



Sept. 27: Sturge-Weber Foundation To Co-host Centers Of Excellence Meeting

Texas Children's Hospital in Houston to be site of meeting; The Sturge-Weber Foundation and Texas Children's Hospital to Co-Host Centers of Excellence Annual Conference

Media Advisory

MT FREEDOM, N.J./EWorldWire/Sep. 24, 2008 --- The Sturge-Weber Foundation (SWF) and Texas Children's Hospital (TCH) announced today that they will be co-hosting the SWF annual Centers of Excellence (COE) conference on September 27, at the hospital. The conference will bring together some of the leading national experts committed to clinical and scientific research in Sturge-Weber syndrome (SWS) and related port wine birthmark conditions. The SWF has 12 Centers of Excellence at leading medical centers in this country and in Paris and Brussels.

The SWF also announced Texas Children's Hospital will serve as the lead COE to serve as the coordinating center. "Texas Children's Hospital has consistently answered the call for action on behalf of those living with Sturge-Weber syndrome since the SWF was incorporated in 1987," Karen Ball, SWF president and CEO said. "We are proud to partner with the Hospital as we increase the pace of discovery through translational clinical and research studies at the Centers of Excellence."

Sturge-Weber syndrome is a rare congenital neurological disorder usually characterized by a facial port wine birthmark. Seizures and glaucoma are often part of the syndrome. It has no cure, no known cause and is found in both sexes and all ethnic groups.

The Sturge-Weber Foundation, located in N.J., was started by Kirk and Karen Ball in 1987 after the birth of a baby who was diagnosed with SWS. In their search for more than a short paragraph in a medical text book, they began an organization that now includes families, clinicians, researchers and educators from around the world. The SWF provides information, education and friendly support to individuals and families coping with the disorder. It also instigates and funds research into the cause and cure.

More information can be found at '<http://www.sturge-weber.org>'.

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