

CHADD and CDC Open National Resource Center on AD/HD

This ground-breaking center is the first and only national clearinghouse dedicated to the evidence-based science and treatment of AD/HD

by Peg Nichols



CHADD CEO E. Clarke Ross, D.P.A., CHADD President Evelyn Green, M.S. Ed., (center) and Barbara Holloway, M.P.H., Deputy Director of the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, officially opened the National Resource Center (NRC) on AD/HD in May. The NRC is a collaborative program with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and CHADD.

IN MAY, CHADD and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) officially opened the doors of the National Resource Center (NRC) on AD/HD, the country's first and only national clearinghouse dedicated to the evidence-based science and treatment of AD/HD.

"Establishment of the National Resource Center on AD/HD represents a major milestone in recognizing the challenges faced by individuals living with the disorder," said CHADD CEO E. Clarke Ross. "CHADD, its members, and the millions of others affected by

AD/HD are pleased that the federal government's leading public health agency has declared AD/HD a serious public health issue warranting a national clearinghouse for obtaining and disseminating science-based research and information about the disorder."

Barbara Holloway, M.P.H., Deputy Director of the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, which directly funded the National Resource Center, provided further insights on the significance of the Center's opening. "On behalf of the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental



SENATOR HARKIN STAFF PHOTO

Disabilities at the CDC, we are pleased to welcome CHADD to the family of CDC-supported national resource centers for persons with disabilities. Ensuring public access to accurate and valid information about evidence-based interventions is vital—something that the CHADD NRC can and will provide to millions in need of this critical information.”

The other disability resource centers named by the CDC as national clearinghouses within the past six years are: The Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Resource Center, The National Limb Loss Information Center, and The National Center on Physical Activity and Disability.

The National Resource Center on AD/HD is a proactive response to the CDC’s 1999 Public Health Perspective Conference, which called for the development of: (1) a resource for both professionals and the public regarding what is known about the epidemiology of AD/HD, and (2) an avenue for the dissemination of accurate and valid information and materials related to the diagnosis of AD/HD and the availability of evidence-based interventions. According to the May 2002 CDC Vital and Health Statistics report, there are 1.623 million children with AD/HD (approximately 7 percent), ages 6–11.

In August 2002, the CDC awarded CHADD \$750,000 to establish and operate a national clearinghouse to disseminate science-based information on AD/HD. The Center is now fully staffed with health-care experts, including specially trained information specialists who respond to public inquiries in English and Spanish via the NRC website, www.help4adhd.org, and the toll-free number (800) 233-4050. In addition, the NRC is building a comprehensive library of books, reports, scholarly journals, and more. Recognizing that AD/HD is a lifespan disorder, the NRC, in collaboration with the Attention Deficit Disorder Association (ADDA), has also prepared new fact sheets on a wide variety of topics affecting adults with AD/HD.

The federal award is supplemented by a library grant from Celltech Pharmaceuticals, which has fund-

ed CHADD’s information and referral service for the past four years. ■

Peg Nichols is CHADD’s director of communications and media relations.

Above left, CHADD national president Evelyn Green presents Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD) with the Visionary Award for his leadership in establishing the National Resource Center.

Above center, Perry Green (son of CHADD national President Evelyn Green) and CHADD Director of Public Policy Stephen Spector talk with Rep. David Obey (D-WI) after presenting him with the Visionary Award for his involvement in the development of the National Resource Center.

Above right, Recognizing the important work he did in securing funding for the Center, Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) is presented with the Visionary Award by CHADD CEO Clarke Ross.



CHADD National Resource Center staff with CDC research psychologist Ruth Perou (front row, center) and CDC behavioral scientist Catherine Lesesne (front row, right side) in the NRC’s new library.