Better Treatments for Epilepsy: Finding the Path Forward

CME: 2.75 hours
January 15, 2016
1:15 p.m.—4:15 p.m.

Program Director  Edward H. Bertram, MD, Charlottesville, VA

Program Description
The last two decades have seen the introduction of over a dozen new medications for the treatment of epilepsy as well as the approval of several stimulation devices. All have contributed to the reduction of the seizure burden, but there remains the approximately one-third of people with epilepsy who continue to suffer from uncontrolled seizures. Many advances have been made in our understanding of the pathophysiology, but few have guided the development of new therapies. In this course we will examine the issue of drug resistance in epilepsy, how the current discovery process and market forces shape decisions regarding which drugs to develop and how the current discovery process makes use of our new knowledge about the mechanisms of epilepsy. We will use this information to discuss the path to better treatments in the coming decades.

Learning Objectives
Participants should be able to understand the basis for drug resistance in epilepsy; recognize the barriers to developing new treatments; gain insight into how the discovery process integrates emerging knowledge about epilepsy pathophysiology; and learn what will be necessary to develop more effective treatment.

Recommended Audience
Trainee; General Neurologist; Specialist Neurologist; Non-neurologist

Core Competencies
Medical Knowledge; Patient Care

Schedule

1:15 p.m.—1:40 p.m.  Why Epilepsy Treatments Fail
Edward H. Bertram, MD, Charlottesville, VA

1:40 p.m.—2:30 p.m.  Putting Patients First: Drug Development Challenges and Opportunities
Rajesh Ranganathan, PhD, Washington, DC

2:30 p.m.—2:45 p.m.  Break

2:45 p.m.—3:35 p.m.  Matching Discovery to Mechanisms: Where Are We Now and Where Do We Need To Be Going?
F. Edward Dudek, PhD, Salt Lake City, UT

3:35 p.m.—4:05 p.m.  How Do We Get to Better Treatments
Edward H. Bertram, MD, Charlottesville, VA

4:05 p.m.—4:15 p.m.  Questions and Answers
Faculty

RECOMMENDED COMPANION COURSE — PAGE 6
Treating the New-onset Epilepsy Patient: A Case-based Approach