



**MERZ NEUROSCIENCES LAUNCHES  
AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR PATIENTS  
WITH VOICE DISORDERS**

***Merz Neurosciences Bringing Attention to a Common Issue***

RALEIGH, N.C. – JUNE 29, 2015 – BUSINESS WIRE – Merz Neurosciences, a division of Merz North America (US affiliate of the global Merz Pharma Group) announces the launch of a new campaign designed to raise awareness around voice disorders caused by vocal fold insufficiency. Vocal fold insufficiency is a condition in which the vocal cords fail to close all the way during speech sometimes causing a weak, breathy voice or hoarseness.

“Vocal cord insufficiency is a problem that impacts more patients than people realize, often in very serious ways. Not only does it present health issues and complications, it also impacts patient’s abilities to interact day to day”, stated Dr. Robert Fekete, fellowship trained Movement Disorders specialist and board certified neurologist in Hawthorne, NY. “The patients I see in my practice continually demonstrate the ongoing need for broader awareness of this condition.”

In order to raise awareness of the need for correct diagnosis and treatment of vocal fold insufficiency, Merz Neurosciences is sponsoring a nationwide campaign on this important issue; they are also collaborating with individual physicians across the country to expand patient awareness at the regional and local level. As part of the campaign, *The Huffington Post* recently featured an in-depth video interview with Dr. Craig Zalvan, voice disorder patient Peter Mignone and Peter’s caregiver and wife, Linda Mignone: [“Doctor Says 'There's Quite A Lot That Can Be Done' For Parkinson's Patients”](#)

“In my practice, I see firsthand the ways that vocal fold insufficiency limits my patients’ ability to communicate with their families, excel in their jobs and lead fully independent lives,” stated Dr. Craig Zalvan, M.D., FACS, board-certified otolaryngologist and founder of The Institute for Voice and Swallowing Disorders in Sleepy Hollow, NY. “The work that Merz Neurosciences is doing to educate consumers about the symptoms of vocal cord insufficiency is critical in helping to encourage patients to seek diagnosis and appropriate treatment for this disorder.”

Vocal fold paralysis or immobility is often a cause of vocal fold insufficiency. Patients can suffer from vocal fold insufficiency as a secondary symptom of neurological disorders such as Parkinson’s disease. According to the Parkinson’s Disease Foundation, approximately 90 percent of individuals with Parkinson’s disease will experience changes in their voices or their ability to make speech

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sounds at some stage<sup>1</sup>. Vocal fold insufficiency is one of many potential causes of voice problems experienced by this patient population.

“When Peter was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease, we were prepared for the movement issues that come with the disease, but not prepared for the voice issues, which make it very challenging for our loved ones to hear and converse with Peter,” commented Mrs. Mignone. “By participating in this campaign, we hope that people like Peter will speak to their doctors earlier about their hoarseness and weak voice symptoms.”

### **About Merz Neurosciences**

Merz Neurosciences is a division of Merz North America, a specialty healthcare company that develops and commercializes treatment solutions in aesthetics, dermatology and neurosciences in the U.S. and Canada. Merz Neurosciences is committed to providing high-quality products and outstanding service to physicians in the fields of neurology, psychiatry and otolaryngology. By developing products that improve patients’ health and help them to live better, feel better and look better, Merz will continue to make significant contributions to the well-being of individuals around the world. Merz Neurosciences is an important contributor to the U.S. neurosciences space, offering a well-balanced product portfolio. For more information about Merz Neurosciences and their U.S. product portfolio, please visit [www.merzusa.com/neurosciences](http://www.merzusa.com/neurosciences).

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<sup>1</sup> Source: [Parkinson's Disease Foundation, Living with Parkinson's](#)