

For immediate release

For more information, contact: [xxxbranchleader, be sure to give email and phone]

Xxx CMTA Branch

Announces All-Star xxx for CMT

(Placexxx)—The xx Branch of the Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association (CMTA) announced [xxxdate] that it will hold a [xxxWalk/Run/Swim] 4CMT on [xxxdate] at [xxxplace].

The [Walk/Run/Swim] is one of dozens of All-Star Events being held nationwide to mark CMT Awareness Month, which takes place each September. Charcot-Marie-Tooth is a progressive disorder of the peripheral nerves that causes people to lose the normal use of their feet, legs and hands. CMT affects some 2.8 million people of all races and ethnicities worldwide, though many of them are misdiagnosed or not diagnosed at all. Raising awareness about CMT is particularly important given that so many people are unaware that they have the disease.

CMT symptoms include: Foot deformity (very high arched feet) and foot drop (inability to hold foot horizontal); a slapping gait (feet slap on the floor when walking because of foot drop); loss of muscle in the lower legs, leading to skinny calves; numbness in the feet; and difficulty with balance. Hands and arms may also be affected. CMT is not fatal, but it is currently incurable.

The CMTA is a patient-led association that is aggressively searching for a treatment for CMT, putting together a group of top-flight researchers and experts and directly funding their work. CMTA launched the Strategy to Accelerate Research, or STAR, in 2008 to capitalize on breakthroughs in genetics and dramatically speed up the pace of CMT research. Since then, the CMTA’s STAR Initiative has made great strides toward developing treatments for CMT.

For more information about CMT, please visit [www.cmtausa.org](http://www.cmtausa.org).