All in the Family: A Genetic Link Between Epilepsy and Migraine

Melodie R. Winawer, Robert Connors, and the EPGP Investigators. Epilepsia

New research reveals a shared genetic susceptibility to epilepsy and migraine. Findings published in Epilepsia, a journal of the International League Against Epilepsy, indicate that having a strong family history of seizure disorders increases the chance of having migraine with aura (MA).

Medical evidence has established that migraine and epilepsy often co-occur in patients; this co-occurrence is called “comorbidity.” Previous studies have found that people living with epilepsy are substantially more likely than the general population to have migraine headache. However, it is not clear whether that comorbidity results from a shared genetic cause.

“Epilepsy and migraine are each individually influenced by genetic factors,” explains lead author Dr. Melodie Winawer from Columbia University Medical Center in New York. “Our study is the first to confirm a shared genetic susceptibility to epilepsy and migraine in a large population of patients with common forms of epilepsy.”

For the present study, Dr. Winawer and colleagues analyzed data collected from participants in the Epilepsy Phenome/Genome Project (EPGP)—a genetic study of epilepsy patients and families from 27 clinical centers in the US, Canada, Argentina, Australia, and New Zealand. The study examined one aspect of EPGP: sibling and parent-child pairs with focal epilepsy or generalized epilepsy of unknown cause. Most people with epilepsy have no family members affected with epilepsy. EPGP was designed to look at those rare families with more than one individual with epilepsy, in order to increase the chance of finding genetic causes of epilepsy.

Analysis of 730 participants with epilepsy from 501 families demonstrated that the prevalence of MA—when additional symptoms, such as blind spots or flashing lights, occur prior to the headache pain—was substantially increased when there were several individuals in the family with seizure disorders. EPGP study participants with epilepsy who had three or more additional close relatives with a seizure disorder were more than twice as likely to experience MA than patients from families with fewer individuals with seizures. In other words, the stronger the genetic effect on epilepsy in the family, the higher the rates of MA. This result provides evidence that a gene or genes exist that cause both epilepsy and migraine.

Identification of genetic contributions to the comorbidity of epilepsy with other disorders, like migraine, has implications for epilepsy patients. Prior research has shown that co-existing conditions impact the quality of life, treatment success, and mortality of epilepsy patients, with some experts suggesting that these comorbidities may have a greater impact on patients than the seizures themselves. In fact, comorbid conditions are emphasized in the National Institutes of Health Epilepsy Research Benchmarks and in a recent report on epilepsy from the Institute of Medicine.

“Our study demonstrates a strong genetic basis for migraine and epilepsy, because the rate of migraine is increased only in people who have close (rather than distant) relatives with epilepsy and only when three or more family members are affected,” concludes Dr. Winawer. “Further investigation of the genetics of groups of comorbid disorders and
epilepsy will help to improve the diagnosis and treatment of these comorbidities, and enhance the quality of life for those with epilepsy.”

Research led by Dr. Melodie Winawer from Columbia University Medical Center in New York and published in Epilepsia, a journal of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE).

**BC Association of Broadcasters Humanitarian Award**

In early April, we received the great news that our Society was selected as the 2013-2014 recipient of the British Columbia Association of Broadcasters (BCAB) Humanitarian Award.

Established in 1980, the Humanitarian Award was created to provide charities with a distribution network to communicate their message.

BCAB recognizes the need to broadcast information that has a positive impact on all British Columbians and as such, offers significant television and radio airtime free of charge through the Humanitarian Award. Millions of people see and hear these messages and the BCAB welcomes the opportunity to provide such a worthwhile service.

Virtually every private TV and radio station runs a full 52-week advertising schedule. Collectively, BC broadcasters donate millions of dollars in advertising, ensuring that the recipient of the Humanitarian Award receives significant exposure across the province.

We’re very proud that we will be able to have our recent public service announcement, “You Can’t Swallow Your Tongue” broadcast across the province.

