

February 2017 Newsletter

Dear Friends of the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida,

It's a new year and that means our all-important Walk the Talk events are just around the corner! We kick off the series in Gainesville on March 25 and end in Jacksonville on May 20. In-between are stops in Naples, Daytona, Pensacola, West Palm Beach, Miami and Broward County. All Walk the Talk events are designed to raise much-needed funding and awareness for those affected by epilepsy. If you haven't already, please [register](#) to participate, [start a team](#) or [donate](#) to help us reach our goal of spreading awareness and fighting the stigma! More information about each event follows in this newsletter.

The Florida Legislature will soon begin its 2017 session and as is our annual tradition, EFOF will honor lawmakers with Champion of the Heart Awards at our Purple Equals Red plus Blue Reception in Tallahassee on Wednesday, February 22nd. We are excited to be honoring Senator Anitere Flores, Senator Audrey Gibson, Senator Dana Young, and Representative Jason Brodeur, all of whom have been extraordinarily supportive of our organization and cause.

This year, we welcome a new event as pro golfer Jeff Klauk hosts the inaugural Athletes vs. Epilepsy \$1 Million Shootout Golf Tournament, with all proceeds benefitting the Athletes vs. Epilepsy Program and EFOF. This exciting event will take place Monday, April 10, at The Palencia Club in St. Augustine. Jeff is the husband of Board of Directors member Shanna Klauk and has, himself, suffered seizures because of epilepsy. I hope that you will participate in this fun tournament. Visit www.AthletesversusEpilepsyGolf.com for more information.

We're off to a great start in 2017!



Sincerely,

Karen Basha Egozi
Chief Executive Officer
Epilepsy Foundation of Florida

Clayton Feig Legacy Fund - Faces of Epilepsy

by: Yesenia Carmenate

When the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida told me they wanted to publish my story in their issue, at the beginning, I was hesitant. I knew writing again would bring me back to memories I didn't know existed. I had to question my parents and listen to things they went through. Afterwards, I remembered why I even started a Facebook group about epilepsy. I started my group to bring epilepsy awareness, to bring hope to caregivers and give strength to anyone battling epilepsy or anything else.



Hi, my name is Yesenia Carmenate, I'm 32 years old, and five years ago I was diagnosed with Autoimmune Encephalitis. On April 8, 2012, I started feeling bad but never said anything—the biggest mistake I ever made. On April 16, my life forever changed. I had my first seizure at 7:45 am at home; it lasted twenty minutes. Thanks to God it happened while I was getting ready for work and not while driving to work. In a period of two months I was transported through five different hospitals. I underwent numerous testing from special labs which in total were 92 MRI's, Ct Scans, ultrasounds and x-rays. Through my stay I had 57 seizures, blood transfusions, blood clots located in my heart, lung and left leg. I went through stages of insomnia, and was unable to speak, eat, walk or recognize loved ones. Ultimately, at Jackson they were able to establish a diagnosis. On my 28th birthday, May 30th, 2012, I had my last seizure that lasted two hours long. On June 19, I was sent home, but my parents were told that I would be in a "Vegetative state." They were just happy to take me home. My mom asked "How can I learn 21 pills?" and the nurse said, "Trust me you will learn." My mother became my caregiver while my dad was the bread maker. A lot of people gave them advice and even told them to change our living room to a hospital facility. But my parents were strong and said, "No." They kept my room as it was. My mom would take me to all my doctor's appointments. She taught me to talk and write again, and got me the physical and occupational therapy that I needed. I was in a wheel chair for a year. I started to remember certain things when I would walk with a walker, look through pictures and things people told me. Now, four years later, I take one course at a time to pursue my dream of becoming a teacher. I still have memory issues and balance problems and continue to have follow-ups with my neurologist, hematologist, cardiologist and even a psychologist. I learned to seek help and not be ashamed to ask for help. Thanks to God I have been seizure-free for four years. My best suggestion is stay strong, have faith and surround yourself with positive people. Remember what you are going through, "You are not alone."

Join Us! Walk the Talk for Epilepsy 2017



WALK the TALK
for Epilepsy
2017

45 EPILEPSY FOUNDATION Florida Epilepsy Research Center

UPCOMING WALKS

GAINESVILLE Saturday, March 25 University of Florida, Fleet Field	DAYTONA Saturday, April 1 Mary Bethune Park	NAPLES Saturday, April 1 North Collier Regional Park
PENSACOLA Saturday, April 8 Inside Blue Walheos Stadium	WEST PALM BEACH Sunday, April 30 John Prince Memorial Park	
MIAMI Saturday, May 6 Tropical Park	BROWARD Sunday, May 7 North Beach Park	JACKSONVILLE Saturday, May 20 Metropolitan Park

Registration is at 8:00 a.m. Walk Begins at 9:00 a.m.

Please visit www.efot.org/walkthetalk
for more information, or call us at
1-877-55-EPILEPSY
1-877-553-7453

<https://www.facebook.com/EpilepsyFLA>
<https://twitter.com/EFOF>
<http://www.efot.org/>

The Early Bird Gets the Worm

All of this year's 2017 walks feature early bird pricing, so be sure to [register in advance](#) to take advantage of these savings!

Check it Out!

Our official Walk the Talk 2017 PSA is now available on YouTube. Please use this video as a way to spread the word about the walks to others in your network!



