

April is National Parkinson's AWARENESS Month

Did you know about another side to this disease?

1 out of every 3 people diagnosed with Parkinson's disease may experience changes that include seeing, hearing and imagining things that aren't there.

KING OF PRUSSIA, PA—March 23, 2009 – Parkinson's disease Psychosis is real - and the symptoms are sometimes mistaken for dementia or other mental illnesses. Parkinson's disease Psychosis is not only devastating for those suffering from it, but it may also affect those living with and caring for them. Parkinson's disease Awareness Month presents an opportunity to inform the public about this side of Parkinson's disease.

Parkinson's disease affects 1.5 million Americans, and an estimated one third or more of these people may develop changes that include visual hallucinations, delusions, feelings of paranoia, distrust of others, and suspecting friends and/or family of stealing from or cheating on them.

ACADIA Pharmaceuticals, a biopharmaceutical company headquartered in San Diego, is evaluating an investigational medication for Parkinson's disease Psychosis. This investigational medication is being evaluated to see if it may help improve the quality of life for people with Parkinson's disease who are experiencing changes in thought, behavior and judgment.

The National Parkinson Foundation estimates that 60,000 new cases of Parkinson's disease are diagnosed each year. Up to 40 percent of these people are often coping with Parkinson's disease Psychosis without realizing its cause, severely impacting their day-to-day activities. Parkinson's disease Psychosis sufferers sometimes lose their ability to carry out many of the daily tasks that at one time kept them active and self-sufficient. Caregivers may suffer too. Many may feel isolated and overwhelmed by the behavioral changes of the person they are caring for.

According to Carol McLain, RN and 17 year Parkinson's disease psychosis caregiver, *“As a registered nurse, I was prepared for the physical problems with my husband's disease but despite my job as an RN, I was totally unprepared for the psychiatric issues.”*

Many people and caregivers alike often confuse Parkinson's disease Psychosis symptoms for dementia or Alzheimer's. The development of psychosis in Parkinson's disease patients is a medical condition that may represent a significant change in the clinical progression of the disease.

There are currently no FDA-approved medications for these particular symptoms of Parkinson's disease Psychosis. Research is needed to evaluate investigational medicines for this condition.

Those caring for someone who may be experiencing Parkinson's disease Psychosis are asked to call the toll-free research study number at [1-866-565-0262](tel:1-866-565-0262) or visit the clinical research Web site at www.ParkinsonsBodyMind.com. Here caregivers can find clinical research centers conducting this study in their area and a “10 Tips for Caregivers” video slideshow.