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From the CEO’s desk

It’s an exciting time for research in genetic epilepsy. In fact, scientists for the first time have pinpointed the affected gene responsible for development of childhood absence epilepsy (CAE).

We talk more about genetic epilepsy with Professor Sam Berkovic from the Melbourne-based Epilepsy Research Centre in the article “Genetic Research: Future Hope”. Researchers at the ERC discovered the first known epilepsy gene causing a rare nocturnal form of epilepsy and have since found several more genes, contributing greatly to the worldwide exploration of inherited epilepsy. That is why it’s so important for research centres to receive continuous funds to help them do vital work that will change the lives of hundreds of thousands of people living with epilepsy.

While many people with epilepsy live a full and active life, and experience minimal side effects with antiepilepsy medication, about 30% with epilepsy continue to struggle with seizure control or experience side effects that impact their quality of life. We research complementary and alternative therapies so that readers are better informed about the issue and can get the care they need to avoid the long-term effects in later life.

Please continue to keep in touch as your letters prompt us to research and write about issues of interest to you. Simply email epilepsy@epilepsy.org.au. We look forward to hearing from you.

Carol Ireland
Chief Executive Officer