



New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome

AND ASSOCIATED DISORDERS, INC.

NJCTS is a collaboration among TSANJ, Rutgers University
and health professionals throughout New Jersey

Faith Rice Executive Director

March 2009

You're Invited: Tourette Syndrome Presentation- April 4- Bergen Regional Med. Ctr.
Please join us on Saturday, April 4 for a presentation on "State-of-the-art Treatments for TS and Associated Disorders." This is your chance to hear Dr. Robert King of the Yale University Child Study Center- TS/OCD Clinic speak about current treatment options and NJCTS Sharing Repository Executive Director Dr. Jay Tischfield discuss the importance of genetic research into TS. Representatives from the TS Sharing Repository will be on hand to conduct interviews and collect samples from interested individuals and families beginning at 9:30 a.m.

To schedule an appointment to participate in the TS Sharing Repository genetics study, please e-mail familystudy@biology.rutgers.edu. The presentation by Drs. King and Tischfield will begin at 4 p.m. Registration is required. Contact the NJCTS office at 908-575-7350 or e-mail info@njcts.org. Seating is limited. Bergen Regional Medical Center is located at 200 E. Ridgewood Ave. in Paramus.

Wednesday Webinar Series Highlights Two New Topics: "TS in the Workplace" and "Americans with Disabilities Act and 504 Plans- Part 2"

The Wednesday Webinar series continues on March 18 with a presentation on "Tourette Syndrome and Associated Disorders in the Workplace." Attorney Randi Kochman will explore your rights under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination and the Americans with Disabilities Act. This webinar will address federal and state (NJ and NY) laws governing disabled employees in the workplace along with employer obligations in accommodating employees with disabilities. There will be a discussion of the recent changes to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

On April 29 Attorney Rebecca Spar will present part two of a webinar on the Americans with Disabilities Act, IDEA and 504 plans aimed at parents, teachers and professionals dealing with children in grades K-12.

The webinars will take place from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Registration is required. Log on to www.njcts.org and click on "Register for a webinar" on the left side of the homepage.

Sign Up Today for *Wednesday is TS Day* Golf Outing- June 3, 2009

Be sure to join us for a member-initiated *Wednesday is TS Day* golf outing at Olde York Country Club in Chesterfield on June 3. There are opportunities for foursomes, individual golfers, sponsors and more. All proceeds from this event will be used to support programs for TS children and families in New Jersey. For more information please see our website www.njcts.org

What is New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome (NJCTS)?

New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome, began as a program of Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey in 2000, and is now a separate corporation serving our state's TS community. It is our mission to provide services to families and health and education professionals throughout the state. You will continue to receive news and other items from us under the NJCTS name. Here's a look at what services are offered by NJCTS and TSANJ. Our collaboration puts New Jersey at the forefront of providing services to the TS community. If you have questions, please contact us at info@njcts.org.

- NJCTS Services & Responsibilities**
- Advocacy on behalf of people with TS and their families
 - Coordinated services for children, adults and families living with Tourette Syndrome
 - Statewide in-service education, liaison and training for educators, students and school administrators including college workshops
 - In-services, hospital grand rounds and workshops for clinical professionals
 - NJCTS Rutgers University Tourette Syndrome Partnership- a practicum for doctoral students to study TS, work with TS families and develop programs specifically for TS families
 - NJCTS Sharing Repository – making DNA and cell samples available to qualified researchers worldwide to study the genetic causes of Tourette Syndrome
 - Statewide newsletter with timely information for legislators, doctors, educators, TS families and others with an interest in TS
 - Comprehensive and helpful website: www.njcts.org
 - Wednesday Webinars- monthly online seminars with topics of interest to the TS community
 - Family Retreats to provide education, advocacy, information exchange
 - Annual children's scholarship award given to a graduating NJ high school senior diagnosed with TS to further his/her education at a college or technical school
 - Annual educator of the year award given to a NJ educator who has made a significant difference in the life of a child with TS
 - Annual healthcare provider of the year award given to a medical professional who has made a difference in the life of a child with TS

TSANJ Services and Responsibilities

- Statewide network of hospital affiliated patient and family support groups
- Library of literature, books and videos on TS and associated disorders
- Volunteer manned Helpline for doctors, teachers and newly diagnosed families and others seeking information and support
- Website with pointers to NJCTS for services www.tsanj.org

Don't forget: April 3 Deadline for Scholarship, Educator Awards

Remember, just a few weeks to go before all NJCTS Children's Scholarship applications and nominations for the NJCTS Educator of the Year Award are due. Visit www.njcts.org for the necessary forms and mail them to 50 Division St., Suite 205, Somerville, NJ 08876 or info@njcts.org.