Thank you broadcasters of BC for your belief in our messages!

**Fifth Annual 5K Poker Walk**

Come out and join volunteers and staff from the BC Epilepsy Society as they participate in Cindy’s 5K Poker Walk on Sunday, May 26th in Vancouver. The Walk starts at 8:30 am sharp. Breakfast is served to all the participants at the end of the Walk.

During the Poker Walk you will collect a playing card at each kilometre point in the event and at the end you take your five cards to the BC Epilepsy Society tent at the finish line. The best poker hands will win great prizes from Lions Gate Road Runners.

You can collect pledges in support of the many programs, resources, and services of the Society. Please contact any of the staff in our office at 604-875-6704 for details and to get your pledge forms. All walkers who collect over $1,000 in pledges will receive great prizes.

You can register at www.lgrr.com/shaughnessy.

The walkers are all smiles in the sunshine knowing a big breakfast and great prizes await them at the end of the Walk.
Eight Scholarships Available Again This Year

Once again the BC Epilepsy Society will be awarding scholarships to post-secondary students in BC living with epilepsy. These are for the 2013-2014 school year.

These $1,000 scholarships will be awarded to up to eight students who are members of our Society and who complete the scholarship application form that will be available on our website in late April, or through the Society office.

The deadline for application is June 30, 2012 and the recipients will be announced at the end of July. If you have any questions about this year’s scholarships, please contact Shawn Laari at 604-875-6704.

Annual General Meeting Update

On April 15th, the BC Epilepsy Society hosted its Annual General Meeting for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2012.

Cyrus Irani, Carmen Ekelund, Dr. Sherrill Purves, and John Stiver were elected to two-year terms on the Board of Directors.

At the meeting, our membership also voted to adopt a new set of bylaws that reflect the current needs of the Society.

Our Treasurer, Cyrus Irani, reported that our auditors, Johannesson & Company, had delivered a fiscal year end audit with no issues.

Partners in Teaching

Most people with or even without epilepsy feel that the public does not know enough about it. Therefore to increase understanding and awareness about epilepsy the BC Epilepsy Society offers free educational workshops as part of our Partners in Teaching program.

These workshops include information about the different types of seizures, seizure first aid, and how to support people in with epilepsy in their day-to-day lives.

We are now a regular presenter in the special education assistant and/or early childhood educator programs at Douglas College, Vancouver Community College, Langara College, and Burnaby Community and Continuing Education.

Susan Clarke from RBC Royal Bank presents Society Executive Director Shawn Laari with a cheque for $10,000, their eight grant in nine years in support of the Partners in Teaching program, and the largest to date.
A special highlight this spring was doing workshops for grade four students at Queen Mary Elementary and medical students from UBC as part of Epilepsy Awareness Month activities.

This education will support them in their further endeavours, whether it be supporting a classmate with epilepsy or caring for a patient who has it.

For more information about our educational workshops, please contact Elvira Balakshin at 604-875-6704 Ext. 11 or at outreach@bcepilepsy.com

Kids Up Front

The BC Epilepsy Society is starting its second year of partnership with Kids Up Front Vancouver, a charitable organization that provides access to arts, culture, recreation, and sports for kids who otherwise would not have these opportunities.

Anyone can donate unused tickets to Kids Up Front, which in turn distributes them to partner agencies such as the BC Epilepsy Society to encourage mentoring and family bonding.

Childhood and adolescence are important periods from many developmental perspectives: physical, psychological, emotional, and cognitive. It’s during this time that kids establish their value systems, learn to engage with others, and develop self-esteem.

By supporting children who normally don’t have access to leisure activities and family outings, Kids Up Front make these events possible.

Tickets are available throughout the year! If you are interested, please contact Marilyn Sakiyama at the BC Epilepsy Society office at info@bcepilepsy.com or 604-875-6704.
Camp Subsidies

If you have a child who would like to attend a fully accessible camp this summer, you have plenty to choose from and we’ll help you with either a subsidy towards your child’s camp fees or a transportation allowance to get them to camp and back.

