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ISSUE: Some neurological diseases result in profound chronic disability rather than death. These disorders, including headache disorders, are in need of substantial increases in NIH research support.

OBJECTIVE: Fully-fund NIH research into disabling neurological diseases.

Impact on Neurology: Increased NIH research funding for headache disorders.

- ACTIONS:
1. Meet with NIH and NINDS officials to obtain a census of current and historical research funding of neurological diseases relative to their burden of disease and disease-associated disability.
  2. Organize a “Headache on the Hill” advocacy day for headache medicine specialists to meet with their Congressional delegations to work towards Senate and/or House public hearings on the OBJECTIVE and to identify a sponsor to write/introduce legislation to realize this.
  3. Organize headache patients to urge their Congressional delegations to write legislation to realize the OBJECTIVE.
  4. Contact other disease-specific associations that represent disorders under-funded by NIH relative to their burden of disease and disease-associated disability.
  5. Engage the media by submitting newspaper op-ed pieces and journal commentaries.
  6. Inclusion of headache research funding in the Neurology on the Hill legislative agenda.

TARGET AUDIENCES:

1. Officials of NIH and NINDS
2. Congressional delegations, particularly those of pivotal committees such as:
  - Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
  - Senate Committee on Appropriations,
    - Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
  - House Energy and Commerce Committee
  - House Committee on Appropriations,
    - Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
3. Same as 2.
4. Same as 2.
5. Media.

RESOURCES:

1. Recruitment of headache medicine physicians for advocacy through the AAN, Headache and Facial Pain Section (K. Gardner, Chair) American Headache Society, Academic Affairs Section (R. Shapiro, Chair), Headache Cooperative of New England (R. Shapiro, President). National Headache Foundation
2. Apply for inclusion of this action plan as a legislative priority for AAN 2007 Neurology on the Hill advocacy.
3. Recruit assistance of headache patient advocacy websites such as MAGNUM and headaches.about.com. Assistance of content provider for headaches.about.com, Teri Robert, already enlisted.
4. Seek endorsement and funding support for advocacy efforts from AHS, NHF, and AAN.

**SUCCESS MEASURES:**

1. Inclusion of headache funding in legislative agenda of Neurology on the Hill.
2. Passage of bill leading to a fundamental change in priorities for NIH research funding.
2. Congressional Hearing
3. "Headache on the Hill" advocacy day
4. Establish grassroots website for email writing (Vocus) and petitions focused on advocacy. Also, establish a public advocacy blog.

**TARGET DATES:**

1. March 12, 2007: Meet with NIH/NINDS officials.
2. May 4, 2007: AAN Headache and Facial Pain section meeting.
3. June 9, 2007: AHS Academic Affairs Section meeting.
4. September 26, 2007: "Headache on the Hill" advocacy day.
5. February 2008: Congressional Committee Hearing.