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International League Against Epilepsy – the international symposia and congresses: 1909–2009

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From its inception, one of the main objectives of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) has been to hold 'meetings' as a way of exchanging ideas to advance knowledge of the disease and to improve its care and treatment. Indeed, many epileptologists still cite the congresses as their first introduction to the League. In the early years, the meetings were small, clublike and produced in a relatively amateurish manner. They were held as an adjunct to larger congresses in which League members were participating. Even well into the 1970s and 1980s, League events were overshadowed by the better organised efforts of its larger partners such as the International Federation of Societies for EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology (EFSECN) and the World Federation of Neurology (WFN). There were also national meetings which in some cases were as grand as these large international affairs, the American Epilepsy Society (AES) being a good example. In those years, it was possible to be at

such congresses and not to know that an ILAE meeting was taking place (P. Engel, personal communication).

The tremendous growth of the ILAE since the 1990s, however, has gone a long way to reversing these trends, aided both by increasingly competent standalone meetings and by the League's broader scope as opposed, for example, to the single-minded focus of EEG societies. Beginning in 1969, the ILAE meetings were organised in tandem with the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE), and the joint nature of these events lent them a particular flavour and importance.

The aim of this chapter is to give an idea of the context in which ILAE meetings occurred and to provide a brief description (see Box 1 and Table 1). The sources of the information are largely contemporary medical journals and newspaper reports, the pages of *Epilepsia*, the archives of the ILAE and the IBE, and where possible personal reminiscences.

Box 1 ILAE congress nomenclature

The numbering and naming of the ILAE meetings is confusing, reflecting the rather erratic history of the ILAE and its relationships with other bodies (see Table 1). The following detailed explanation is an attempt to clarify the system:

1 Prior to 1973, ILAE conferences were not officially numbered (we have numbered them below for convenience). They were simply called 'ILAE meetings'. The first was in 1909 and the fourth in 1913. The First World War then intervened, and there were no further meetings until the fifth scientific meeting in 1939 (an earlier meeting in 1935 was held in Lingfield, but it was a business meeting, organised largely to reconstitute the ILAE, with no scientific content). When the Second World War

interrupted the meetings of the revived ILAE, the sixth meeting had to wait until 1946. In some documents this event is referred to as a meeting of the American branch and in others as a 'meeting of the ILAE' – and was largely an American affair (see below)

2 The seventh meeting was held in 1949 and thereafter every 4 years until 1977. These meetings were known, between 1949 and 1969, as 'the quadrennial meetings of the ILAE'

3 In 1969, the ILAE joined forces with the IBE to hold their meetings. Three congresses were held (1969, 1973, 1977) named in three different ways: International Congress of the ILAE,

Continued

International Congress on Epilepsy and Congress of the ILAE. The 1969 meeting was formally named '11th International Congress of the ILAE', but this seems to have been an error, as there had in fact been 11 previous scientific meetings (it is possible that the scheme was devised disregarding the first meeting in Budapest as 'not scientific'). Some sort of consistency was at work, however, for the proceedings of the 1957 congress in Brussels is clearly titled '8th Meeting of the International League Against Epilepsy'. (Ley n.d.)

4 In 1977, the ILAE and the IBE formed an umbrella organisation called Epilepsy International (see Chapters 2 and 6). The former schedule of meetings gave way to an annual meeting called 'Epilepsy International Symposium'. The first was in 1978. The numbering system followed on from the previous IBE congresses (the IBE had held nine previous independent congresses), and for this reason the 1978 event was named the 10th Epilepsy International Symposium. A further five Epilepsy International Symposia were held annually (the

15th in 1983). Towards the end of this period, the decision was taken to end Epilepsy International. No symposium took place in 1984, and when the League and the IBE next met, in Hamburg, Epilepsy International was formally dissolved. The 1981 and 1985 meetings were titled not 'symposium' but 'congress' because it was felt that the meetings had developed in size and weight to a point where this name was more appropriate