Three Easter Seals camps are in Winfield in the Okanagan, in Squamish, an hour north of Vancouver, and at Shawnigan Lake on Vancouver Island. Camp Eureka is a new camp also located in Squamish, and the Zajac Ranch is located at Stave Lake near Mission in the Fraser Valley.

This is the 10th year we’ve been able to provide subsidies to families. If you have any questions, please contact any of the staff at the BC Epilepsy Society at 604-875-6704 or by email at info@bcepilepsy.com.

New Neurologists in BC

We wanted to let you know that there are two new neurologists in BC who specialize in epilepsy.

Dr. Chantelle Hradzil is an adult neurologist working at the epilepsy clinic at Vancouver General Hospital. Dr. Hradzil has joined our Society’s Professional Advisory Committee as a volunteer.

Dr. Anita Datta is a pediatric neurologist who recently started at BC Children’s Hospital and will be working directly with our staff who are a part of the neurology clinic team at the Hospital.

New Staff at Our Society

We’re pleased to announce the additional of a new staff person at our Society. Marilyn Sakiyama will be on contract with our Society through the end of the summer taking over from Marlyn Chow who is on parental leave.

Marilyn’s main responsibility will be to fill the social services function on the neurology clinic team at BC Children’s Hospital. She’ll be helping families cope with issues such as transportation, employment, housing, and Pharmacare.

Marilyn is a Registered Social Worker who has held positions at UBC, Simon Fraser University, and Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

Annual Lecture Series

On March 26, Purple Day, we hosted a very successful panel discussion on the basics of epilepsy with four information experts presenting their stories and taking questions from the audience.

This year, we’ll be hosting several lectures starting with Kathryn Clark’s presentation on self advocacy on June 6. Kathyrn is a Registered Social Worker and a former a staff member at the BC Epilepsy Society.

In July, Dr. Sherrill Purves will be discussing highlights from the 30th International World Epilepsy Congress in Montreal on June 23-27. Dr. Purves is the Chair of our Professional Advisory Committee and sits on our Society’s Board of Directors.

On September 10, Dr. Chantelle Hrazdil will make a presentation on surgery options for patients with epilepsy.

In October, Dr. Sia Michoulas will present on anti-epileptic medications. Dr. Michoulas is trained both as a pharmacist and a neurologist.

In November, Dr. Mary Connolly will present a lecture on good mental health.

Please check our website or your monthly e-newsletters for details on lecture locations. All lectures will start at 7 pm and last about two hours. They’re free to current members of our Society. Non-members can attend for only $10 per lecture.

If you have suggestions for future lecture topics or presenters, please contact any of our staff.
BC Services Card to Replace CareCard

On February 15, 2013 the BC government introduced a new identification (ID) card. This will replace and combine the current CareCard with a driver’s license. This new ID is called the BC Services Card.

The BC Services Card will be used:
- To access medical services provided under the Medical Services Plan of BC (MSP)
- To access services that need a government-issued photo ID
- As a driver’s license

There are three different versions of this card:
1. BC Services Card with a driver’s license
2. BC Services Card with a photo (this card cannot be used as a driver’s license)
3. BC Services Card without a photo (this card cannot be used as a driver’s license)

Why is this changing?
The BC Services Card was developed and designed to utilize advanced fraud prevention and privacy protection technologies. It was also developed to help streamline the process of applying for and renewing BC government-issued ID.

Who is eligible for the BC Services Card?
You must be a current BC resident and eligible to receive MSP services to apply for a BC Services Card. For the MSP and BC residency requirements go to: www.health.gov.bc.ca/msp/infoben/eligible.html

Do children need to get one?
Children under 19 can use their existing CareCard until they turn 19 or get a driver’s license. However all children will eventually need to get a BC Services Card by December 31, 2017.

How much does this card cost?
There’s no fee to get a BC Services Card. However if you combine your BC Services Card with your driver’s license, you must pay the fees required for a driver’s license renewal.

