

# A Report from the Therapeutics Commission

*Steven Schachter and Bernhard Steinboff, Co-Chairs*

The Therapeutics Commission has a broad mandate to review current treatments and to advocate for improvements. Because of the great diversity of the topics, ranging from the use of natural products to surgery, the Commission created separate Task Forces. Each Task Force will focus on a topic of growing interest or pressing importance: natural products, clinical trial strategies, pharmacogenomics and surgery.

## Natural Products Task Force

*Steven Schachter, Chair*

The Task Force has developed “Epilepsy Naturapedia,” a wiki to be launched in 2013 and hosted on the ILAE website, that will be the most comprehensive, current and customizable central research hub for bench-to-bedside scientific information on the use of natural products for the treatment of epilepsy. Among its many features, Epilepsy Naturapedia enables users to search for information using:

1. Common names
2. Scientific names
3. Names of compounds
4. Names of historical neurologists
5. Historical use
6. Pharmaceutical information
7. Published evidence for use in the treatment of epilepsy



*Steven Schachter*



*Bernhard Steinboff*

Users may apply for privileges to create new pages or edit existing pages by adding links, images, and their own text.

## New Strategies of Clinical Therapeutic Studies Task Force

*Jacqueline French, Chair*

The primary focus of this Task Force has been global harmonization of regulatory requirements for clinical trials of antiepileptic therapies. Nine members of EMA and Russell Katz, FDA Neuropharmacology Division Director, attended a Task Force meeting in Paris on 17 November 2011. Based

on the meeting, the Task Force plans to submit three whitepapers to the FDA: using add-on therapy for a combined monotherapy / add-on therapy indication, the extrapolation of adult partial onset seizure data to children, and use of the time to event analysis for pivotal trials. Discussions will continue with the EMA.

## Pharmacogenomics Task Force

*Patrick Kwan, Chair*

The Task Force has outlined a number of issues related to the use of pharmacogenomics to select, titrate and monitor antiepileptic drug therapies. A critically important step in this effort is to define drug response phenotypes, and the Task Force is preparing a discussion paper on this topic.

## Surgery Task Force

*Bernhard Steinboff, Chair*

The Surgery Task Force has conducted a literature review of the surgical treatment of cavernomas associated with epilepsy, outlined recommended surgical approaches and identified opportunities for further research. A manuscript containing the findings and consensus recommendations has been sent for review prior to submission to *Epilepsia*. Improved and more effective therapies are critically needed and there is no clear breakthrough in sight. It is our hope that our multi-faceted approach will get us to our goal.