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From the *Heart*

PERSONAL STORIES, PUBLIC CAUSES

The expression the acorn becomes an oak is never truer than in charitable and philanthropic acts. Individuals who are moved by a certain cause — as a result of their own experiences, beliefs, or outlooks — often inspire many others to rally to that cause.

Last year, **PharmaVOICE** began a series of articles showcasing the philanthropic contributions made by several life-sciences companies. This month, in keeping with the spirit of Valentine's Day, we are offering stories of the heart. These are the experiences of individuals within the life-

sciences industry who, for a variety of reasons, choose to give of their time for others. Their heartwarming stories and their generosity inspire those around them to donate their time or resources. Thus one person's passion and determination are fed, and so that cause grows and achieves greater things.



Investing in a Cure for Seizures

Warren Lammert, Granite Point Capital



Warren Lammert with his two daughters, 11-year-old Sylvie and her younger sister Sarah, at a national walk where the ETP team raised the third-highest donation, a total of \$15,000.

At just 8 months of age, Warren Lammert's daughter Sylvie had her first seizure. Mr. Lammert, founder of investment firm Granite Point Capital, was 1,000 miles from home at a conference in Los Angeles when he got the call from his wife Kathy. He rushed back to Denver and arrived at the hospital to find Sylvie had had a status seizure, which lasted 30 minutes.

"As the staff sought reasons for the sudden unexplained onset of seizures, Kathy and I had the experience of taking our sedated Sylvie to have an MRI scan, and I later held Sylvie as physicians performed a lumbar puncture to rule out encephalitis," Mr. Lammert says.

Sylvie was seizure-free for a month and then the seizures returned, often in clusters that lasted 30 to 45 minutes when the little girl awoke. Eventually, the family took Sylvie to specialists in New York. But despite two new medications to improve seizure control, Sylvie's seizures have continued.

In 2000, seeking to learn more about epilepsy, Mr. Lammert helped co-found epilepsy.com together with Sylvie's doctor, Orrin Devinsky, and others, including Joyce Cramer, president of Epilepsy Therapy Project (ETP).

In his research Mr. Lammert made a stark discovery; of the 3 million people in the United States living with epilepsy, about one-third live with active seizures despite all available therapies, and many more achieve control with medications that have unacceptable side effects.

In 2002, amid discussions with Dr. Devinsky and two other fathers of young girls living with severe epilepsy (including Hank Chesbrough, professor at UC Berkeley Haas School of Business and author of several books on innovation) about supporting the development of new therapies, the ETP was formed. In addition to his busy work schedule, Mr. Lammert founded and acts as chairman of ETP.

ETP provides financial support as well as scientific and business direction for promis-

ing new therapy projects directly and through its Epilepsy Research Foundation partnership.

ETP continues to support epilepsy.com and epilepsy.com/professionals in its efforts to provide in-depth information on epilepsy and available therapies and community to patients, families, caregivers, and professionals living and working with epilepsy.

“We also supported the creation of the Epilepsy Study Consortium (epilepsyconsortium.org) to take time and costs out of the clinical-trial process, and we provide ongoing support for the two major international meetings on the development of new therapies for epilepsy,” Mr. Lammert says. “We are working diligently to make a difference, but only support from a wide community will

enable us to provide the significant funding needed to make new therapies for those with epilepsy a reality.”

ETP embarked on its first conference — Epilepsy Pipeline: Portal Into CNS — held in San Francisco on March 13, 2008. The goal of this conference was to bring together scientists, emerging companies, investors, and business development people to see opportunities in epilepsy.

“We were successful in engaging the interest of many investors to hear about the wide potential for medications and devices developed for epilepsy,” Mr. Lammert says.

Now 11, Sylvie still battles seizures, but she has an indomitable spirit.

“For me, epilepsy is a burden and an enemy that confronts a little girl that I love,” Mr. Lammert says. “But Sylvie is a happy

and tenacious child who rises above her challenges and is a delight in our lives. I want to add that the challenge of working to make a difference for Sylvie and for all those living with epilepsy is an experience that itself is filled with rewards for me, and not least is the exceptional, wonderful people I have been blessed to know and work with in this journey.”

Champion: *Warren Lammert, Founder, Principal and Chief Investment Officer, Granite Point Capital, an investment firm. For more information, visit granitepoint.com.*

Cause: *The Epilepsy Therapy Project is a non-profit organization advancing new therapies for people living with epilepsy. To learn more about the Epilepsy Therapy Project, visit epilepsy.com.*