



**For Immediate Release**

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**AMERICAN TELEVISION ICON JERRY MATHERS BEST KNOWN FOR HIS ROLE IN LEAVE IT TO BEAVER, OVER 200 NEUROPATHY PATIENTS, DOCTORS AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS GATHER TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF NEUROPATHY**

LOS ANGELES (June 21, 2013) – The Neuropathy Action Foundation (NAF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, dedicated to ensuring neuropathy patients obtain the necessary resources, information and tools to improve their quality of life, hosted its seventh annual “Neuropathy Action Awareness Day” in Los Angeles. The largest neuropathy gathering in the U.S. this year brought together patients and caregivers from across the country to access the latest medical news on neuropathy from experts in the field.

The “Neuropathy Action Awareness Day” provides an exciting opportunity for patients to interact with other patients, physicians and exhibitors. The event consisted of a full day of educational presentations, a luncheon, an exhibit area and a silent auction. In addition to American television icon Jerry Mathers who discussed living with and beating diabetic peripheral neuropathy (DPN) other highlights included:

- **Dr. Richard Lewis**, Director EMG Laboratory and Co-Director Neuromuscular Clinic, Cedars-Sinai, who illustrated the understanding of a neurologist’s approach to the diagnosis and treatment of peripheral neuropathy;
- **Lisa De Fazio, MS, RD**, Hollywood Media Dietitian, Television Host and Spokesperson, spoke about diet, health and nutrition;
- **Dr. Sean Mackey**, Chief, Division of Pain Management at Stanford University, presented on neuropathic pain and pain treatments;
- **Dr. Jeffrey Ralph**, Associate Clinical Professor, University of California, San Francisco, discussed traumatic neuropathies and nerve repair.

As part of the “Neuropathy Action Awareness Day,” providers, exhibitors, government officials and patients provided attendees with information on cutting edge treatments, understanding one’s healthcare rights and how to appeal decisions by health insurers that deny access to life and limb saving treatments like intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG).

“It is more critical than ever that the estimated 20 million neuropathy sufferers in the United States work with health care providers and elected officials to protect and enhance access to life sustaining and life-saving treatments,” said NAF President Dominick Spatafora. “Neuropathy Action Awareness Day provides patients and providers with an active forum to share information, to empower themselves to be effective advocates, and to improve the quality of life of neuropathy patients.”



Neuropathy is a condition that results when nerves that connect to the brain and spinal cord from the rest of the body are damaged or diseased. There are more than 100 kinds of peripheral nerve disorders. They can affect one nerve or many nerves. This includes injury of nerves to muscles (motor nerves), nerves from the skin (sensory nerves), and/or nerves to the gut and other internal organs (autonomic nerves).

**About the Neuropathy Action Foundation**

The Neuropathy Action Foundation (NAF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is dedicated to ensuring neuropathy patients obtain the necessary resources, information and tools to access individualized treatment to improve their quality of life. The NAF increases awareness among physicians, the general public and public policy officials that neuropathy can potentially be a serious, widespread and disabling condition, which may be treatable when appropriate medical care is provided. [www.neuropathyaction.org](http://www.neuropathyaction.org)

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