What if I don’t have or need a driver’s license? What if I can’t currently drive due to medical reasons?
If you currently do not drive due to medical or other reasons you can apply for the general BC Services Card. If you regain driving privileges or decide to apply for a driver’s license you can upgrade to the card that combines the BC Services Card with the driver’s license.

How do I get one?
1. Go to an ICBC driver licensing office. Bring your current ID and CareCard with you.
2. Confirm that you are a BC resident. For BC residency requirements go here: www.health.gov.bc.ca/msp/infoben/eligible.html
3. Get your photo taken.
4. Receive your new BC Services Card in the mail.

Note: everyone signs up for the BC Services Card at an ICBC driver licensing office whether they drive or not.

When is the deadline to apply?
The deadline to apply is December 31, 2017. Please note that you will be required to renew the BC Services Card every five years.
New Device Could Predict Nocturnal Seizures

The Emfit Movement Monitor is a new device that has been designed to help detect tonic-clonic (grand mal) seizures during sleep.

The main component of this device is a sensor that is placed under your mattress. This sensor is designed to recognize movements characteristic of tonic-clonic seizures. This device also contains a bedside monitor which has an alarm that can notify others if the individual is having movements characteristic of tonic-clonic seizures. The device components are shown below:

An independent clinical research study has tested this device and has concluded that it can be effective in detecting tonic-clonic seizures during sleep. It found that the Emfit monitor detected 11 (84.6%) of the 13 generalized tonic-clonic seizures that occurred during sleep and 12 (75%) of the 16 that occurred while subjects were awake.

However, as seen from the full study results below, the success rate of detecting non-convulsive seizures was much lower.

Results:

Of the 45 patients monitored, 26 experienced a combined total of 78 seizure events of all types. Twenty-eight seizures occurred while subjects were asleep. The alarm was activated a total of 23 times (29.5% of total seizure events), 15 of which detected seizures during sleep (53.6% of seizures occurring during sleep). The Emfit monitor detected 11 (84.6%) of the 13 generalized tonic-clonic seizures that occurred during sleep and 12 (75%) of the 16 that occurred while subjects were awake.

The authors stated:

“The Emfit monitor was designed to detect tonic-clonic seizures occurring while patients are in bed asleep and not under direct supervision. In our study, the Emfit monitor was very effective in meeting this objective. The monitor detected 84.6% of the generalized tonic-clonic seizures occurring in sleep and 75% of the events occurring while children were awake in bed. The alarm was not as sensitive to seizures that did not involve rhythmic movement but was still successful in detecting these events in some cases. The monitor, though not able to detect all seizure types with high sensitivity, is effective in detecting generalized tonic-clonic seizures that have been linked with a higher risk of sudden unexplained death in epilepsy. In this study, the Emfit movement monitor detected a significant percentage of tonic-clonic seizures in patients who were sleeping, and it may offer a means for detecting nocturnal generalized-tonic clonic seizures in children with epilepsy.”

This information was published in the Journal of Child Neurology on January 29, 2013.
New Society Patron

We’re honoured to announce that the new Lieutenant-Governor of BC, the Honourable Judith Guichon, has accepted our invitation to become our new Patron.

Her Honour succeeds the Honourable Stephen Point, who had served as our Patron since 2008.

Her Honour will be participating in our annual 5K Poker Walk on Sunday, May 26 starting at 8:30 am. Come and join her in the Walk starting in front of the Kerrisdale Community Centre in Vancouver.

We hope that Her Honour will be able to join us for other events during her term as our Patron.

Thanks Government of BC

Once again the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General of the province of BC approved our annual application for a Community Gaming Grant.

Our 2012 grant for $147,800 matched our largest grant ever from the Ministry. We’ve received almost $1.8 million in grants since our first application 20 years ago.

Our grant was in support of our programs such as Partners in Teaching, the delivery of our annual lecture series, and the development of all of our hard copy and electronic resources.

