Contact Gina Vozenilek
Telephone 847.271.9174
Cell 847. 271. 9174
Email gpvozenilek@kcnq2.org
Website www.kcnq2.org

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DR. JOHN MILLICHAP WINS PRIZE FOR RARE EPILEPSY RESEARCH

Jack Pribaz Foundation presents first Sophie Award for Young KCNQ2 Investigators

CHICAGO, IL, January 23, 2017– The Jack Pribaz Foundation today presented the inaugural Sophie Award for Young KCNQ2 Investigators to Dr. John Millichap. The $15,000 prize is designed to support and encourage research of KCNQ2-related epilepsy and encephalopathy.

Dr. Millichap is an attending physician in the Neurology and Epilepsy Center at the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Neurology, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. The Jack Pribaz Foundation chose Dr. Millichap to receive the award for his dedication to bridging bench science and clinical application and for his contributions to the medical literature.

"At the heart of any pediatric medical research there is always a family who needs a champion to fight for their child," said Mike Pribaz, President of the Foundation and one of the directors of the Board. "We are proud to honor Dr. Millichap with this award for his efforts to identify new patients with KCNQ2 mutations and to educate the medical community throughout the world about this rare condition. Dr. Millichap is a champion for the entire KCNQ2 family and the larger community of pediatric neurology."

"I accept this award with pride and a sense of excitement," said Dr. Millichap. "It's amazing to see how far we've come in such a short time. There's tremendous momentum in this field of study and a vibrant international community of researchers and patient advocates to work with." Dr. Millichap will use the award to curate patient cases that have been submitted to the international patient registry (www.RIKEE.org).

The Jack Pribaz Foundation established the Sophie Award in honor of a child named Sophie who passed away from complications of the disease. The aim of the award is to inspire the next generation of

KCNQ2 researchers. Young investigators are encouraged to learn more about the Award and how to be nominated for consideration of future Sophie Awards at www.KCNQ2.org.

Mutations in the KCNQ2 gene for potassium channels in the brain are responsible for KCNQ2-related epilepsy and encephalopathy, which usually manifest with seizure onset in the first days of life and a spectrum of developmental disability.

Seven-year-old Jack Pribaz of Winfield, IL, was one the first known cases of KCNQ2 encephalopathy in the United States. His diagnosis prompted the establishment of the foundation that bears his name and now advocates for more than 400 families worldwide. Researchers are hopeful that knowledge of the mechanisms of this rare form of epilepsy may unlock greater understanding and treatment of epilepsy in general, a disease which affects one in 26 Americans.

The Jack Pribaz Foundation is a 501(c)3 public charity that seeks to

- *Honor God in everything they say and do*
- *Set an example to others of service and perseverance*
- *Welcome KCNQ2 families, connecting them with the KCNQ2 community and with helpful and reliable experts and information*
- *Fund and otherwise facilitate medical research that is closely and clearly related to KCNQ2*

More information about KCNQ2-related epilepsy and about the Jack Pribaz Foundation can be found at www.KCNQ2.org and www.JacksArmy.org.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Gina Vozenilek at gpvozenilek@kcnq2.org.