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**The Epilepsy Foundation Eastern Pennsylvania**

**Takes Lead in Discussion of Gender, Sexual Health and Epilepsy**

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania* - The Epilepsy Foundation Eastern Pennsylvania (EFEPA) will explore issues of sexual health and epilepsy with the **Women’s & Men’s Conferences: Separate Issues** at the HUB in Center City, Philadelphia on Saturday, May 2nd. This free educational conference will target those living with epilepsy, their family and loved ones, medical personnel and health care professionals. The conference addresses an often misunderstood and unacknowledged relationship between epilepsy/seizure disorder and issues of gender and sexual health that affect individuals at every stage of life. It is the only conference of its kind in the area for the 110,000 individuals living with epilepsy in the EFEPA’s 18 county service area.

The conference will open with Michael Sperling, MD, Director of the Jefferson Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, *“Genetics and Epilepsy.”* Dr. Sperling is also the chairperson for the Men’s portion of the conference. Additional topics during the keynote portion includes Sarah Schmitt, MD presenting on *“Living with Epilepsy”* and a workshop on talking to your physician.

 “Many individuals and their caregivers are unaware of the dramatic impact seizures can have on ones’ emotional and sexual health, and vice versa” said Joyce Liporace, MD, of Great Valley Neurological Associates and chairperson of the Women’s workshops. “It is imperative we provide this information and demonstrate to people with epilepsy that they are not alone in dealing with these crucial issues.”

Registration and Continental Breakfast will begin at 8:30am and the conference will conclude at 12:30 pm. The conference features two separate but current tracks on the most pressing men’s and women’s issues. The Women’s track includes: *Hormones from Puberty to Menopause* and *Planning for Pregnanc*. The Men’s portion includes the following: *Side-effects of Medication* and *Epilepsy and Men’s Health.* The faculty includes local and national experts on epilepsy from the leading epilepsy centers including Penn Epilepsy Center, Temple Epilepsy Center and Jefferson Comprehensive Epilepsy Center. For more information on this and additional area events please visit our website at [www.efepa.org](http://www.efepa.org).

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**Our mission:** to stop seizures and SUDEP, find a cure and overcome the challenges created by epilepsy through efforts including education, advocacy and research to accelerate ideas into therapies.