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CHARCOT-MARIE-TOOTH PATIENT/FAMILY CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, MAY 30, AT KASYCH FAMILY PAVILION AT LEHIGH VALLEY HOSPITAL IN ALLENTOWN, PA.

--Educational Conference Covers the Management of CMT, the Latest Medical Advances and the Current Research to Treat and Eventually Cure the Most Commonly Inherited Neurological Disorder--

Allentown, Pa., May 19, 2009 – Patients with the peripheral neuropathy known as Charcot-Marie-Tooth disorder will be able to attend a Patient/Family Conference on Saturday, May 30, 2009, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Kasych Family Pavilion at Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest in Allentown, Pa.

Charcot-Marie-Tooth disorder affects one in 2,500 people —2.6 million worldwide – and is the most commonly inherited peripheral neuropathy. CMT is a progressive disorder that causes the nerves leading to the body's extremities to slowly degenerate, resulting in the loss of normal use of the hands/arms and feet/legs. It may also lead to a loss of sensory functions and deformities. CMT strikes all ages, genders, races and ethnicities. People with CMT lose their ability to do daily activities that are often taken for granted.

The day-long conference will be held at:

**Kasych Family Pavilion at Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest
Allentown, Pa., 18105
Saturday, May 30, 2009
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Some of the area's leading CMT medical researchers and clinicians, including Lehigh Valley Health Network Neuromuscular Diseases Center Director Dr. Glenn Mackin, orthotist Gary Michalowski, physical therapist Allyn Danni, foot and ankle surgeon Dr. Sara Bouraee and occupational therapist Betsy Green will make presentations to inform patients about CMT and ways to manage the disease. Chief Executive Officer David Hall along with members of the CMTA staff will also be in attendance to discuss the ambitious future of the organization.

Attendees will learn about this often misdiagnosed disorder and have the opportunity to:

- Hear the latest advances in the diagnosis and treatment of CMT.
- Meet physical therapists, occupational therapists and other area CMT specialists who will present at the conference.

- Speak with experienced professionals from the CMTA
- Become familiar with the Strategy to Accelerate Research or STAR™, the CMTA's research initiative that holds promise for effective therapies for some types of CMT within three to five years and a possible cure within 10 years.
- Exchange information with other CMT patients, friends and families.

Admission to the conference, which includes continental breakfast and lunch, is free for Pennsylvania residents and \$10 for non-residents. Those interested in attending can register by calling 800-606-CMTA, ext. 103 or by emailing: conference@charcot-marie-tooth.org.

About the Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association (CMTA):

The CMTA, headquartered in Chester, Pennsylvania, is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1983. The CMTA goals include providing patient support, public education, promotion of research, and ultimately the improved treatment and cure of CMT. The organization is led by an Chief Executive Officer and governed by a voluntary Board of Directors (BOD), and an international Medical Advisory Board (MAB) comprised of over sixty clinical and research professionals in specialties such as neurology, genetics, orthopedic surgery, physiatry, physical therapy and podiatry. The CMTA Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) is comprised of senior scientists with extensive research experience related to CMT. An External Advisory Board, made up of internationally recognized scientists, serves in an advisory capacity to the SAB. The CMTA has more than 25,000 patients and families, supportive friends, and medical professionals in its member database. For more information, visit www.charcot-marie-tooth.org

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