

European Chapter Convention, Berlin 20. September 2008

Discussion group on education

Chairpersons:

Guiliano Avanzini, Alla Guekht, Peter Wolf

Minutes

The discussion group received reports on the various educational courses which have taken place in Europe under the banner of the ILAE. They all have in common that they take place in a retreat setting where most if not all faculty stays with the students for the entire course duration. There is therefore ample opportunity for the participants to meet and talk in a relaxed atmosphere with senior epileptologists, and they appreciate this very much.

Each course is directed towards a different target group and accordingly applies different formats. There is little overlap between them, and they can together be seen as a system of educational courses in epileptology. In particular, these courses comprise the

- **San Servolo** course in Venice: an advanced course with participation from all parts of the world (both students and faculty). It is mostly attended by advanced clinical and basic postgraduates, typically working on their PhD. Its highlight is tutored groups that develop research projects which at the end are presented and critically discussed in the plenum. This course pays special attention to bridging the gap between basic and clinical aspects of epilepsy;
- **Eilat** course of the CEA: a biennial course on clinical pharmacology and AED therapy. The course provides a faculty of outstanding international specialists who are expected to stay for the whole week. Active participation and conviviality are much encouraged;
- **Migrating Course** which is held on behalf of the CEA at changing locations in mostly Central/Eastern Europe. Target group are clinicians up to an age of 45 who treat children and adults with epilepsy on the secondary level of health care. The teaching by a European faculty is given in lectures, tutorials and case discussions. Participants have to bring own case reports for discussion;
- **Baltic Sea Summer School on Epilepsy (BSSSE)**: an initiative of the three Scandinavian ILAE chapters and including the 10 chapters bordering the Baltic Sea who take turns in hosting the course. The target group is postgraduates up to 40 years old who consider or have started a career in epilepsy. Interactive teaching methods like tutorials and case-oriented learning are the main methods used, and much appreciated by the participants who come from all over Europe. This course works with a comprehensive budget that is covered by the registration fees, and the support from the CEA and a number of other sources comes in the form of bursaries;
- **EPODES**: a course for training in epilepsy surgery. Its special features are that it gives the possibility to lead up to a fellowship at one of participating European epilepsy surgery centres or a visiting professorship;
- **Caucasus Summer School**, held for the first time this year in Armenia. It is more praxis-oriented and addresses perceived treatment gaps on the primary and secondary health care level in this subregion.

Votum: The participants of the discussion group agreed on a unanimous votum that the educational agenda in Europe that had been developed by the CEA,

EUREPA and European chapters in cooperation with the ILAE educational commission was a great success, and that it needed to be continued and expanded by the same groups. Expansion was considered especially desirable to provide educational activities in all parts of the region, and to include professionals allied with medicine involved with epilepsy care such as nurses and social workers.

Guidelines: The new CEA guidelines for the organisation of educational activities were briefly presented. They are available on the WebSites of both EUREPA and the ILAE, and must be followed if support from the CEA is expected.

Finally, it was announced that, after an interval of some years when the EUREPA office had concentrated on trainer courses for French and Portuguese speaking Africa, a new Paneuropean **train-the-trainers** course was taking place in Malta in October, and had not taken care of the entire waiting list.

Votum: The participants of the discussion group agreed on a unanimous votum that European train-the-trainers courses be continued to have more certified trainers available for the expanding educational agenda, and to further develop our educational methods.