

## Electricity of Epilepsy

Neurotechnology, the use of medical electronics with the human nervous system, has a natural entry into the world of epilepsy. As defined by the Epilepsy Foundation, "Epilepsy is a medical condition that produces seizures affecting a variety of mental and physical functions. It's also called a seizure disorder. A seizure happens when a brief, strong surge of electrical activity affects part or all of the brain." Medication regime is a common first step for the treatment of epilepsy. According to Warren Lammert, Chairman and Co-Founder of Epilepsy Therapy Development Project, "As many as one in three patients with epilepsy continue to have seizures despite taking available drugs, and others have side effects that are so unpleasant most of us would not tolerate them on a day-to-day basis." In this issue, we will review some of the advances in the treatment of epileptic conditions with the use of neurotechnology and recent advances made in the field.

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## Personal Experience: John Paul

Sudden awareness of epilepsy struck John Paul when he encountered his first seizure on a trip to the supermarket. After being unconscious for 35 minutes, it took nearly four days to truly discover he had epilepsy. "I liken it to the description I saw in the newspaper after Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts encountered his seizure, 'having a sore head; your body feels like it ran a full marathon completely unprepared; and unable to organize your thoughts.'" While the days passed for his body to slowly recover from an epileptic seizure, John Paul had this disability that is just not visible to the outside world.

Read more of John Paul's story and experience with epilepsy by clicking [here](#) to go to the second page of our newsletter.

## Resources & Updates

Featuring resources for people living with epilepsy and medical professionals, including support organizations and neurotechnology companies offering new devices, therapies and surgical tools.

Plus, updates in the world of neurotechnology, this section highlights new products, clinical trials and events.

[Click here to get updated.](#)

## Task Force Addresses Access

A newly organized task force representing clinicians, health service providers, payers, and neurotechnology vendors is seeking to expand the availability of neurotechnology devices for individuals with neurological and psychiatric disorders. The National Task Force on Consumer Access to Emerging Neurotechnologies held its inaugural meeting earlier this year and recently published a whitepaper specifically targeted to severe depression.

## Featured Article



## Educate: New Tools for Epilepsy & Seizures

Epilepsy impacts over 50 million people worldwide and 2.7 million in the United States, according to the American Epilepsy Society. It can develop in any person at any age but is more commonly acquired at youth or the elderly. Nearly 22% of cases in the U.S. are of people 65 and over; that number will grow as the population ages. This condition does not only influence quality of life in terms of seizure counts, pain, depression, anxiety and restless sleep, but it also has an economic burden. "Epilepsy imposes an annual economic burden of \$15.5 billion on the nation in associated health care costs and losses in employment, wages and productivity," stated by the Epilepsy Foundation. One emergency room visit due to a seizure can cause a major drain on the personal pocket book. Difficulty controlling seizures impacts a person's ability to live a normal life and has enormous psychosocial, behavioral and cognitive effects.

Read the entire article on our website by clicking [here](#)

## Hosting Discussion Group

Neurotech Network is hosting an

For the rest of this article on our website by [clicking here](#).

## Fighting Obstacles

Attendees at the 2006 Neurotech Leaders Forum in San Francisco learned of a number of obstacles confronting new entrants to the neurotechnology industry. Many of these obstacles were pointed out by keynote speaker Skip Cummins, former CEO of [Cyberonics Inc.](#), who shared some of the more frustrating moments from his days in the neurotechnology industry. One obvious barrier to commercialization familiar to most medical device executives is regulatory approval, and the FDA in particular.

Read the full version on our [website](#).

Neurotech Network\* is a non-profit organization dedicated to education and information dissemination regarding neurotechnologies for person with impairments. We do not rate, endorse, prescribe or recommend products, procedures or services. What we do is give you information to make better decisions. This is how we help people regain life through neurotechnology.

Enjoy our newsletter and other resources.

**Sincerely,**

Jennifer French  
Neurotech Network

*\*This is the Society to Increase Mobility, dba as Neurotech Network.*

important discussion group to help shape the future of neurotechnology devices for neurological dysfunctions.

This Consumer & End User Discussion Forum will be held during the 7th Annual [Neurotech Leaders Forum](#) on October 25, 2007 from 4pm to 7pm in Newport Beach, California. This valuable discussion brings together those in the neurotechnology industry and the disability community, particularly those with neuromotor impairments.

For more information or if you would like to attend this free event, please contact us at [info@neurotechnetwork.org](mailto:info@neurotechnetwork.org) or call 727-321-0150.

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