

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MRN AND UNM EPILEPSY CENTER WORK TOGETHER TO ADVANCE SURGICAL STRATEGIES FOR THE TREATMENT AND POTENTIAL CURE OF EPILEPSY

(Albuquerque)---The Mind Research Network (MRN) and the University of New Mexico (UNM) Comprehensive Epilepsy Center have entered into a collaborative agreement that now makes available Magnetoencephalography (MEG) imaging services for patients referred by the UNM Epilepsy Center.

MEG is a noninvasive technology that is now used at a limited number of sites worldwide for guiding epilepsy surgery, brain surgery, and brain function research. The patients referred for MEG are those who are being considered for epilepsy surgery and who continue to have seizures despite taking epilepsy medications. The MEG machine at MRN is the only one of its type in New Mexico and Arizona, and referrals through the UNM Epilepsy Center are being accepted from throughout North America.

“MEG is like a magnetic stethoscope with unparalleled technology to look at brain function in health and in disease,” said Dr. Jeffrey Lewine, Associate Professor of Translational Neuroscience at MRN and the lead MRN researcher on functional brain imaging in patients with epilepsy.

MRN is an Albuquerque based neurodiagnostic center dedicated to research for clinical solutions to mental illness, epilepsy, autism, stroke and other brain disorders. The arrangement with the UNM Epilepsy Center is the first large scale translation of the research activities of MRN scientists into clinical care.

The MRN /UNM team is also led by Dr. Bruce Fisch, Medical Director of the UNM Comprehensive Epilepsy Program and Professor of Neurology (BFisch@salud.unm.edu).

“The UNM/MRN collaboration brings true hope for relief for people with seizures we can’t otherwise control,” said Dr. Fisch. “For many people with epilepsy, this also brings promise of a possible cure.”

According to the UNM Epilepsy Center, more than 20,000 New Mexico residents have epilepsy, and 8000 of those individuals experience seizures despite medication. As many as 4000 individuals in New Mexico have the potential of curing their epilepsy through surgery.

For information on patient referral contact the UNM Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, (505)272-3199 or visit www.hasc.unm.edu/SOM/neuroepilepsy_center.shtml. For more information on this news release, contact MRN Communications Director Lisa Breeden, lbreed@mrn.org or (505) 681-7110.