University of Virginia Neuroscientist Jaideep Kapur, M.D., Ph.D., to Receive American Epilepsy Society 2013 Award for Basic Science

Embargoed until December 7th

West Hartford, Conn., December 7, 2013—Jaideep Kapur, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Neuroscience Center of Excellence at the University of Virginia, has been named recipient of the prestigious 2013 Epilepsy Research Recognition Award for Basic Science conferred by the American Epilepsy Society (AES). The award recognizes Dr. Kapur for his seminal contributions in epileptology regarding basic mechanisms of status epilepticus, severe prolonged seizures.

Dr. Kapur has demonstrated that the brain is not a static structure during status epilepticus but a dynamic structure with changes in neurotransmitter receptors, intra/intercellular ion gradients, and synaptic function. His early collaborative studies made it clear that responsiveness of patients in status epilepticus to benzodiazepine medication changes over time and that early treatment is critical.

The Epilepsy Research Recognition Award is part of the AES public recognition program to encourage and reward basic and clinical investigators whose research contributes importantly to the understanding and conquest of epilepsy. This year’s award in basic science will be presented on December 7th during the Society’s 67th annual meeting and scientific conference at the Washington, DC, Convention Center.

In announcing the award, John Huguenard, Ph.D., who chairs the AES awards committee, said, “Jaideep’s discoveries have changed the temporal definition of status and raised greater awareness of the need for its early aggressive treatment. His research in animal models of status is also increasing our fundamental understanding of these seizures and could lead to the development of new therapies to abort or even prevent them.”

Dr. Kapur and his colleagues have made many contributions regarding molecular and cellular alterations in GABA receptors and, more, recently, in glutamate receptors in models of status epilepticus. His studies extend also to the understanding of neurosteroid regulation of seizures, in which he demonstrated in an animal model of catamenial epilepsy that inhibition of neurosteroid synthesis leads to a worsening of seizures.

Dr. Kapur is widely published in leading journals in neuroscience, neurology, epilepsy and other professional specialties. He also has a long record of voluntary service to the epilepsy community, including a term as AES president and more than 15 years service on diverse AES committees, as well as membership on various boards, committees, commissions, councils and workshops for several other national and international organizations concerned with the disorder.

About Epilepsy
The epilepsies affect 50 million people worldwide, including three million in the United States. The disorder can have a single specific, well-defined cause, such as a head injury, or manifest as a syndrome
with a complex of symptoms. It is the third most common neurological disorder after Alzheimer’s disease and stroke.

About the American Epilepsy Society (AES)
The American Epilepsy Society, based in West Hartford, Conn., seeks to advance and improve the treatment of epilepsy through the promotion of epilepsy research and education for healthcare professionals. Society membership includes physicians and scientists who study and treat epilepsy (epileptologists) and allied professionals who care for people with seizure disorders.

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