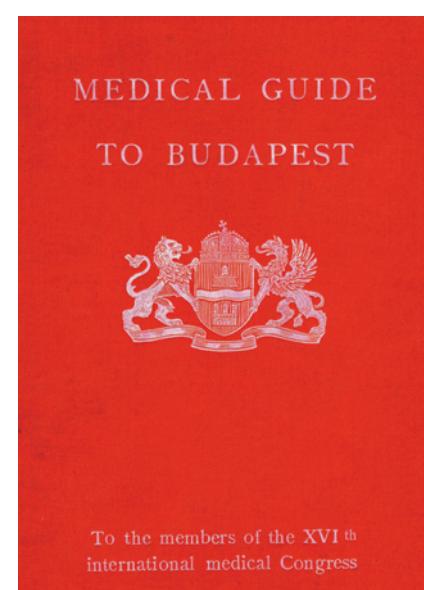
5 The organisation of the 1987 meeting in Jerusalem was already under way when Epilepsy International was dismantled, so the 1987 meeting kept its identity as an 'Epilepsy International' congress

6 From 1985, the meetings continued under the joint management of the ILAE and IBE. Beginning with 1989, they were named International Epilepsy Congresses (IECs, to distinguish them from the Epilepsy International Symposia/Congresses), and the numbering followed on from the now long-established sequence. Since then, the meetings have taken place biannually

1st Meeting of the ILAE
Budapest
2 September 1909
46 delegates
Held in conjunction with the International Medical Congress (which had 5,000 delegates)¹

The founding meeting of the ILAE was deliberately planned to take place at the 1909 International Medical Congress in Budapest. These international medical congresses began in Paris in 1867 and were held at irregular intervals until 1913. They were increasingly grand affairs, attended by luminaries inside and outside the medical world, and the Budapest meeting, which ran from 29 August to 2 September 1909, was no exception. The late summer heat notwithstanding, over 5,000 delegates filed

into the Redoute (municipal festival hall) for the opening ceremony. The press was present in force, and the *Lancet* and the *British Medical Journal* published elaborately detailed accounts of the goings-on. The entrance of His



A guidebook supplied to delegates to the International Medical Congress in Budapest, 1909.

¹ For ILAE meetings up to 1977, the number of delegates refers to published figures for the entire congress of which the ILAE was but one part. Separate numbers for the early years of the ILAE are impossible to determine, but the numbers are likely to have been very small. For instance, at the inaugural Budapest meeting, there were 46 named delegates (listed in Chapter 1), and at the London meeting in 1913 only 10 named delegates. From 1977 onwards, the count refers specifically to the number of delegates to the ILAE meeting.



Harvey Cushing called the Budapest congress a ‘gorgeous but piping hot affair’.

Royal and Imperial Highness the Archduke Joseph triggered the singing of the Hungarian national anthem, and a great many speeches followed. Every Congress member was given a generous packet of literature and guidebooks, a ticket for free use of the local baths, as well as a bronze medallion designed by the sculptor György Vastagh. The welcoming reception was something of a zoo, teeming with ‘males ... not too wrapped up in the affairs of science ... who did not hesitate to push and struggle, to climb and crawl ... to arrive at the refreshment tables’. European politics were evident, for example in a boycott of the congress by the Romanians over an issue of race and language. The English delegates found themselves the target of some disapproval when a letter in the name of the Anti-alcohol Association, signed by Sir Victor Horsley, urged congress members to refuse the two small bottles of Tokay wine offered them as a gift from the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture. On the social side of things, the congress served up a rich menu of entertainment, consisting not least of a number of soirées and a performance at the national theatre of Madach’s *Tragedy of Man* (an apt title, given the course of European history in the next few decades). Harvey Cushing’s diaries give a vivid picture of the events and personalities.² The plenary addresses dealt with cancer; artificial parthenogenesis; tropical diseases; inheritance, selection and hygiene; and the ‘climatic, geological and scenic peculiarities of the valley of the Vag and the high Tatra’. Nathan Straus preached milk pasteurisation. Although many members of the nascent ILAE presented papers,

most of those were not specifically on epilepsy. The meetings constituting the League proper occurred outside the

