

Web Sitings

Connections for Brain Tumor Patients

The American Brain Tumor Association (ABTA), which has a history of bringing together those affected by a brain tumor, recently launched a new social networking Web site (<http://connections.abta.org>) for patients, survivors, family members, and other individuals touched by a brain tumor diagnosis. The site is designed to act as a forum for individuals looking to share experiences and resources with others in the community.

Registered users of the site are able to connect with other members in the community in a variety of ways. By creating personalized profiles, members can share as much or as little information about themselves and their brain tumor experience as they want. Users also are able to make connections by starting new groups (or joining preexisting ones), posting photos of their experiences, or creating a blog that chronicles their brain tumor journey.

Under the “Member Activity” section, site users can see the latest activities or postings of other community members. The site also lists which groups and blogs are “Popular Today.” In the “Featured in the Community” section, site visitors will find recent announcements, lists of new groups that have formed, and information about newly registered users of the site.

The site also offers information about the latest relevant news in the brain tumor community, with 1 section specifically pertaining to ABTA and brain tumor news and another section highlighting news about other related health topics. For those in the community who are searching

for more information, Connections also links to the ABTA Web site, which offers information about treatment options, meetings and events, research progress, care and support tips, and ways to donate.

Alzheimer Research Center

The Alzheimer’s Association—the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer disease (AD) care, support, and research—launched a new Web site (<http://www.alz.org/research>) in July. The site, known as the association’s “Research Center,” provides the latest information on AD research, science, and clinical trials.

The site is designed not only to appeal to scientists and medical researchers but also to those in the general public who seek to learn more about the disease. The “Science and Progress” section of the site outlines

the information known today about AD, including the major milestones that have occurred since the disease was first described and the advances that recently have been made in AD treatment, diagnosis, and prevention.

Much of the site is dedicated to information on clinical trials (including what clinical trials are, why they are important, and why participation is necessary). Visitors of the site who are interested in participating in clinical trials can use “TrialMatch,” a free service available on the site that matches personal criteria (such as diagnosis, stage of disease, and location) with current clinical trials.

The “Videos and Resources” section has a variety of media, including a brain tour, a spotlight on researchers, and a virtual library. For those who are looking to help in the fight against AD, the site has a section that outlines ways to participate in research stud-

The screenshot shows the homepage of the American Brain Tumor Association's Connections website. The header includes the ABTA logo, the text "American Brain Tumor Association", and contact information: "Phone: 800-886-2282 | E-mail: info@abta.org". Navigation links include "ABTA.org", "My Profile", "Community", "Photos", "Find Others", "Groups", "Invite Others", and a search bar. A central banner features a photo of three people and the text "Share photos and videos about your brain tumor journey". To the right of the banner is a "Welcome to the Connections Community!" message with links for "Begin a group", "Join a group", "Create a blog", "Share photos", and "Getting Started", along with "REGISTER" and "LOGIN" buttons. Below the banner are three columns: "Member activity" showing profile updates for Monica Krishna, wlecarun@com, and Susan Taylor; "ABTA and Brain Tumor News" with articles on brain cancer survival, hospital waiting rooms, and insurance appeals; and "Popular Today" featuring "GBMers" and "Meningioma Survivors". The footer displays the URL <http://connections.abta.org>.

ies, a sample letter to write Congress asking to make AD a national priority, and ways to make general, monthly, or memorial donations.

Child's Turn

In June, Child's Turn, an advocacy organization focused on children with special needs, launched its new Web site (<http://www.childsturn.com>). With this new site, the organization—comprised of parents, educators, and legal professionals—seeks to make available the most comprehensive listing in the United States of service providers for special needs children.

On the homepage of the site, visitors are able to enter different types of information in order to limit their search and find providers who meet their specific needs. They can enter in the desired location of the provider they are seeking, either by state or by area within a certain zip code. When looking for a provider, visitors can further narrow down their search by choosing their child's diagnosis from a list of 30 different conditions. Selecting the specific type of help they need (such as an attorney, therapy group, or day care) from a list of 42 options also limits the search.

After filling out the search criteria, visitors can view the profiles of the providers who meet their needs. The individualized profiles house descriptions about types of services they provide, background information, resumes, references, past publications, and contact information. The providers also are rated, based on the ratings and comments from previous patients. Providers who are interested in having a profile on the site can sign up for an account and add their listing.

In addition to the provider listings, the Web site features a forum under the "Community" section, where site visitors can connect with one another and exchange their opinions with



other like-minded individuals. The site also has a blog discussing relevant topics and a "More Info" section that contains articles about the conditions most often affecting children. In addition, a mini-documentary series features different children who have overcome their challenges to lead happy and productive lives.

Estrogen Therapy Resource

In order to improve access to credible information about menopause and management of its common symptoms, the National Association for Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH) launched its ETIQ (Estrogen Therapy IQ) campaign, supported by Upsher-Smith Women's Health (Maple Grove, Minnesota), in May. As part of this educational endeavor, the NPWH created a new Web site (<http://www.etiq.info>), with the goal of arming women with clinically proven data about their estrogen therapy options and encouraging them to start a dialogue with their health care professionals—thus helping women find the right therapy for their individual needs.

One of the features of the site is the ETIQ test, a self-assessment that

consists of 17 questions pertaining to menopause and estrogen therapy options (such as "what is the average age of menopause?" and "what do leading health authorities recommend in terms of estrogen dosage?"). The site also offers a section providing information about menopause, including what the most frequent symptoms are, what changes in sexual function occur, and what the treatment options are. The "Bioidenticals" section outlines the differences between traditional hormones and bioidentical hormones, as well as lists the bioidentical estrogen therapies that currently are FDA approved.

Another feature of the site is the "Frequently Asked Questions" section, which is divided into 3 areas: questions about menopause, questions about estrogen therapy, and questions to ask your health care professional about estrogen therapy. A glossary of terms related to menopause also is available on the site. For those who are looking for more information, the site has a "Connect" section (which lists other sources with medically sound information), a "News and Events" section, and a section providing background information about the NPWH. ●