



Press Release
For Immediate Release
July 1, 2009

CSA Officially Launches Physician Education Program (CSA-PEP)

The Celiac Sprue Association has made the initial presentation of its pilot Physician Education Program (CSA-PEP) to Robert Wergin, MD, at the Milford Family Center in Milford, Nebraska (see photo). Recently named 'Family Physician of the Year," Dr. Wergin is in general practice at the Milford Clinic.

The formal presentation kicked off CSA's national campaign to establish awareness of celiac disease and the importance of early diagnosis to physicians and medical students. Dr. Wergin's packet was funded by the Affiliated American CSA Foundation (AACSA).

The program is designed so individuals with celiac disease, have the option, with a donation of \$70 or more, to present the CSA-PEP package to their personal physicians. This program advances CSA efforts to promote the CSA mission statement: "Celiacs Helping Celiacs." **For more information on this opportunity, please contact the CSA at 1-877-CSA-4-CSA, or visit the website (csaceliacs.org).**

CSA has set a goal to distribute the CSA-PEP materials to 60,800 physicians and 10,000 medical students by 2012, introducing them to celiac disease awareness, the importance of early diagnosis, gluten sensitivity and access to the CSA's programs and networking activities.

Materials in the CSA-PEP package include information from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that deals with celiac disease; information on dermatitis herpetiformis; diet information by Dr. Jean Guest, CSA consultant dietitian; the CSA Products Listing on a compact disk; the book, *Recognizing Celiac Disease*, by Cleo Libonati; a current issue of the CSA *Lifeline* membership newsletter; and several fact sheets, brochures and pamphlets prepared by CSA.

The Celiac Sprue Association (CSA) is a member-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to helping individuals with celiac disease and dermatitis herpetiformis worldwide through education, information and research.

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PHOTO: Celiac Sprue Association Executive Director Mary Schluckebier (second from right) presents the first CSA-developed Physician Education Program (CSA-PEP) materials to Dr. Robert Wergin and staff of the Milford (Nebraska) Family Clinic. CSA-PEP is a pilot program for physicians sponsored by CSA to increase awareness and promote early diagnosis of celiac disease and gluten sensitivity. The pilot program is currently funded by donations from CSA membership.

Shown from left: Nicole Stauffer, Ellen Chaffin, Mary Schluckebier and Dr. Robert Wergin.

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