



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**CHARCOT-MARIE-TOOTH PATIENT/FAMILY CONFERENCE SATURDAY, APRIL 18,
AT SHRINERS HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN IN ERIE, PA.**

--Provides Information on the Management of CMT, Latest Medical Advances and Current Research--

Erie, Pa., April 8, 2009 – Patients who have the peripheral neuropathy known as Charcot-Marie-Tooth disorder, their caregivers and families can attend a Patient/Family Conference on Saturday, April 18, 2009, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Shriners Hospital for Children in Erie, 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 legs/feet. 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 conference will be held at:

**Shriners Hospital for Children
1645 W. Eighth Street
Erie, Pa., 16505
Saturday, April 18, 2009
8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Some of the country’s leading CMT medical researchers and clinicians, including Wayne State CMT Clinic Director Dr. Michael Shy, orthopedic surgeon Dr. William Schrantz, physical therapist Bobby Rainey and occupational therapist Mandy Anderson will present the latest information on CMT and ways to manage the disease. Chief Executive Officer David Hall, along with members of the CMTA Board and staff, will also be in attendance to discuss the services and programs the organization offers, as well as its Strategy to Accelerate Research (STAR™) initiative, which is fast-tracking the development of treatments and, ultimately, a cure for CMT.

Admission to the conference, which includes continental breakfast and lunch, is free for

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Pennsylvania residents and \$10 for non-residents. Those interested in attending can register by visiting www.charcot-marie-tooth.org/PFC_erie2009.php, by calling 1-800-606-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 a Chief Executive Officer and governed by a voluntary Board of Directors (BOD), and an international Medical Advisory Board (MAB) comprised of over fifty 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 15,000 patients and families, supportive friends, and medical professionals in its member database. For more information, visit www.charcot-marie-tooth.org.

Media note: To arrange an interview with Michael E. Shy MD or CEO of the CMTA David Hall, please contact Beth Choike at 412.381.5400 x 117 or by e-mail at bchoike@gmdadv.com.

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