Thank you for your trust in us.

Great Lake Walk

The Great Lake Walk and Ultramarathon is a 56 km walk or run around Cowichan Lake on Vancouver Island. This walking/running event takes place on the third Saturday in September each year. The next walk is on September 21st, 2013.

This past September, we were fortunate to have a family from Victoria raise hundreds of dollars in pledges for us through this annual event.

If you would like to collect pledges through this or any other event in your area, please contact Shawn Laari at laari@bcepilepsy.com and we will supply you with pledge forms and promotional materials to help you with your pledge collection.

New Social Media Options

Over the last few months we’ve added three new social media options to the homepage of our website.

Our Flickr page helps us link photos from our events to our website. Our Facebook page will help us share news and stories with our stakeholders. Our Pinterest page is a pinboard-style photo-sharing website that allows our users to create and manage theme-based image collections such as events, interests, and more.

These new platforms should help us be able to expand our reach to current and potential stakeholders.

New Translations

We’re proud to announce that we’ve recently translated more of our information sheets into Chinese and Punjabi, a total of 41 new translations. This completes our translation of all our information sheets into French, Chinese, and Korean.

We’ve recently ordered another 20 translations into Punjabi, which will nearly complete the translation for that language.

The image on the left is the word epilepsy in Punjabi.

Anyone interested in sponsoring the cost of any of our upcoming translations can contact Shawn Laari at laari@bcepilepsy.com.

You can access all of our translated resources in the newly-formatted information sheet section of our website.
Notable People with Epilepsy

Susan Boyle: Scottish Singer

Susan Boyle came to international public attention when she appeared on the TV program Britain’s Got Talent in 2009, singing “I Dreamed a Dream” from Les Misérables. Within nine days of the audition, videos of Boyle from the show and various interviews were watched over 100 million times.

In a 2011 interview, she revealed she had epilepsy as a child. Boyle told the Daily Mail’s Weekend magazine: “I was protected in cotton wool. They [her parents] thought they were doing the right thing. They called me touchy. At school I used to faint a lot. It is something I’ve never talked about. I had epilepsy.”

Her first album was released in November 2009 and debuted as the number one selling album on charts around the world. It remains the best-selling debut album of all time in the UK.

Tsar Peter the Great: Russian Political Leader

Peter the Great, Tsar and first Emperor of Russia from 1682 to 1725, propelled Russia into becoming a major European power so that by the time of his death Russia was considered to be a leading eastern European state.

He undertook extensive political, economic, and social reforms. He strengthened foreign policy, introduced new territorial divisions, established a structured form of government, reorganized the military, expanded commerce and industry, advocated for the development of technological and scientific research, and formalized the educational systems.

He developed encephalitis (an inflammation of the brain) at age 21 and thereafter developed seizures. These were characterized by twitching of the left side of his face and body, and sometimes loss of consciousness.

It has been said that his extraordinary personality, willpower, and wide scale reforms have been an inspiration to generations of historians, writers, and ordinary Russians.

Mike Simmel: “Mighty Mike” of the Harlem Wizards

Since 2001 Mike has been a member of the famous Harlem Wizards basketball team. The aim of the team is to entertain the crowd by using a variety of basketball tricks and comedy.

In an interview with the Epilepsy Foundation he shared his personal experiences with epilepsy. “I started having seizures in the form of atonic seizures (drop attacks) between the ages of 2 and 6. In my teen years and throughout my adult life, I have dealt with both petit mal and tonic-clonic seizures.”

Mike is a national spokesperson for various epilepsy and disability awareness campaigns, speaking at Epilepsy Foundation events and camps for children with special needs.

In September 2011, a children’s book based upon his life entitled Mighty Mike Bounces Back was published. For information about this book go to: www.mightymikebasketball.com

Harriet Tubman: Humanitarian and Social Activist

In 1822 Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland in the United States. When she was 29 she escaped and dedicated the rest of her life to rescuing other slaves and to civil rights, including women’s right to vote.

