

AACAP News

The Elaine Schlosser Lewis Fund: a Powerful Force in ADHD

■ Amy Ponzillo, Development & Media Relations Specialist

ADD/ADHD Affects Millions of Children

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) are two of the most common behavioral disorders affecting children today. Conservative estimates suggest that 3–5% of all children struggle with attention disorders, while some estimates put the number as high as 10% (National Institute of Mental Health, 10/96).

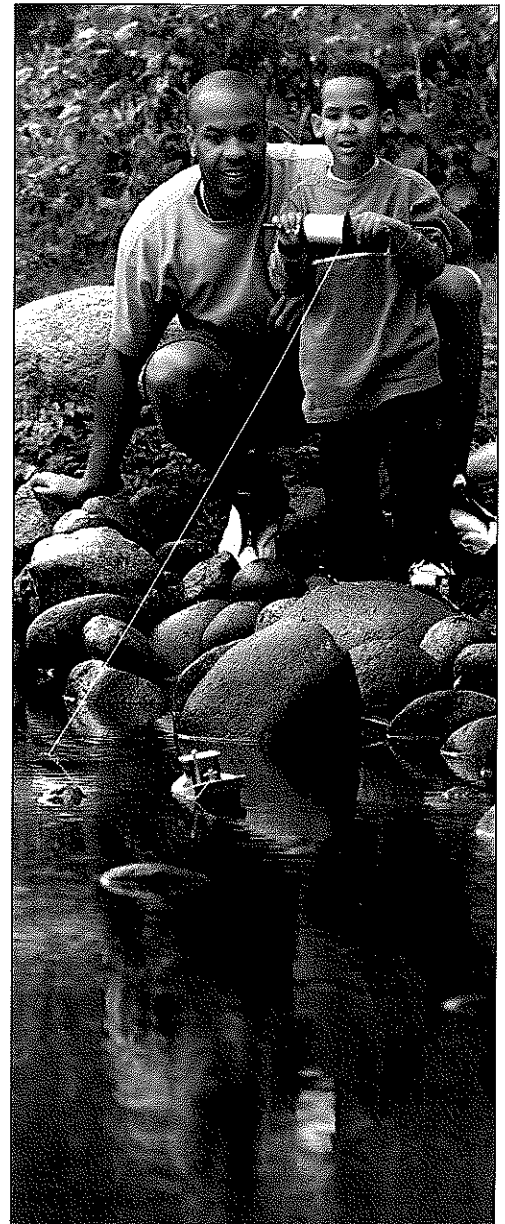
There has been growing public awareness of ADHD and the long-term effects it can have on a person's life if left undiagnosed and untreated. Yet some still delay seeking help, and as many as 50% of children with ADHD have not been diagnosed (Harvard Mental Health Letter, 2001). When

untreated, these undiagnosed children can become frustrated, drop out of school, and/or turn to substance abuse to mask their symptoms; some children end up in the juvenile justice system and others simply stop trying. Unfortunately, a child failing to reach his/her fullest potential not only impacts the quality of the child's life, but also the lives of those who love and care for him/her.

The Elaine Schlosser Lewis Fund

In 1995, to support ongoing research in the area of ADD and ADHD, the AACAP established the *Elaine Schlosser Lewis Fund* through the generous gift of a private benefactor. The Fund honors Elaine Schlosser Lewis, a special education teacher, child advocate and mother of AACAP member **Owen Lewis, M.D.** Her goal was to offer children affected by

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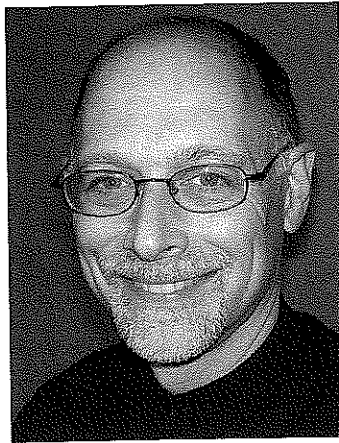
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AACAP Executive Director Plans for 6-Month Sabbatical



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Owen Lewis, M.D. (left) is the founder of AACAP's Elaine Schlosser Lewis Fund, which supports ongoing research in ADD and ADHD. The Fund is named in honor of his mother. AACAP President Richard Sarles, M.D. (far right in group photo) and Dr. Lewis (center back) congratulate the 2002 and 2003 Elaine Schlosser Lewis Award Winners at the 2003 ADHD Research Update Luncheon in New York City. The winners are (from left to right): Steven Pliszka, M.D., Jeffrey Newcorn, M.D., Michael S. Marcin, M.D., Stephanie Hamarman, M.D. and Mary Ahn, M.D.



attention disorders hope for a productive and fulfilling future, while educating her community about what was later to be known as ADD/ADHD.

Since its inception, the Fund has supported the *Elaine Schlosser Lewis Award for Research on Attention-Deficit Disorder*, a \$5,000 award presented annually to the author of the best paper published in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* on Attention Deficit Disorder. With continued support from Special Friends of Children, or supporters of the Fund, this award has been successfully endowed. Through the Special Friends of Children's generosity, important findings in the field of attention disorders will continue to be shared with those working in the field.

The year 2001 marked the inauguration of another important award for ADHD—the *Elaine Schlosser Lewis Pilot Research Award for Attention Disorders*. This Award provides a two-year grant of \$9,000 to junior faculty or child psychiatry fellows for pilot research projects. Each year, the award recipient presents research findings at AACAP's Annual Meeting. In addition, recipients present their work at the Special Friends of Children Research Update Luncheon, the AACAP's major fundraising initiative

for the Elaine Schlosser Lewis Fund. In order to allow the Academy to continue to support the work of these talented young investigators, the Fund has set a fundraising goal of \$200,000, which will endow the Research Award. Currently, through the generosity of the *Special Friends of Children*, the Fund has raised \$100,000 towards the endowment of the Pilot Research Award.

In 2002, it became evident that furthering ADD research was imperative to help families understand the broadening diagnoses of attention disorders. At the request of a separate benevolent benefactor, the AACAP funded the *Elaine Schlosser Lewis Research Grant for Attention Deficit Disorders*. This \$25,000 grant sought to clarify the nature of Attention Deficit Disorder (without hyperactivity) and to improve treatment options for all children. This fall, at the 2004 Special Friends of Children Research Update Luncheon, **Jeffrey Newcorn, M.D.** and Mary Solanto-Gardner, Ph.D. will present their study of predominately inattentive and combined subtypes of children with attention disorders.

The significant force and constant behind-the-scenes of the Elaine Schlosser Lewis Fund is Owen Lewis, M.D. Through his guidance and passion

about treating attention disorders, he has helped the AACAP recognize and further an important field, a field that was once pioneered by his mother. AACAP thanks Dr. Lewis, the researchers, and all *Special Friends of Children* who have believed in the Fund since 1994.

The Future

Through research, education and support by special funds such as the Elaine Schlosser Lewis Fund, the AACAP can continue to make an investment in the future of all children, adolescents and families affected by attention disorders. Funding for grants such as the *Elaine Schlosser Lewis Award for Research on Attention Deficit Disorder*, the *Pilot Research Award for Attention Disorders*, and the special *Research Grant for Attention Deficit Disorders* has helped to nurture and expand the research base in child and adolescent psychiatry, and to further understanding of ADD and ADHD.

For more information on ways to support the Elaine Schlosser Lewis Fund, or to learn how to become a *Special Friend of Children*, contact Kathleen Pasley or Amy Ponzillo in the AACAP Development Department at 202.966.7300. ■