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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **CHARCOT-MARIE-TOOTH ASSOCIATION EXPANDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chester, PA, October 29, 2008 — Steven S. Scherer, MD, PHD, Professor of Neurology at the University of Pennsylvania, and Herb Beron, a Senior Vice President for Citigroup Smith Barney, have joined the Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association Board of Directors.

Dr. Scherer is the William N. Kelly Professor of Neurology at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He received his BS, MD and PHD degrees from the University of Michigan and performed his internship in internal medicine and residency in neurology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Scherer was a Charles A. Dana fellow at the University of Pennsylvania from 1981 – 1991 and joined the faculty in 1991. An author of more than 90 research papers and 40 reviews, his areas of interest are in the structure and function of myelinated axons and the pathogenesis of inherited neuropathies.

Dr. Scherer has more than 150 CMT patients in his care at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, where one of six U.S. CMT Centers of Excellence will officially open in January, 2009. He will serve as Principal Investigator at the Center, which is funded by both the Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Herb Beron serves as a Senior Vice President – Wealth Management for Citigroup Smith Barney in Florham Park NJ, providing strategic counsel to middle-market Hedge Funds, Mutual Funds, Registered Investment Advisors and other professional investors. Prior to that he was a Senior Vice President – Investments for Prudential Securities in New York. Mr. Beron received his BBA degree in Finance from Emory University.

As a member of the CMTA Board of Directors, Mr. Beron's goal is to find a cure for CMT, to create awareness and to improve the quality of life for those affected by the disorder. "When our daughter Julia was diagnosed with CMT 2E, my wife and I decided that we needed to become actively involved with the CMTA," he said. "Two years ago, we formed 'TeamJulia' with fellow Board Member Steve O'Donnell to participate in The Swim for the Cure, and since then we have

raised in excess of \$150,000. I and the other Board members are committed to generating the resources and funding necessary to support research to find a treatment, and ultimately a cure for CMT.”

“The CMTA is fortunate to have attracted Board members like Herb Beron and Dr. Steven Scherer,” said CMTA Board Chairman and President Patrick A. Livney. “Their dedication and passion to support research for CMT, which will relieve the suffering of people around the world, is in harmony with the mission of the CMTA. I welcome their expertise and support as we enter into an exciting period of research so that will one day we will have a world without CMT.”

#### About Charcot-Marie-Tooth Disorder:

CMT is the most commonly inherited peripheral neuropathy estimated to affect one in every 2,500 people—approximately 2.6 million people worldwide. CMT is a progressive disorder that causes the nerve cells leading to the body’s extremities to slowly degenerate resulting in the loss of normal use of the feet/legs and hands/arms. It may also lead to a loss of sensory nerve function and deformities. CMT strikes people of all ages, genders, races and ethnicities.

#### 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 Executive Director 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](http://www.charcot-marie-tooth.org) or call 1-800-606-2682.

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