² Cushing’s description: ‘Sunday, Aug. 29th. Budapest ... Opening of the congress in the Redoute. Very gorgeous but piping hot affair. Too “much” people, too “many” noise to hear or see. The Grand Duke in his swell uniform – Count Apponyi, Müller and the delegates. The Russians in their heavy fur uniforms must have melted. The Redoute a fine place for such a reception – the great staircase lined by gaily appareled guards – one Major-domo in particular most gorgeous. Henry Head in his Cambridge scarlet and pink gown much admired ... Monday, Aug. 30th. To the Congress to register – very well-arranged affair – with much literature gathered at separate stands. The Neurological Section and discussion of Frankl-Hochwart’s paper. All very cordial. Showed the slides prepared for the surgical section. Oppenheim, Jendrassik, Levi et al. Dinner with Henry Head, the de Sarbós and “Sir Museum Radishes” [Eugene de Radisics] at the Hungaria. To the Lord Mayor’s reception with them in the Redoute. Crowded and hot. Later to the garden for “citron”. Most amusing evening with Sir Malcolm Morris and Mr Jessop – who did not pay for their citrons. H.H. rather bored at Sarbo’s threat to charge Edw. VII ... Tuesday, Aug. 31st. Luncheon at the Herczels at 1.30. Rovsing, Ceccherelli and others and wait until nearly 3 when Macewen, son and daughter stroll in. I tried to get away as the paper was booked for 3 but no – “Macewen first and the meeting postponed until 4 &c” so we dallied with the elaborate lunch and coffee & cakes on the porch overlooking the garden until 4 and were late. Saw Fröhlich on entering and he said I had been called on twice and would not be again. Krause was reading and after he had finished, they called [on] unprepared me. It was late and most of the people had gone. Eiselsberg however there and spoke kindly of the work ... Wednesday, Sept. 1st. Dined at the Hungaria with the Thayers and was dropped by W.S.T. as Musser gave the signal to leave for the Court. Absurd arrangement with large red ribbons, smaller red ribbons and white ones. The first to be spoken to, the 2nd shaken hands with and the 3rd bowed to – this the most exclusive court in Europe. Rovsing and another big Dane finally picked me up and we drove over to be presented – line of carriages a mile long. Stunning entrance to the receiving rooms – great staircase with red uniformed creatures having great eagle plumes in their hats and carrying halberds lined the steps on either side. An impossibly hot room considering the character of the people and we entered and waited in the 3rd class room while his Grand Dukeship talked hours with Musser et al. of the large red ribbons. De Sarbó finally rescued me and after one look at the Duke we left for the outer world. A beautiful view by moonlight of the “Escalier” and of the monument to the “saint” of Budapest. Thence to a care with the Langes and other bearded orthopaedists and their wives where we were missed by K.C. and Mrs Thayer, they having gone to the theatre after the dinner ... Thursday evening, Sept. 2. The Dollingers’ dinner at the Hungaria. A beautifully served and enjoyable feast for 200 guests, followed by speeches by representatives of the various countries. Prof. “Chusching” got out of replying for America and Dr Robert Lovett did finally respond. The dinner broke up after Prof Ceccherelli of Parma threatened with all Italian violence an inoffensive old man from Fiume who had dared to address the assemblage in his mother tongue – Italian, Ceccherelli himself having responded for Italy in French, the official language³. (Fulton 1946, 294–295).

congress proceedings, but were reported to the psychiatry section of the congress and later in *Epilepsia*.

