

## ASK THE MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD

In each issue, a member of TSA's Medical Advisory Board addresses medical questions that affect people with TS and their families. This issue's contributor is Ruth D. Bruun, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry, NYU School of Medicine.



**Q** My son takes haloperidol for his TS. He was prescribed epinephrine (bupivacaine, a hormone) for another medical condition. We were told that the combination of these two medications is very dangerous. Is it true?

**A** Bupivacaine is a local anesthetic. Epinephrine is sometimes added to bupivacaine to reduce the rate of its absorption into the system and thus keep it localized. It does this by narrowing blood vessels (a vasopressor effect). Haldol may block the vasopressor effect of epinephrine. Although one can imagine that these interactions might be potentially dangerous, careful dosing of both medications should be sufficient to avoid the problem.

**Q** My 15-year-old daughter has TS, ADHD and OCD. She is usually kind and sensitive but sometimes she becomes violently angry over the slightest thing. After these angry episodes she is back to her normal self. How can we handle these violent moods?

**A** These episodes are characteristically not in keeping with the child's usual personality, and the outbursts are often triggered by something very inconsequential. TS families often refer to them as "rage attacks." During these outbursts, a person is definitely out of control, and it appears that nothing will end the rage until it has "run its course." Afterward, the individuals usually feel remorse.

TSA has recently produced a brochure on the subject. It is based on the preliminary research (funded by a TSA grant) that Dr. Cathy Budman and I did on the phenomenon of explosive outburst in children with TS. Readers can purchase the brochure on this subject by calling national TSA.

**Q** What is the effect of Wellbutrin (Bupropion) or Zyprexa (Olanzapine) on TS symptoms? Are these medications better for TS than others that are more commonly used?

**A** Wellbutrin (Bupropion) is an antidepressant that has shown some promise for the treatment of attention-deficit disorder (ADD/ADHD). Because it has the effect of increasing the neurotransmitter, dopamine, it may also cause an increase in tics. It is not used for treatment of TS alone, only for TS with ADD/ADHD and or/depression.

Zyprexa (Olanzapine) is a "new" neuroleptic, similar to Risperdal. My experience with it suggests that it may be effective for tics and for the behavior problems associated with TS. However, scientific studies to prove the efficacy of Zyprexa for tic control have not yet been completed.

### 1998 National Conference Tapes are Available

To Order:

Audio Tapes: John O'Leary, 202-332-8377  
e-mail: johnol2@aol.com

Video Tapes: Tom Traggert, 301-656-7455  
fax: 301-656-5927

## Contribute to the Tourette Syndrome Association and Drive off in the Hottest Car on the Road!

**One lucky Winner will take home a 1999  
Mercedes ML 320 Sports Utility Vehicle**



**Sweepstakes Drawing — February 22, 1999  
ONLY 999 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD  
Contributions: \$100 per ticket**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to TSA, Inc. is enclosed

Charge my:  MasterCard  Visa  American Express

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Photocopy, Fill out & Mail to:  
TSA Inc., 42-40 Bell Blvd., Bayside, NY 11361-2820  
Att: Mercedes Sweepstakes**

### VICTORY

## A Writer and a Scout

**God Made Me Special!!!!** is the title of Ryan Farrell's book. It relates his story—from his early symptoms of TS to his diagnosis by Dr. Gerald Erenberg (a pediatric neurologist and Chair of TSA's Medical Advisory Board).

The young writer and Boy Scout Troop Guide won first place in a county-wide writing contest, and second in a national competition. He was also the first in Troop 125, Carmel, Indiana, to earn his Horsemanship and Shotgun merit badges.

Ryan's inspiring story is featured in the Spring 1998 issue of *Scouting* magazine.

