from auctioning off autographed sports memorabilia to concussion education, none interested them. Then the discussion turned to head trauma, where we were ahead of the curve (the NFL did not yet recognize head trauma as a public health issue - now they have signs in the locker room to "Use your heads...wisely".)

Around the reading table were 7 executives, of whom 4 had direct contact with child neurolo-

gists from pediatric migraine to ADHD, benign hypotonia and refractory epilepsy. By the end of the meeting we were all agreed that what made CNF special transcended each specific case. Rather, CNF was not only the potential umbrella organization for all conditions affecting the developing nervous system, but also the one organization committed to insuring that there were adequate numbers of well-trained child neurologists. What we really needed was a way of capturing the attention of our most-promising candidates. The outcome: a project to bring 100 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year medical students from all of the schools in the greater Philadelphia area to Eagles training camp.

So, what do professional football and child neurology have in common? Well, not much, except that many, if not most, medical students are fans. In fact, registra-



Kyle Hagerty befriends Swoop

tion for the event sold-out in 24 hours. The students love the opportunity to get behind-the-scenes to see their favorite team in action, and

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## CNF 2011 Infantile Spasms Heroes Award



Once again, in conjunction with I.S. Awareness Week, CNF is proud to announce this year's outstanding family who has helped raise I.S. awareness while also helping the Foundation recognize an outstanding child neurologist. The Kather family wishes to share their award with Dr. Harry Chugani.

“My son Benjamin began having seizures at six months old. I remember being so desperate to

find a physician that would treat my son's condition appropriately. I discovered Dr. Harry



Dr. Harry Chugani, Professor and Chief, Pediatric Neurology with Children's Hospital of Michigan & Rosalie and Bruce Rosen Professor of Neurology with Wayne State University School of Medicine.

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# CNF 2011 Research Award Winners

One of the most important missions of the Child Neurology Foundation is to encourage innovative research by child neurologists, especially those who are early in their careers and who have not yet achieved NIH support. Below are the 2011 CNF Research Award recipients.

## Scientific Research Award

The Foundation recognizes that development of clinician-researchers is critical to the field of child neurology. Impeding this can be the long periods of clinical training that often require newly-trained child neurologists to refresh their scientific skills as they join the faculty. Seed money is important to help young investigators establish independence and gather preliminary data for NIH funding.

*This award is partially funded by the Pediatric Epilepsy Research Foundation*



### **The Scientific Research Award**

**provides two years of funding at \$50,000/year for work by child neurologists early in their career.**

Keith Van Haren, MD, during a one-year pre-doctoral fellowship at Rochester, NY, developed an interest in myelin-based disorders. He then completed his child neurology residency at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital/Stanford University. He has since joined the Stanford faculty. He is interested in congenital and inflammatory disorders of myelin. "I am tremendously honored to receive this award. It will allow me to screen a large number of myelin lipids for antigenic properties using plasma and CSF samples from XALD patients".

## Shields Research Award

The award is supported by the Winokur Family Foundation. A junior faculty member who has developed clinical research skills, and has a plan for further development of that research or has basic science research skills related to child neurology, and who has a plan to translate the new knowledge into clinical care for children with neurologic diseases would be eligible for this award.



### **The Shields Research Award**

**provides two years of funding at \$50,000/year to support translational or clinical research for a child neurologist early in their academic career.**

Dr. Michael Kruer practices general pediatric neurology and maintains subspecialty interests in neurogenetics, movement disorders, and neuroimmunology. His research is focused on the characterization of single gene causes of neurologic disease. I am honored and humbled to be selected for the Shields Award. This will allow studies that can lay the foundation for the development of valuable model systems which may ultimately be used to develop better therapies for this disabling disease."


## Infantile Spasms Research Award

The Foundation is dedicated to furthering scientific research to develop better treatments and ultimately cures for childhood neurologic diseases. In 2009, CNF received funding for I.S. research. The CNF is pleased to continue the award. Recipients will receive a one year planning grant of \$25,000 - \$30,000. While having no input as to the specific research or selection of the investigator, the award is supported by Questcor Pharmaceuticals.



### **Logan Infantile Spasms Research Award**

**provides one year of funding for research specific to Infantile Spasms.**

Due to Dr. Chu-Shore's excellent research results in 2010, CNF determined that she should receive the award for a second year. After completing training at Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. Chu-Shore joined the Pediatric Neurology and Neurophysiology programs where she is studying epileptic encephalopathies, conditions in which the epileptic discharges are thought to contribute to the development of permanent cognitive deficits, even in the absence of overt seizures. 

### **CNF 2012 Award Application Due Dates:**

Applications for **Swaiman Medical Scholarships, Shields; Scientific; and Logan I.S. Research Awards** are all due by March 15, 2012

### **We need Your Help**

Please pledge your commitment to the CNF by making a donation at: [www.childneurologyfoundation.org](http://www.childneurologyfoundation.org)



Kenneth Swaiman, MD  
Founder: CNF & CNS

# Swaiman Medical Scholarship Program

The Child Neurology Foundation has reinstated and renamed the Medical Student Scholarship. The award is now called the Swaiman Medical Scholarship and is supported by Questcor Pharmaceuticals. In 2011, ten (10) 1<sup>st</sup>- and 2<sup>nd</sup>-year medical students were awarded \$3,500 for clinical research in child neurology with the sponsorship of a child neurologist who oversaw their work during the summer. Below are the 2011 scholarship recipients. CNF is grateful to Drs. Garg, Pearl and Schor for their help in selecting these students.



Andrew Look - University of Cincinnati - College of Medicine

I am very excited by the opportunity that I have been given through this scholarship, as it reflects the research I would like to be involved with throughout my career. I feel very privileged to be part of a project with a direct translational application for the treatment of tuberous sclerosis, and to contribute further to field of child neurology.



