

Things are just different

UNDERSTANDING MEDICAL AND CAREGIVING ISSUES
IN THE FRONTOTEMPORAL DEMENTIAS

First Massachusetts Education Symposium
Developed by the Massachusetts General Hospital Frontotemporal Disorders Unit
and
the Association for Frontotemporal Dementias

October 29 2009

Background Information

What is Frontotemporal Dementia?

Frontotemporal dementias (FTD) are a group of degenerative brain disorders that share many features. All result from progressive damage to cells in the anterior temporal and/or frontal lobes of the brain. The hallmark of FTD is a gradual, progressive decline in behavior and/or language. As the disease progresses, it becomes increasingly difficult for people to plan or organize activities, communicate, behave appropriately in social or work settings, interact with others, and care for oneself, resulting in increasing dependency. The onset of FTD symptoms typically occurs in the 50's to early 60's, but can strike as early as 21 or as late as 80. FTD represents about 10%-20% of all dementia cases – or 250,000 Americans – and is one of the most common dementias affecting a younger population. There are currently no treatments to slow or stop the progression of the disease.

Why this Education Symposium?

Frontotemporal dementia is often difficult to diagnose, and families can go months or years without confirming the health status of a loved one. One of the goals of this education day is to provide support for families to learn more about FTD, and to educate professionals in the community about the disorders. A definitive diagnosis can help with care planning and ensure the welfare and safety of the patient and the family. In order to learn more about this challenging disorder, the MGH is seeking to dramatically expand its research efforts, to study all aspects of FTD. By increasing awareness, the education day can help to support those research goals.

Who should attend?

Family members, friends, and caregivers who want to better understand the issues that a patient will face with these disorders, and how to begin to create a comprehensive care plan to do so.

Social workers that are assisting families with dementia care will receive CEU credits for attending.

Other medical professionals interested in an overview of FTD and the caregiving issues.

Cost to attend: \$25 for families or caregivers, \$40 for social workers, including CEU

Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. For questions on the Education Day, please contact ftd.boston@gmail.com.

Sponsors



Partners Home Care / Partners Private Care / Partners Hospice delivers compassionate home health care and community based services, and is a member of Partners HealthCare, an integrated health care system founded by Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital. 800.698.2628 www.partnershomecare.org



The Association for Frontotemporal Dementias
Opening the gateway to help and a cure

The Association for Frontotemporal Dementias is the place to turn for accurate information, compassion and hope when lives are touched by frontotemporal dementias. 866.507.7222 www.ftd-picks.org

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Sponsorships and donations

All net proceeds will go to support the MGH FTD Research Fund.
For sponsorships, please contact ftd.boston@gmail.com.

For donations:

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Dickerson MGH Dementia Research Fund

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For more information on Frontotemporal Dementia

The MGH Frontotemporal Disorders Unit

<http://www.ftd-boston.org/>

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The unit is a comprehensive clinical-research unit focused on Frontotemporal Dementia and related disorders, including Primary Progressive Aphasia, Semantic Dementia, Corticobasal Degeneration Syndrome, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, and Posterior Cortical Atrophy.

The Association for Frontotemporal Dementias

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Massachusetts Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

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