

## **World Parkinson Congress**

The World Parkinson Congress announced its current list of financial supporters and Organizational Partners for the World Parkinson Congress, scheduled February 22-26, 2006, in Washington, D.C.

The World Parkinson Congress, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing an international forum showcasing the best scientific discoveries, medical practices and caregiver initiatives related to Parkinson's disease. Physicians, scientists, allied health professionals, care givers and people living with Parkinson's will come together to learn about the disease and work to find a way to expedite a cure.

There are more than 30 Organizational Partners (OP) from eleven countries. The list of growing OPs includes nonprofit organizations and professional associations working directly or indirectly with Parkinson's disease. Other organizations that have agreed to partner with the Congress are the: American Parkinson's Disease Association, Inc.; Dallas Area Parkinsonism Society; European Parkinson's Disease Association; Estonian Parkinson's Society; Family Caregiver Alliance/National Center on Caregiving; National Parkinson Foundation; Parkinson Association of the Rockies; Parkinson's Pipeline Project; Parkinson Society British Columbia; Parkinson Society Canada; Parkinson's Resources of Oregon; Parkinson Society Ottawa; Take Charge! Cure Parkinson, Inc.; Victoria Epilepsy & Parkinson's Centre in Canada; WE MOVE! and Parkinson's Action Network.

The Congress also has created partnerships with several well-respected professional associations, such as :American Academy of Neurology; American Occupational Therapy Association; American Physical Therapy Association; Albanian Society of Neurology of Albania; Atlantic–Euro Mediterranean Academy of Medical Science of Bulgaria; Belgian Neurological Society of Belgium; Cyprus Neurological Society of Cyprus; Israeli Neurological Association of Israel; Parkinsons Disease and Movement Disorder Society of India; Parkinson Study Group; Society of Hungarian Neurologists and Psychiatrists of Hungary; Société Française de Neurologie of France; Estonian Ludvig Puusepp Society of Neurologists and Neurosurgeons of Estonia; and Turkish Neurological Society of Turkey.]

“We are very excited to have developed these key partnerships with our friends and colleagues,” said Dr. Stanley Fahn, Chairman of the Congress. “This is the first Congress of its type; it offers valuable information to everyone working or living with Parkinson's disease. The initial interest in the first World Parkinson Congress has been overwhelming and we anticipate that more than 3,000 people from around the world will attend. These strategic and organizational partnerships are important to the success of the Congress.”

Present financial supporters for the Congress are the: Parkinson's Disease Foundation, The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, Northwest Parkinson's Foundation, Israeli Neurological Association, and the American Physical Therapy Association. A pledge to offer financial support has been made by the National Parkinson Foundation.

The Congress will present four days of an intense program that will look more closely at cutting edge science, public policy, best practices in care delivery and quality of life topics that all relate to Parkinson's disease. A call for abstracts will go out in early 2005 and exhibitor space will be made available to all companies and organizations that wish to reach the global Parkinson's community.

Parkinson's disease is a chronic, degenerative nerve disease that primarily affects movement, balance and muscle control. The National Parkinson Foundation estimates nearly 1.5 million Americans live with Parkinson's. The disease usually develops after age 65, although 15 percent of Parkinson's patients are diagnosed before turning 50 years old. The World Parkinson Congress will work to bring the global PD community together to help build awareness about Parkinson's and to increase collaborative efforts to find a cure.

To learn more about the World Parkinson Congress visit [www.worldpdcongress.org](http://www.worldpdcongress.org). A full list of financial supporters and Organizational Partners can be found at [www.worldpdcongress.org/sponsors/partners.cfm](http://www.worldpdcongress.org/sponsors/partners.cfm).