NEW JERSEY STATE SENATE PASSES SR77 APPLAUDING NJCTS

New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome was recognized by the State Senate on February 23 for its accomplishments in providing support for New Jersey children, families and professionals dealing with Tourette Syndrome. Sponsored by Sen. Christopher “Kip” Bateman (R-16) and Sen. Jeff Van Drew (D-1), Senate Resolution 77 also applauds NJCTS for its “Wednesday is TS Day” advocacy campaign. Families from across New Jersey gathered at the statehouse to cheer as the organization was recognized by State Senator Richard Codey during the voting session. NJCTS Youth Spokesman Dean Roncati led a group of kids with TS to personally thank Senator Bateman and Senator Codey for their support. “It takes courage to live life with Tourette. It also takes courage to be an outspoken supporter,” said Roncati, “The kids of New Jersey cannot speak for themselves and rely on [lawmakers] for help.”



State Senator Christopher “Kip” Bateman with NJCTS kids

At the heart of NJCTS is a commitment to advocacy – educating the public about TS, breaking the stigma attached to this misunderstood disorder and helping TS kids reach their full potential. The “Wednesday is TS Day” campaign is a two-fold effort to create understanding: TS families are encouraged to share their perspective and the general public is challenged to open their minds to the facts of this neurological disorder.

“We are very excited about this Senate Resolution, and we are very proud of our youth advocates who came to Trenton and stood up for the thousands of kids who currently need, or will come to rely on, the services of NJCTS for proper treatment and an effective education,” said Rice. “We’re proud of our progress, but there are thousands of kids who are not receiving proper care yet, and until there is a cure for TS, we’ve got a lot more work to do.”

March/April Calendar of Events

For information please visit www.njcts.org contact NJCTS at 908-575-7350

- March 6- Peer In-service Workshop: Mount Pleasant School, Livingston
- March 11- **Educator Workshop & Student Presentation:** Kean University School of Education
- March 17- **Monmouth/Ocean County Family Support Group**, Wellness Center, Jersey Shore University Hospital, Neptune. 7-8:30 p.m. (TSANJ)
- March 18- **Wednesday Webinar Series: "Tourette Syndrome and Associated Disorders in the Workplace"** Presented by Randi W. Kochman, Esq. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Register at www.njcts.org
- March 19- **Mercer County Family Support Group**, RWJ Hamilton Center for Health and Wellness, Mercerville 7-9 p.m. (TSANJ)
- March 20- **Faculty In-service:** Maple Place Middle School, Oceanport
- March 23- **Somerset/Hunterdon County Family Support Group**, Somerset Medical Center, Somerville, 7-9 p.m.
- March 28- **Educator Workshop:** Bergen County College, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Course SD759 Cost: \$45
- March 30- **Educator Workshop:** Ocean County College, 4 – 7 p.m.. Cost: \$59
- March 30- **Faculty In-service:** Hamilton Elementary School, Bridgewater
- March 30- **Graduate Seminar for Developmental Study of Children Course-** Kean University at Ocean County College, Toms River
- April 4- **TS Presentation: State-of-the-art Treatments for TS and Associated Disorders-** Bergen Regional Medical Center, Paramus. Registration required by calling 908-575-7350.
- April 7- **Educator Workshop:** Camden County College, Cherry Hill Campus. Cost \$35

Stand Up Against Bullies: Join the N.J. Commission on Bullying in Schools

Governor Jon Corzine and the state Legislature are seeking members for the Commission on Bullying in Schools. Commissioners serve a nine-month period to study bullying laws, evaluate incident reporting standards and conduct public hearings to address the concerns of parents and educators. For more information visit www.childadvocate.nj.gov or e-mail bullying.commission@childadvocate.state.nj.us. It is important they hear from the TS community!

