Hope for Hypothalamic Hamartomas Inaugural Medical Advisory Board Launches During American Epilepsy Society 64th Annual Meeting

SAN ANTONIO, TX – December 5, 2010 – Hope for Hypothalamic Hamartoma, a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing information, support, and research to patients with hypothalamic hamartomas (HH), today announced the launch of its inaugural Medical Advisory Board. The Medical Advisory Board, comprised of 6 international expert clinicians and scientists in neurology, neurosurgery, and endocrinology, will provide professional expertise and guidance to Hope for HH. “The creation of a strong, influential Medical Advisory Board will help Hope for HH better understand hypothalamic hamartomas – a rare brain tumor that causes gelastic and other seizures, as well as precocious puberty, cognitive impairments, emotional and behavioral difficulties, and endocrine disturbances,” said Lisa Soeby, President of Hope for HH. “It is estimated that HH affects one in 200,000 people worldwide and the cause is unknown. This MAB combines internationally recognized experts from neurology, neurosurgery and endocrinology who can collaborate to advance our understanding of this devastating condition,” said John F. (Jack) Kerrigan, President of the Medical Advisory Board.

The founding members of Hope for HH Medical Advisory Board include doctors and American Epilepsy Society members:

John F. Kerrigan, M.D., Director, Pediatric Epilepsy Program and Co-director, Hypothalamic Hamartoma Program at the Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, AZ

Alexis Arzimanoglou, M. D., Associate Professor of Neurology and Child Neurology, Head of the Department of Epilepsy, Sleep and Paediatric Neurophysiology and Medical Director of the Institute for Children and Adolescents with Epilepsy at the University Hospitals of Lyon, France

J. Helen Cross, M.D., Head of Neuroscience Unit, UCL Institute of Child Health, London, England

A. Simon Harvey, M.D., Epileptologist and Director, Children’s Epilepsy Program at Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne, Australia

Jean Régis, M.D., Professor of Neurosurgery, Université de la Méditerranée, Marseille, France and Neurosurgeon, Stereotactic, Functional Neurosurgery, and Radiosurgery Department, Timone University Hospital, Marseille, France

Also joining the Medical Advisory Board is NIH pediatric endocrinologist, Maya Lodish, M.D., Assistant Clinical Investigator, Pediatric Endocrinology and Deputy Program Director, Inter-institute training program in pediatric endocrinology at the National Institutes of Health.
About Hope for Hypothalamic Hamartomas
Founded in early 2010, Hope for Hypothalamic Hamartomas (Hope for HH), is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing information and support to hypothalamic hamartoma patients, caregivers, and healthcare providers and promoting research toward early detection, improved treatments, living with HH, and cure. A first-of-its-kind organization and website, hopeforhh.org, provides information about HH symptoms, diagnosis, and treatments, as well as current research, resources, news and links. Hopeforhh.org also offers a dedicated, monitored, interactive community Forum for HH patients, caregivers, and healthcare providers to dialogue and exchange information and advice for living and managing HH.

Media Contacts:
About Hope for HH
Ilene Penn Miller, Vice President, Board of Directors
240-205-4807 or imiller@hopeforhh.org

About Hope for HH Medical Advisory Board
John F. Kerrigan, M.D., President, Medical Advisory Board
602-999-1179 or jkerrigan@chw.edu