Medical Marijuana Symposium (for physicians)

Join Canna Holdings on Saturday, March 11, for an engaging day of education and discussion. More than 300 physicians from South Florida will unite to explore and learn how medical marijuana may impact patients and their medical practice in the future. To learn more about the Symposium and to register for the event, [click here](#).

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

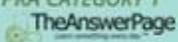
AN EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM for FLORIDA PHYSICIANS

presented by  **Amendment 2** went into effect on Jan 3. When your patients ask if medical marijuana can help them, will you have an answer?

SATURDAY, MARCH 11TH
FROM 8:00^{AM} - 3:00^{PM}
Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

REGISTER AT WWW.CANNAHOLDINGS.COM

WESTIN FORT LAUDERDALE
400 CORPORATE DRIVE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33334

EARN UP TO 6 AMA PRA CATEGORY 1
CME Credits™ provided at 

 PHO sponsor

REGISTER AT www.CannaHoldings.com

\$50
SAVE
WHEN YOU
REGISTER BY
FEBRUARY 11TH
PROJECT THE
MMJ

Dustin Sulak, MD
ENDOCANNABINOID PHYSIOLOGY
An exciting tour of our endogenous cannabinoid system, a cornerstone in our capacity for homeostasis and healing, seldom taught in medical and nursing education.

Gregory Gerdeman, PhD
MECHANISMS OF PAIN RELIEF USING CANNABIS
A review of the types of pain and the impact of cannabis on neuropathic pain through a review of clinical trials.

Gregory Smith, MD
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE
Learn how the endocannabinoid system plays an important role in controlling the development and progression of Alzheimer's disease.

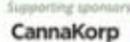
Moderated by Jodi Lezance (GreenspoonMarder)
LEGAL ROUNDTABLE WITH FLORIDA ATTORNEYS
Current Florida Law and What Physicians Need to Know

Moderated by Seth Hyman
PHYSICIAN ROUNDTABLE WITH PRACTICING MEDICAL CANNABIS DOCTORS
How Treating Patients With Cannabis Affects Your Practice

THE PATIENT JOURNEY:
From Physician Recommendation to Dispensary
Presented by Nicole van Rensburg

WHY THE US GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN MAILING ME 300 JOINTS PER MONTH
Presented by Irvin Rosenfeld

Supporting sponsors:

Pro Golfer Jeff Klauk to Host Charity Tournament Benefitting Epilepsy



Get ready to tee it up with professional golfer Jeff Klauk as he hosts the Athletes vs. Epilepsy \$1 Million Shootout Golf Tournament, with all proceeds benefitting the Athletes vs. Epilepsy Program and The [Epilepsy Foundation of Florida](http://www.EpilepsyFoundationofFlorida.org) (EFOF). The event will take place on Monday, April 10, 2017 at The Palencia Club in St. Augustine.

The goal of the tournament is to bring epilepsy awareness and funding through participation by athletes of all ages and skill levels, as well as their supportive friends, family and fans.

Teams of five will compete over a unique course layout with nine par three holes and nine regulation holes. Each par three will feature a \$10,000 Hole-in-One contest. Golfers closest to the pin on the par three holes qualify for the \$1 Million Shootout and will take a shot for the \$1 million prize -- \$500,000 to the winner and \$500,000 to benefit epilepsy. The winner of the pre-event putting contest will receive two tickets to the Masters Golf Tournament, which includes all practice and competitive rounds.

Individual teams of five may register for \$1,900 and individual golfers for \$400, which also includes lunch and the Awards Reception. For sponsor package and registration information, please visit www.AthletesversusEpilepsyGolf.com.

Upcoming EFOF Events



Kendra Gives Back
Boca Raton | February 9



**The Fashion Affair at
Miracle Mile**
Miami | February 9



**The Honda Classic -
Birdies for Children**



**Painting With a Purpose
Benefit Night**
Jacksonville | February 25



**Marathon of the Treasure
Coast**
Stuart | March 5



Beast Feast
Vero Beach | March 11



Purple Pint Night
Gainesville | March 26



**Athletes vs. Epilepsy -
Million Dollar Shootout!**
St. Augustine | April 10

SUPPORT YOUR EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA

No one can prepare for a seizure as it can happen at the most unexpected time. There are currently more than 400,000 individuals who suffer from epilepsy across Florida with more than 89,000 of those sufferers being children. Prevention and education can better prepare those impacted by the disease. The Epilepsy Foundation of Florida (EFOF) is here to help provide services and resources to those needing it most, and to those seeking more information.

EFOF offers extensive and supportive services and programs to individuals, families, friends and the community at large including:

- Educational presentations
- Current epilepsy resources and information
- Medical services
- Support groups
- Sponsorship & Volunteer Opportunities
- Summer Camp
- Patient Navigation
- So much more!

To become a client and for more information about the organization, the individuals it serves and the resources provided to those in need, visit www.epilepsyfla.org or call 1-877-553-7453.

[Make a Donation](#)



Everyday
Extraordinary Epilepsy Care

Marcela suffered from epileptic seizures and medication side effects. After careful observation in Memorial's advanced Epilepsy Monitoring Unit, Tarek Zakaria, MD, Neurologist, diagnosed her seizures, ruled out surgery and prescribed a medication to improve her quality of life. Now, Marcela lives extraordinary every day.

M Memorial Neuroscience Institute [Learn More](#)



**A Global Leader
 in Pediatric
 Epilepsy Care**

[LEARN MORE](#)

 Nicklaus Children's Hospital
 MIAMI CHILDREN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

Brain Institute



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