2nd Meeting of the ILAE
Berlin
4 and 7 October 1910
Held in conjunction with the International Congress for the Care of the Insane (which had 600 delegates)

Programme – 2 lectures:

Criminality Amongst Epileptics (Veit, Wuhlgarten)
 Physiopathological Research in Epilepsy (Muskens, Amsterdam)

The first genuine meeting of the ILAE coincided with the 4th International Congress on the Care of the Insane in Berlin. The congress, which counted 600 participants, was held at the House of the Prussian Deputies on Prinz Albrechtstrasse and was intended to exhaustively consider the subject of insanity. A major exhibit on the care and treatment of patients was assembled by Konrad Alt (Notes and News 1910). ILAE members were among the presenters of some 60 papers, including Alt, Cramer, J. van Deventer, Juliano Moreira, Henrich Obersteiner, Robert Sommer, ‘the universally revered Augusto Tamburini’ and Auguste Marie, whose ‘demonstration of living trypanosomes and spirilla in kinematograph ... evoked ... enthusiastic applause’. Ernst Rüdin spoke on bodily degeneration and the decline of civilisation; Willy Hellpach on the psychopathology of modern art and literature; and Eugen Bleuler on ‘schizophrenia’. Alois Alzheimer was awarded the Möbius prize for his work on degenerative processes in the nervous system. One provincial asylum reported on the use of watchdogs to hinder escapes by criminal lunatics. As souvenirs, delegates were given an ‘elegant’ 666-page volume on German hospitals and a similar work on Austrian asylums. Salvarsan was pronounced a disappointment in treating paralysis, and luminal – made by Bayer & Co. – a ‘good hypnotic’ (all citations from Bresler 1912, 502–505).

The congress passed barely noticed in the English-language press. The *New York Times* of 20 February 1910 reported only that ‘the promoters of the congress hope[d] for a representative attendance from the United States’. The League itself met on 4 and 7 October at 2pm in a psychiatric lecture theatre. As announced in *Epilepsia*

(Programme 1910), the gatherings were to include a variety of status reports, papers on criminality among epileptics (Veit, Wuhlgarten) and physiopathological research in epilepsy (Muskens), and a decision on a permanent office. No minutes ever appeared in *Epilepsia*, although the congress proceedings were published in 1911 by the firm of Carl Marhold (Halle). Portraits of some of the members appeared in a special issue of the *Psychiatrisch-Neurologische Wochenschrift*.

3rd Meeting of the ILAE
Zurich
6–7 September 1912
Held in conjunction with the International Congress for Psychology and Psychotherapy and concurrently with the Association for Swiss Psychiatrists and Neurologists (the number of delegates at these congresses is not known)

Programme – 15 lectures³:

Report on Low-Salt Food in the Treatment of Epilepsy (G. Donáth, A. Ulrich, Balánt)
 Report on Alcoholism and Epilepsy (A. Tamburini, Ste[y]n)
 Internal Secretion and Epilepsy (H. Claude)
 The Curability of Epilepsy (W. Aldren Turner)
 Variations in the Manifestations of Epilepsy (Mingazzini)
 Myoclonic Reflexes in Vertebrates and Invertebrates (L.J.J. Muskens)
 New Experiences with Surgical Treatment in Epilepsy (Kümmel)
 Motor Signs in Alcoholic Epilepsy (R. Sommer)
 Twilight States in Epilepsy (Veit)
 Some Phases of the Institutional Work at the New Jersey Institution for Epileptics (Weeks)
 Observations on the Treatment of Classical Forms of Epilepsy (Friedländer)
 Surgical Treatment of Epilepsy (Anton)
 Genuine Epilepsy as a Manifestation of Catatonia (Urstein)
 Alcohol-induced Epilepsy in Russia (Anfimow, Bechterew)
 New Methods of Treating Epilepsy (Leubuscher)

The League was originally supposed to have met next in 1911. But, for unexplained reasons, the members did not convene until September 1912, in Zurich. The venue

³ A scheduled talk by Krainsky on the pathogenesis of genuine epilepsy appears never to have taken place.

