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**Epilepsy Foundation Eastern PA to host Annual Wyoming Valley Conference**

*Sessions include “Managing Your Diagnosis: Question and Answer with a Neurologist” and “Medical Marijuana and Epilepsy: Understanding the Facts”*

**October 8, 2014 |Wilkes-Barre, PA;** The Epilepsy Foundation Eastern Pennsylvania (EFEPA) is proud to offer it’s annual Wyoming Valley Epilepsy Education Exchange, a free conference that explores the latest in epilepsy research, treatment options and future of the field. The program is set to take place on November 19, 2014 at the Geisinger Wyoming Valley Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Wyoming Valley conference continues November’s Epilepsy Awareness Month, a nationwide effort to bring greater understanding of seizure disorders.

The conference begins with “Managing Your Diagnosis: Question & Answer with a Neurologist”, Dr. Carol Ulloa, *Department of Neurology Geisinger Wyoming Valley Hospital*. This open forum is a chance for participants to freely ask a medical professional their questions, find out what they are looking for, and listen to others to learn more about living with an epilepsy diagnosis. Hailing from a predominantly rural region, residents of the Wyoming Valley face even greater obstacles in their healthcare such as accessing specialists, obtaining up to date medical information and developing support networks. This places them at-risk for mismanaging their condition and becoming socially isolated. Having the opportunity to interface with a neurologist is all the more important for these individuals.

Session II features speaker David Gloss, MD, MPH, *Department of Neurology Geisinger Wyoming Valley Hospital* on “Medical Marijuana and Epilepsy: Understanding the Facts.” The session is an extension of the EFEPA’s support of decreasing restrictions on medical marijuana for further research and clinical trials so that all individuals can have equal access to potentially life-saving treatment. The session will be crucial for attendees who include patients with epilepsy, their caregivers and health professionals to learn more about the viability of medical marijuana as a potentially life-saving treatment option. By becoming more educated on the subject constituents will become empowered to advocate for their needs on a local or national level.

“Epilepsy can be incredibly frightening, particularly for individuals with uncontrolled seizures. All too often they lose hope that they will never be able to live above their diagnoses and enjoy life the fullest,” explains Allison McCartin, the Executive Director of the EFEPA. “But by providing the information on the latest in and future of the filed, we can inspire hope that you can have access to all that life has to offer and have epilepsy.”

The Wyoming Valley Epilepsy Education Exchange is the only kind of program in the area for the estimated 11,800 individuals in Northeast Pennsylvania diagnosed with epilepsy. The program begins promptly at 6:00 pm with Session I and concludes by 8:30 pm. Vendors will be onsite offering additional information to attendees. Past vendors include Canine Partners for Life, Cyberonics, Inc., UCB Pharmaceuticals, Eisai Pharmaceuticals, and Lundbeck Pharmaceuticals. Opportunities for sponsorship or vendor tables are still available.

To register visit [www.epilepsyinthevalley.org](http://www.epilepsyinthevalley.org) To learn more about the EFEPA and the free programs and services we offer visit our website [www.efepa.org](http://www.efepa.org).