

BC Epilepsy Society Improving lives. Inspiring courage.

E-NEWS RELEASE

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# September enewsletter 2016

## **Greetings**

Hello from the B.C. Epilepsy family.

We hope you and your families had a wonderful summer and are enjoying our fall weather.

With the start of a new school year we would like to remind you of our Epilepsy and Seizures: Information for Schools DVD.

Our specially produced DVD about epilepsy for teachers has been described as "absolutely phenomenal". A nurse even told us she learns something new about epilepsy every time she watches it. This DVD is available for loan from our office, for purchase for \$10, and has been donated by us to school district libraries across the province. It is a great DVD to have if you are a parent of a child with epilepsy. This way you can easily loan it to school staff to watch. The DVD has a 7 minute and 22 minute version on it. Click here to watch the 7 minute version on YouTube.

BCES would like to send a fond farewell to our Executive Director, Lori Eisenhaur, and wish her continued success as she expands her career.

All inquiries should be directed temporarily to:

Marlyn Chow marlyn@bcepilepsy.com

Dan O'Brien dan obrien@bcepilepsy.com

## **Brain Network That Controls Spread of Seizures Identified**

why and how this synchronization spreads would be a critical tool in treating severe epilepsy.

In a study published in *Neuron*, an interdisciplinary team of University of Pennsylvania researchers has identified a new explanation for this phenomenon. Using a computer model based on direct brain recordings from epilepsy patients, they are the first to show the

existence of a network of neural regions that can push or pull on the synchronization of the regions directly involved in a seizure.

With further study, this regulatory network could be a more effective target for epilepsy therapies, including implantable stimulation devices that would help quiet a localized seizure before it spreads throughout the brain.

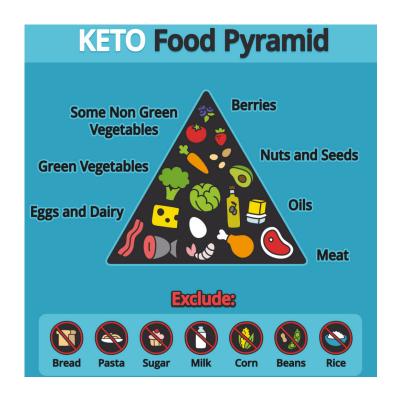
To read the full article, please click here.

# The ketogenic diet shows mood and behavioral benefits in children

The ketogenic diet may have a positive impact on behaviour and thinking skills in children with drug-resistant epilepsy, according to a study conducted in the Netherlands. The results are published in the scientific journal <u>Epilepsy</u> and <u>Behavior</u>.

The investigators compared the baseline and four-month assessment scores, both within and across the groups, and found that the ketogenic diet was linked to an increase in activity and productivity ratings; and an improvement in anxiety and other mood problems. It was also associated with an improvement in thinking skills.

According to the authors, these results add to the growing body of evidence that the ketogenic diet is a viable treatment option for children with drug-resistant epilepsy.



We welcome suggestions or articles that can be added in our monthly newsletter. Please email <a href="mailto:outreach@bcepilepsy.com">outreach@bcepilepsy.com</a>

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### **BC Epilepsy Society**

#2500 - 900 West 8th Avenue | Vancouver, BC | V5Z 1E5 Phone: 604.875.6704 | Fax: 604.875.0617

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