Anna Larson - University of Minnesota - Massachusetts General Hospital

I am deeply honored to receive the Swaiman Scholarship and am grateful for the opportunity to study pediatric neuro-oncology -- an investigation into the molecular genetic intersection between tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) and chordoma, that may lead to improved understanding and treatment options for both this tumor as well as TSC.



Chu YunXiang - Children's Hospital Boston - Harvard Medical School

I am delighted to receive this scholarship which provides me an opportunity to elucidate the mechanisms of synaptic plasticity and how they may be altered in disorders like autism and schizophrenia. This allows me to combine my interests in neuroscience research and medicine and to strengthen my goals of becoming a physician-scientist.



Karen Law - UCSD School of Medicine - Rady Children's Hospital San Diego, CA

I am extremely thankful for the CNF Swaiman Medical Scholarship, which will allow me to gain excellent experience in both pediatrics and neurology. Furthermore, I hope this research will provide valuable insight in the assessment and treatment of children suffering from perinatal stroke.



Katherine Rose - University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, NY

I am very thankful that the CNF is supporting my research this summer to explore potential cardiac abnormalities in Batten Disease. I am hopeful that my research this summer will provide further insight into the progression of Batten Disease and positively impact the lives of the children with this disease.



Nina Desantis - Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

The Swaiman Medical Scholarship provides me with a wonderful opportunity to enhance research in CNS infection and childhood epilepsy while exploring my interest in the field of neurology. I am very grateful to the Child Neurology Foundation for this honor.



Ozzie Toy - The Commonwealth Medical College, Scranton, PA

I am honored and grateful to receive this scholarship which will enable me to conduct a project to better understand the interaction between prenatal exposure to cocaine and human iso forms of brain-derived neurotrophic factors in contributing to developmental alterations of GABAergic interneurons.



Tina Chen - Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

I am extremely grateful for the Child Neurology Foundation for providing me the opportunity to conduct research in the field of pediatric neurology. This will be my first clinical research project, which I hope will provide valuable insight towards understanding the abnormal neurophysiology behind Tourette Syndrome.



Regina Triplett - University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

The Swaiman Medical Scholarship provides me with the support I need to begin my training as a clinician scientist. I am excited to start exploring pediatric epilepsy, an area in which so many of our questions remain unanswered, using techniques from the developing field of functional neuroimaging.



YeonJung Park - University of Florida College of Medicine

I am very thankful to the CNF for providing me the opportunity to engage in research in pediatric neurology this summer. My project, which proposes to map brain networks in children with temporal lobe epilepsy, will lead to future clinical treatments that will target the biological basis of cognitive dysfunction in these children.

Dr Shellhaas con't.

Chugani at Children's Hospital of Michigan. My initial email received a reply within an hour.

Ever since, Benjamin has been seizure free. He runs, laughs, climbs on the kitchen counter, talks up a storm, plays with his older brother, and gives some of the best hugs and kisses. I owe this miracle to the dedication, devotion, and knowledge of Dr. Harry Chugani. He embodies all that is an I.S. hero". -Emily Kather

"I am humbled and honored to receive the I.S. Heroes Award. I.S. is such a devastating, but treatable disorder, that we (physicians) have to go that extra mile to make these children better.

I'd like to thank the CNF for all of their efforts to increase awareness and understanding of infantile spasms. I'd also like to thank Questcor Pharmaceuticals for their support for these initiatives and for their support of research into the underlying causes of I.S."

- Dr Harry Chugani 

## Breaking News....

**The 2012 Mardi Gras ...** is Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup> in Minneapolis

### The Perfect Gift

Our upcoming Runway Show features the perfect gift. Even if you can't attend our Runway show, purchase a raffle ticket for a chance at a \$1000 custom Christopher Straub Purse



### ChildNeuroNet Born

www.childneuronet.org plans soft launch at CNS Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 in Savanna, GA

### CNF Site Gets New Look

Child Neurology Foundation website has a new look and will be more responsive to visitors at www.childneurologyfoundation.org

### CNF a Supporter of ADHD Awareness Week

Learn the facts about ADHD and the events through their Awareness Week (Oct 16-22) at: www.adhdawarenessweek.org



From the desk of Lawrence Brown con't.

we get the opportunity to tell them about the excitement and challenges of the field. In our private tent elite players fielded questions, took pictures and signed autographs. Families of



patients were invited to speak at lunch who have experienced neurological diseases in which child neurologists have made a positive difference. This year we had two 16 year olds, one of whom had a stroke caused by an AVM, and the other who underwent successful epilepsy surgery last year. Defensive tackle Mike Patterson graciously answered questions, signed autographs and met his young counterpart at lunch.

And what did our future child neurologists have to say? One wrote "I had a great time. I continue to be very interested in pediatric neurology and it was nice to learn even more about the field from Dr. Waldman on the bus ride and from all of the speakers at training camp." and "...I will continue to bring you and the CNF up every time I speak with anyone interested in neurology."

To all of you around the country reading this: If you are interested in replicating this successful project, we have a "play book" for you with a simple, streamlined process -- please contact me.



Go EAGLES. Go CNF.

Thank you,

*Lawrence W. Brown MD*

Lawrence W. Brown, MD  
President

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## CNF Mission

**ADVOCATE**  
for children and adolescents with neurologic and developmental disorders

**FUND**  
neurologic research of young investigators

**PROMOTE**  
awareness of career opportunities in child neurology

**PROVIDE**  
public, professional, & patient education programs

**SUPPORT**  
the activities & mission of the Child Neurology Society