

Health Bulletin



Understanding Epilepsy

(NAPSA)—There could be good news for the more than 3 million Americans currently diagnosed with epilepsy and the millions more who may be someday.

Efforts to cure and raise awareness about the condition are getting a big boost from some big names.

The disease is characterized by seizures; that is, a change in sensation, awareness or behavior brought about by a brief electrical disturbance in the brain. Seizures vary from a momentary disruption of the senses, to short periods of unconsciousness or staring spells, to convulsions.

Doctors treat epilepsy primarily with seizure-preventing medicines. However, surgery, diet or electrical implants may also be used for treatment.

Among the famous names who want to help are:

- Amy Lee, the lead singer of the rock group Evanescence. She has a brother with epilepsy and she's partnering with the Epilepsy Foundation in an "Out of the Shadows" campaign (www.OutoftheShadows.com).

- Senator John McCain. His father lived with seizures, a symptom of epilepsy, so now the senator is helping to further epilepsy awareness through public service announcements.

- U.S. Women's Ice Hockey goaltender and bronze medalist Chanda Gunn. Diagnosed with epilepsy when she was 9, Gunn helps teach others about the disease.

- Alan Faneca, guard for the Pittsburgh Steelers. He has epilepsy and supports various epilepsy-related organizations.

- Greg Grunberg. Best known for his television roles on "Felic-



Greg Grunberg of the new hit show "Heroes" is trying to raise money for epilepsy research.

ity," "Alias" and NBC's new hit show "Heroes," he's national chair for the first-ever National Walk for Epilepsy, in support of his son.

"It is such an honor to participate in any way we can to raise awareness in the fight against epilepsy," Grunberg said. "To be able to march on Washington with those directly affected and their families lets our family know we are not alone."

The National Walk for Epilepsy takes place on March 31, 2007 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. It is expected to draw 5,000 walkers and raise \$1 million to support programs to eliminate stigma and raise awareness of epilepsy.

- You. Anyone can join these celebrities and many others by supporting epilepsy research.

Visit www.WalkforEpilepsy.org for details about the fundraiser or EpilepsyFoundation.org for patient and caregiver information.