When she was a young teen, Tubman was nearly killed by a blow to her head from an iron weight while trying to protect another slave from an angry master. The injury left her suffering from seizures, headaches, sleeping spells, and powerful visionary and dream experiences.

Despite her medical difficulties she led numerous missions to rescue slaves. Because of her daring and courage, Tubman became known as the “Moses” of her people.
Purple Day

Purple Day is an international grassroots effort dedicated to increasing awareness about epilepsy worldwide. On March 26 annually, people around the world were invited to wear purple and host events in support of epilepsy awareness.

People in dozens of countries on all continents including Antarctica participated in Purple Day!

Across BC, children and adults hosted fund raising and awareness events to educate the public and help support the programs we deliver.

We thank everyone who participated this year and welcome your ideas for Purple Day events for March 26, 2014. For more information on Purple Day, go to www.purpleday.org.

First-Time Donor Super Credits (FDSC)

For first-time donors, the federal budget is introducing a temporary supplement to the existing non-refundable tax credit for charitable donations by individuals. The new credit can be claimed once from the 2013 to 2017 taxation years.

Currently, the non-refundable charitable donations tax credit (CDTC) is calculated as the total of:

- the lowest income tax rate (15% for 2013) multiplied by the first $200 of charitable donations claimed by an individual; and
- the highest income tax rate (29% for 2013) multiplied by the portion of the donations claimed by the individual that exceeds $200.

Starting in the 2013 taxation year, the budget is introducing a temporary non-refundable FDSC that will supplement the CDTC for individuals. This new credit effectively adds 25% to the rates used in the calculation of the CDTC for up to $1,000 of monetary donations. As a result, a person making a first-time donation to any charity will be allowed a 40% federal credit for donations of $200 or less, and a 54% federal credit for the portion of donations over $200 but not exceeding $1,000.

As the FDSC is a temporary credit, you can only claim it once from the 2013 to 2017 taxation years.

For the 2013 taxation year, an individual will be considered a first-time donor if neither the individual nor the individual’s spouse or common-law partner has claimed the CDTC in any of the five preceding tax years.

As a first-time donor, the FDSC, along with the corresponding CDTC, may be shared by you and your spouse or common-law partner in a particular taxation year. However, the total amount of donations that may be claimed for the FDSC by both individuals cannot exceed $1,000. When it cannot be agreed on the amount of the credit that each of you will claim, the CRA may apportion the credit.

Only donations of money that are made after March 20, 2013 will qualify for the FDSC. For taxation years from 2013 to 2017, a new line will be added to Schedule 9, Donations and Gifts to identify the eligible portion of the charitable donations that you have claimed that are donations of money.

Monthly Giving Plans

We’ve heard from donors who feel that it’s easier for them to make a series of monthly donations rather than a single donation each year.

We have donors who make gifts of $10, $25, or $100 a month, but you can choose any amount that fits your budget. We accept both Mastercard and Visa.

You’ll receive a tax receipt for the full amount of your donations at the end of December. You can choose to have your monthly donations designated to support any of our great programs, resources, or research grants.

You can use the form on the back of this newsletter to start your monthly donations. Please contact Shawn Laari at the Society office at 604-875-6704 if you have any questions.
Adult Support Groups

We offer opportunities for people living with epilepsy, their families, and friends to get better connected and strengthen their support networks.

People meet to talk about their issues, and share experiences to better understand how to access services and resources and live a better life with epilepsy.

Topics may cover self-management, safety, transportation, parenting, and anything else that participants need help with.

Prince George Group: second Tuesday of each month, 7-9 pm. Phone Gord or Karen at 250-596-6296.

Lower Mainland Adult Group: #2500 - 900 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver on the first Thursday of each month, 7-9 pm. Call for information at 604-875-6704.

Contact Elvira or Marilyn at the BC Epilepsy Society office if you’d like to join an existing support group or would like to help start a new group.

