



**BC Epilepsy
Society**

E-NEWSLETTER

*Improving lives.
Inspiring courage.*

June 17, 2015

7th Annual Cindy's Walk

SUNDAY, JUNE 28TH

Cindy's Walk is an event to raise epilepsy awareness and funds for the BC Epilepsy Society. The goal is to help the over 30,000 people in BC who live with the challenges of epilepsy. You can show your support by attending this event, sponsoring a participant, or by making a general donation.

The walk will take place on Sunday, June 28th at 10:00 am. It will start and finish at John Lawson Park in West Vancouver and go through 5 km of the West Vancouver Seawall. The walk will be followed by refreshments, music, socialization, and arts and crafts.

The registration fee is \$25 and children aged 12 and younger are free. This event is wheelchair and transit accessible. There is also free parking on site.

[Click here](#) to register online.

[Click here](#) for a registration form that you can submit by email, mail, or fax.

[Click here](#) to sponsor a walker.

[Click here](#) to make a general donation.

Donations will support the programs and services of the BC Epilepsy Society.

Cindy's Walk was started by the mother of two young children and board member of the BC Epilepsy Society. She was diagnosed with epilepsy when she was 16 and grew up with the challenges of seizures. In 2007 she organized an informal walk of family and friends to help promote knowledge and understanding about epilepsy. Since then the walk has grown into an annual community event.

For more information about Cindy's Walk, please contact Lori Eisenhour at lori@bcepilepsy.com or at 604-875-6704.

Thank you for your support!

Medical Developments

World Health Organization Resolution About Epilepsy

The World Health Organization (WHO) has endorsed a landmark resolution urging Member States (including Canada) to improve care and treatment of people with epilepsy. The resolution calls on the WHO Secretariat to lead and coordinate support to Member States to address the global burden of epilepsy so that people with epilepsy can receive timely treatment and can benefit from educational and occupational opportunities, free from stigma and discrimination. You can learn more about this resolution by reading the [WHO News Release](#).

Medical Marijuana Ruling

The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that medical marijuana users can now legally consume pot in such products as oils, tinctures, baked goods, and tea. Previously users were only permitted to smoke dried marijuana.

The written judgment states that, "The prohibition of non-dried forms of medical marijuana limits liberty and security of the person in a manner that is arbitrary and hence is not in accord with the principles of fundamental justice. We have concluded that restricting medical access to marijuana to its dried form is inconsistent with the Charter. It follows that to this extent the restriction is null and void." For information about medicinal marijuana and cannabis, you can read the slides from our lecture called [Cannabinoids and Epilepsy: The Science Behind the Hype](#).

Gender Differences in Perampanel Response

A recently published study has shown that the epilepsy medication called perampanel (brand name Fycompa) can be tolerated differently between men and women.

Data presented in the medical journal [Epilepsia](#) indicated that perampanel oral clearance was 17% lower in female than in male patients who were not receiving enzyme-inducing AEDs. Oral clearance is the relationship between the oral dose rate and the average steady state concentration in the body.

Though the analysis showed that seizure frequency was reduced following perampanel treatment regardless of gender, a greater reduction in seizure frequency was seen in female participants at higher doses. Side-effects such as dizziness and headache also occurred more frequently in females.

The researchers concluded: "Modest elevations in perampanel exposure in female patients may result in meaningful between-gender differences in efficacy and safety; therefore, dosing should be individualised and clinical response monitored."

BC Epilepsy Society Updates

Summer 2015 Newsletter Available

Our latest newsletter is out! It includes feature articles from Dr. Anita Datta about epilepsy surgery in children and Sita Gaia about the personal aspects of living with epilepsy. Also included are updates in epilepsy-related news around the world and BC Epilepsy Society programs and services. Current members receive our newsletter in the mail. If you would like to receive a paper copy of this newsletter or get an extra copy, please take out a membership or contact our office. You can also read it on our [Newsletters](#) webpage.

Scholarships

A reminder that the deadline for scholarship applications to be submitted is on Tuesday, June 30th at 4:00 pm. Four scholarships of \$2,500 each will be awarded to BC residents who are entering into a post-secondary or employment training program. [Click here](#) for an application form.

Seizure Smart Summer Blog

Summer is finally here! As such it is important to consider some safety and health issues that people with epilepsy may have during this season. These can be related to swimming, travel, and light or heat sensitivity. Our latest [blog post](#) includes are some tips to help make these activities safer and to help avoid situations that may trigger a seizure.

Camps

Our subsidies for kids camps are going fast! We are offering \$150 subsidies to help offset the costs of various camp programs for children who need extra support due to medical needs and learning or physical disabilities. These are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Recipients must be a current member of the BC Epilepsy Society to be eligible. [Click here](#) to download the summer camp subsidy form.

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BC Epilepsy Society

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The BC Epilepsy Society is a non-profit, charitable organization, which provides education, advocacy, and support.

