

@Your Service

YOUR VOICES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Correspondence for publication on this LETTERS page must include name, address, and daytime phone number, and may be edited for purposes of space and clarity. It should be e-mailed to neurologynow@lwwny.com, faxed to 646-674-6500, or mailed to 333 Seventh Ave., 19th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

PERSONAL ESSAYS: The SPEAK UP essay is a forum for people who live with neurological conditions and those who care for them. Submissions should be kept to 600 words and sent to the addresses above.

ASK THE EXPERTS: If you have a question for a doctor to answer in our ASK THE EXPERTS department, send it to the addresses above.



SUBSCRIPTIONS

You may order a subscription—available for free to individuals with a neurological disorder and their families and caregivers—through the following methods.

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WEBSITE

neurologynow.com features an electronic version of the print magazine, dating to our premiere issue. The site also offers publication information, resource links, and web-exclusive content.

Quick Tip: Avoid the Post Office?

I was a bit surprised that Shelley Peterman Schwarz—who shared some really great holiday tips and is clearly computer savvy—missed one bit of advice. The U.S. Postal Service now provides convenient ways to use their services without going to the post office. At usps.com you can print a shipping label and pay for postage (and you get a discount on postage when you use Priority Mail). If you print an electronic shipping label and use Priority Mail, you get Delivery Confirmation at no charge. You can even order stamps or schedule a carrier pickup online.

—Anita Rutt-Guerriere
Bethlehem, PA



Seizure-Alert Dogs

My name is Mary Black and I am the CEO of Canine Services, which specializes in seizure-alert dogs. The company, which is a 501.3c non-profit organization, has been in business since November 1992. I am also a seizure patient myself—here is a picture of me and Maedchen, my seizure-alert dog.

I had a vagus nerve stimulator implanted in October of 2001 and have been seizure-free for three years, on no anticonvulsants.

—Mary Black
canineservices@yahoo.com

CORRECTION: The article “Multiple System Atrophy” (September/October 2009) mistakenly identifies Sylvia Summers as Don Summer’s wife who passed away from multiple system atrophy (MSA). It was Don Summer’s first wife, Gwen Summers, who suffered from MSA and passed away.

Lewy Body Dementia

My brother was recently diagnosed with Lewy body dementia. He is 58 years old and I am very concerned for him. I understand that there is no cure for this progressive disease. For the sake of my children and grandchildren, I want to know if Lewy body dementia is hereditary.

—Ruth Baker

THE EDITOR RESPONDS: According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the cause of Lewy body dementia remains unknown. Some speculate that genetics plays a role, and studies are underway to investigate this possibility. Please see “The Other Dementias” on page 26 of the November/December 2009 issue for more information on Lewy body dementia, frontotemporal dementia, and vascular dementia. You might also contact the Association for Frontal Temporal Dementias online at FTD-Picks.org or by phone at 267-514-7221 or 866-507-7222.