

# ICARE Member Reports

- *The American Epilepsy Society*
- *The **American Epilepsy Society** promotes research and education for professionals dedicated to the prevention, treatment and cure of epilepsy.*

# ICARE Member Reports:

## American Epilepsy Society

- ***Major topics of interest in epilepsy research***
  - The organization is uniquely dedicated to promoting research in ALL aspects of epilepsy. We believe that progress can only be made when experts from multiple fields interact and collaborate.
  - Research Fellowships: Pre-doctoral, Postdoctoral and Clinical fellowships.
  - Research and Training Workshops
  - Infrastructure awards: seed grants for multicenter collaborative research projects.
  - New Initiatives program.
- ***Types of research support or other activities***
  - Mentoring a new generation of investigators.
  - At 2009 annual meeting of the Society, there were six major symposia, two special lectures, 1129 posters presented, 38 special interest groups met, and there were numerous networking events. Attendance: 4200.
  - Meetings: workshops: NINDS workshops, GRC on Epilepsy and Neuronal Synchrony, Workshop on Neurobiology of Epilepsy (WONOE), etc.

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- *Resources available for shared use or other opportunities for collaboration*
  - Vision 2020 group: We convene organizations dedicated to combating epilepsy periodically. Among the attendees: CDC, CURE epilepsy Foundation, Epilepsy Foundation, Epilepsy Therapy Development Project, Milken Family Foundation, NINDS, PACE, Tuberos Sclerosis Alliance. Next meeting of the group is on March 25.
  - Working to craft a common message on the burden of epilepsy.
  - Provide platform to publicize funding opportunities: Resources in Epilepsy Research.
  - Provide opportunities for fellow organizations to show case their grant recipients at the Hoyer Lecture.
  - Support grant reviews by providing reviewers.

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- *Priorities for future activities*
  - Redefining epilepsy beyond seizures:
    - brain damage, cognitive and psychiatric impairment and death.
    - Epilepsy is a part of multiple disorders ranging from autism to dementia.
  - Relative efficacy of available therapies: examples include generics vs. brand name, monotherapy vs. polytherapy, what is the best treatment of JME, status epilepticus etc.
  - New therapies where few or none exist: Patients refractory to current treatments, catastrophic childhood epilepsies, neonatal seizures.