Your Planned Gifts Support Society Programs

You have the opportunity to make a legacy commitment to the BC Epilepsy Society through your will and estate planning. You can designate your gift to support epilepsy research, or any of our valuable services and programs.

We’ve prepared a new edition of our planned giving newsletter that you can review with your family and financial planner.

We’ve also placed more detailed information in the Support Us section of our website at www.bcepilepsy.com/support_us. This information will help you understand your planned giving.

Planned giving supporters of the BC Epilepsy Society become members of The Auckland Society, which is named in honour of our Society’s founder, Dr. Norman Auckland, and is our way of acknowledging your legacy commitment.

For more information about planned giving options in support of the BC Epilepsy Society, please contact Shawn Laari at the Society office at 604-875-6704.

Donate Your Shoppers Drug Mart Optimum Points

By donating your Shoppers Optimum Points to the BC Epilepsy Society, you’ll help us purchase products and supplies from Shoppers Drug Mart.

To donate your Optimum Points to the Society, go to: www.shoppersdrugmart.ca/donate and browse the Shoppers Optimum section. Then click on DONATE NOW! and fill in the form.

Many supporters have donated their points already. Any number of donated points will be greatly appreciated.

In Celebration Events

You may be familiar with the practice of asking that a donation be made to a charity of choice rather than a gift of flowers at a funeral – in memoriam gifts.

The same can apply to “in celebration” events: births, anniversaries, weddings, birthdays, graduations. We’ve even had people host summer BBQs as fund raisers for us.

The next time you have a special event in your family, please consider having gifts made as donations to the BC Epilepsy Society in recognition of that memorable family event.

If you wish, the gifts can be designated to epilepsy research, or one of our Society’s programs or services.

Brochures, information sheets, and posters on epilepsy and our Society are available for you to give to the donors at your special event.

Please contact Shawn Laari at the Society office at 604-875-6704 or laari@bcepilepsy.com if you would like to support the BC Epilepsy Society through an “in celebration” event.
Our Website Adds New Function and Content

We’ve made further improvements to our website since we updated you last fall. We’ve added new and updated information sheets, new translated resources, and new videos and PowerPoint presentations. We continue to improve navigation around the site.

Please check out the new look and features of our homepage.

We welcome your feedback on both the content and navigation. If you have suggestions, please contact Shawn Laari at laari@bcepilepsy.com.

Sign Up for Our Monthly E-Newsletter

If you’re interested in subscribing to our e-newsletter, go to www.bcepilepsy.com and click on Sign Up for Email News on the home page, or contact the staff at the BC Epilepsy Society office. We have over 2,000 subscribers to our e-newsletter.

The template has been upgraded to improve access to information. Since its debut five years ago, we’ve offered breaking news, event information, special offers, and topical issues. We present a variety of topics every month, so there’s always room for your suggestions.

Be a Part of Our Growing Team

We’ve recently completed our ninth consecutive year of significant membership growth. The more members we have, the better able we are to deliver needed programs, resources, and services. Anyone can join, whether you are living with epilepsy or not.

Please complete and return the membership/donation form below if you would like to join our great team. If you’ve been a member of the BC Epilepsy Society in the past, please use the form below to renew your membership, which expired at the end of our Annual General Meeting on April 15, 2013.

BC Epilepsy Society

#2500 – 900 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia V5Z 1E5
Phone: 604-875-6704 Fax: 604-875-0617 info@bcepilepsy.com
Charitable Tax Number: 11881 8541 RR0001 BC Society Number: 5749
Patron: The Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of BC

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Email: ___________________________ Fax: ___________________________

Address: ___________________________ City: ___________________________

Province/State: ___________________________ Postal Code: ___________________________

☐ $10 Individual ☐ $50 Organization
I am also including a donation of $ _______ Please charge me monthly ☐

☐ Cheque ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Name on Card: __________________________________________________________

Card Number: ___________________________ Expiry Date: __________________________

Signature of Cardholder: ____________________________________________________