



CONTACT: Andrea Preston
Kovak-Likly Communications
203-762-8833, apreston@klcpr.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Pictured at the 2016 National Walk for Epilepsy® (from left to right):

Tyler Smith, Michelle McArdle, Victoria Roberts, Dave Stefanoni (Upsher-Smith)

LOCAL GLOUCESTER COUNTY FAMILY ATTENDS 2016 NATIONAL WALK FOR EPILEPSY® IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Maple Grove, MN – April 19, 2016 – [Upsher-Smith Laboratories, Inc.](http://www.upsheersmith.com) (Upsher-Smith), in partnership with the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey (EFNJ), today announced that Tyler Smith of Gloucester County, NJ and his family were awarded a sponsorship to attend the Epilepsy Foundation's 10th Annual National Walk for Epilepsy® in Washington, D.C. on April 16, 2016.

Tyler, a ninth-grader at Deptford High School, is a sports fanatic and a die-hard Pittsburgh Steelers fan. He was also diagnosed with epilepsy at the age of 10, and that diagnosis changed the course of his life. About two years ago, Tyler experienced a seizure so severe, he had to be resuscitated. More recently, he has been having several one- to two-minute long seizures per week. Due to the nature and frequency of his seizures, Tyler needs a private nurse at school to carry out his seizure response plan and to help keep him safe.

Tyler's mother, Michelle McArdle, believes it's critical to raise awareness of epilepsy, especially through activities such as the National Walk for Epilepsy®. Most of all, she wants others to understand that while Tyler is "no different" from other teenagers in his passions and

capabilities, “Having epilepsy affects his whole life.” Michelle also added, “Tyler was so grateful to be able to meet other people affected by seizure disorders and learn about their hopes and dreams. We are very thankful to Upsher-Smith and the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey for giving us this wonderful opportunity.”

About the Smith/McArdle family

The Smith/McArdle family’s journey to diagnosis and treatment has been complex. After Tyler experienced his first seizure, his family struggled for a year to find answers. Eventually, his medical team discovered that Tyler has a rare, genetically based disease called Periventricular Nodular Heterotopia (PVNH). PVNH occurs when neurons migrate to the wrong part of the brain during development. For Tyler, PVNH triggers a range of seizure types, including tonic-clonic (grand mal), complex partial and psychogenic non-epileptic seizures (PNES), or events resembling a seizure that are not caused by abnormal electrical discharges in the brain.

Despite the many challenges of living with PVNH, Tyler is in many ways a typical teenage boy. He plays ice hockey and basketball, and enjoys watching his friends play football and baseball – activities that he relishes but cannot participate in because heat is one of his seizure triggers. Tyler has been fortunate in that his peers have been supportive. At times, however, even their support hasn’t made having epilepsy any easier for Tyler, who sometimes doesn’t want to go out with friends for fear of having a seizure in public.

Since Tyler’s diagnosis, his mother Michelle has worked hard to increase local support for people living with epilepsy and their families. With help from the Epilepsy Foundation, she started the South Jersey Epilepsy Support group, so families would not have to travel far to get help. One ongoing concern for local families is the lack of epilepsy training in schools. Michelle would like to see more widespread training for seizure emergencies, just as teachers have been trained to use an EpiPen® and to respond to an asthma attack.

Like so many other parents of a child with epilepsy, Michelle believes that awareness can help change attitudes and make life better for people with epilepsy. For this reason, she and Tyler have participated in the National Walk for Epilepsy® once before, and they were so excited to be able to do it again this year.

About The National Walk for Epilepsy®

The National Walk for Epilepsy® is a family-oriented, noncompetitive walk in our nation’s capital to raise awareness and funds to find a cure for seizures and to overcome the challenges created by epilepsy. The Walk has raised nearly 10 million dollars to support services for people living with epilepsy, awareness programs for proper seizure recognition and first aid, advocacy

efforts to make sure health care options for people living with seizures remain strong, and research toward better treatment options and ultimately cures. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the National Walk for Epilepsy® in Washington, D.C. Each year, more than 5,000 people participate in the Walk in support of three million Americans who live with epilepsy every day, as well as their friends and loved ones. For more information on the National Walk for Epilepsy®, visit: www.walkforepilepsy.org.

About The Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey

The Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey (EFNJ), an affiliate of the National Epilepsy Foundation, provides programs for families living with epilepsy, such as a residential summer camp, support groups, scholarships, referral programs and respite care. EFNJ also offers free educational presentations about seizure first aid and police training. Those interested in any of its programs may contact Andrea Racioppi at 1-800-336-5843 or via email at efnj@efnj.com. To learn more, please visit: www.efnj.com.

About Upsher-Smith

Upsher-Smith Laboratories, Inc., founded in 1919, is a growing pharmaceutical company dedicated to its mission of delivering high-value, high-quality therapies and solutions which measurably improve individuals' lives. As a part of this mission, the company supports activities to help people live healthier and more productive lives. We strive to stand side-by-side with the patients we serve by volunteering in local and national events such as the Stroll for Epilepsy in Minnesota and the Epilepsy Foundation's annual National Walk for Epilepsy® in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit www.upsher-smith.com.

#