

Providing Education and Support for those with Parkinson's Disease, their families and friends, caregivers and healthcare providers in the greater Austin Community.



CAPITAL AREA PARKINSON'S SOCIETY

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A 501(3)(C) Non-Profit

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August, 2007

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August Meeting

The next meeting of CAPS will be held Saturday, August 18th, 2007 at 2:00 pm in the Mc Fadden Auditorium at Seton Main Hospital.

Parking is available in the garage at the south entrance. Free parking vouchers are available at the meeting.

Updated: Our speaker will be Jennifer Perez Delrio from St. David's Driving Program. Her topic will be the driving program, which includes evaluation of and therapy to improve driving skills.

July Meeting Update

July saw our annual Ice Cream Social, and by all accounts, it was a unqualified success. Icy confections and a couple hours of good conversation were shared by all comers. It's hard to go wrong when there's copious ice cream to be consumed.

One of the attendees carried and shared information about a topic of

more than a little interest to many CAPS members: the new "Parkinson's Patch."

Called *Neupro*, the patch was developed to dispense a stable, continuous dose of a dopamine agonist (DA) called rotigotine directly through the skin. This is intended to keep the amount of the drug in the bloodstream constant in an effort to avoid the "roller coaster effect," the highs and lows associated with taking DA pills, and to reduce the "on/off" times, where the medication seems to stop working. It is also intended to make DA dosage a once-a-day, peel-and-stick operation, as opposed to taking several pills at different times every day. It's an idea near and dear to the hearts of many.

A representative of Schwarz Pharma was on hand to discuss and answer questions about this apparent breakthrough in Parkinson's medication, and has promised to come to future sessions. If you're interested, please be sure to stop by the August meeting.

Find more info at:

<http://neupro.com/About.html>



Instant Car-ma?

Lois Rice tells me that we have a new approach to getting people to the monthly CAPS meetings: a volunteer-based ride system. It works like this: folks that are willing and able to give others a lift to the meeting and those who need a ride call a coordinator by the Wednesday before the meeting and register their intentions. Once all the calls are sorted and matched, the coordinator contacts the volunteers to put them in touch with those in their area that need transport, and voila! Instant "Car-ma."

This idea has been around for a while, but it wasn't until Lois met Mary Davidson - an experienced and willing transportation coordinator - that it all came together. What follows is a "coupon" with the necessary information to make it all go, perfect for clipping and sticking to your fridge. (Don't worry about defacing this hallowed periodical. Replacements are available at the meeting.)

CAPS Volunteer Ride Program Information

No later than the Wednesday before the meeting,
To volunteer to give a ride to the monthly CAPS meeting,
or to request a ride to the same,

Contact Mary Davidson, program coordinator at

(512) 257-0529

or

(512) 659-9478

Information required:

Volunteers: Name, address and number of seats available

Riders: Name, address and special requirements

(Space for a walker, etc.)

A Neat New Thing

An Israeli scientist has designed a pair of futuristic-looking goggles that shows promise in helping Parkinsonians walk more self-assuredly. The spectacles project an image of a black-and-white tile pattern on the ground in front of the wearer's feet, providing feedback that seems to help overcome the shuffling gait and "freezes." Audio cues are also provided by rhythmic clicks through an earphone. For more information (including a video demonstration [and, unfortunately, an ad]), go to:

http://www.news8austin.com/content/living/health_beat/?SecID=169&ArID=188851

August Young Onset Group Meeting

The Young Onset Group meeting will be held Sunday, August 19th, 2007 at 3:00 PM at the Red Lobster, 109 W. Anderson. For more information, contact James Shrader at 671-3067 or at mmr12stringjms@aol.com.