was split among several locations, including the Swiss epilepsy asylum, the schoolhouse in Hirschengraben and the Dolder Hotel. L.J.J. Muskens himself wrote up a brief summary of the meeting for the *Correspondenz-Blatt für Schweizer Aerzte*. For the first time, the business and scientific meetings were kept separate, although each was broken into sessions that were interleaved over the 2 days. The varied programme was reworked several times, and appears to have undergone changes up to the last minute. Major thematic foci were alcohol-induced epilepsy and the treatment of epilepsy, both surgical and otherwise. The International Congress for Psychology and Psychotherapy and the Association for Swiss Psychiatrists and Neurologists extended to the League reciprocal invitations to their meetings. The Swiss group in particular presented a survey of epilepsy cases in their country. The League's business meetings focused on a constitution and the work plan for the coming year. The proceedings were published in detail in *Epilepsia*, including minutes of two separate administrative meetings (Secretäre 1912, 1–86). Augusto Tamburini resigned and was replaced as president by American David Weeks. It was suggested that the League affiliate with other, larger organisations, and several decades later, it did.



Swiss Epilepsy Colony, ca. 1946, from a watercolour by David Müller. (Courtesy Swiss Epilepsy Centre, Zurich)

4th Meeting of the ILAE

London

13 August 1913

Held in conjunction with the 17th International Medical Congress in London (which had 7,000 delegates)

Programme – 4 lectures:

Schools for Epileptics and the Education of Epileptic Children (McDougall)

Statistics from Family Histories of Epileptics (Collins)

Operative Beeinflussungen von Entwickelungstörungen des Gehirns, Insb. der Epilepsie (Anton)

Relative Frequency of Epilepsy in England (Turner)

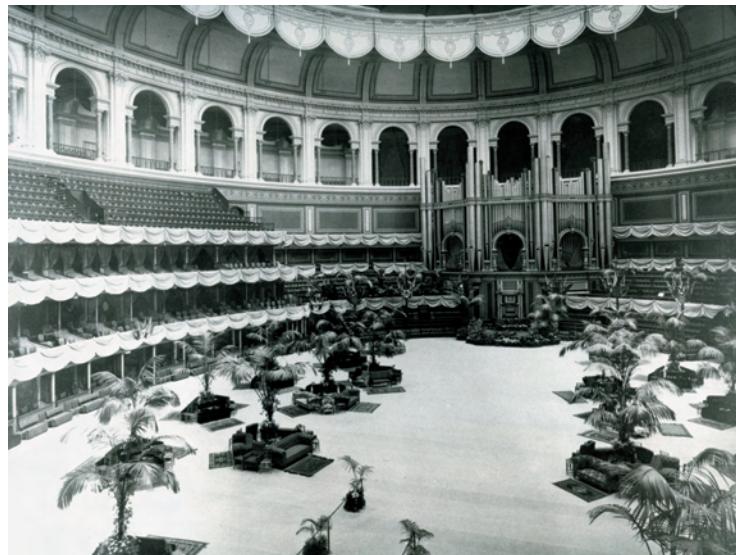
The League's 3rd meeting coincided with the 17th International Medical Congress in London, a fantastic and mammoth affair that lasted only 5 days but that took both the *Lancet* and the *British Medical Journal* weeks to cover. Hotel rooms and interpreters were in short supply. The congress was widely reported in the national and international press and attracted the interest of government and policy-makers. The *New York Times* reported on 6 August 1913 that multilingual delegates would wear buttons 'to indicate the tongues in which they are proficient' and that a special branch of the post office had been set up to handle communications. Prince Arthur of Connaught represented King George at the opening in Royal Albert Hall and received a long stream of delegates while suffragettes, refused entry, picketed outside. Social events were too many to count and too varied to describe in any summary way, although the *Lancet*, in its dispatch of 16 August, tried. The Royal Society of Apothecaries gave a dinner at which the loving cup was passed. The Corporation of London gave a 'magnificent conversazione' at the Guildhall. At mid-week, a group of 2,000 delegates enjoyed a garden party at Windsor Castle. Others took excursions to Cambridge and Brighton or, several days later, tried out the curative springs at Harrogate, Yorkshire. Teas, ices, champagne and other delicacies were consumed. Among the medical celebrities were Harvey Cushing, Sir Ronald Ross and F.H. Albee, who performed an operation for his surgical colleagues in which he plated a short section of a tubercular child's spinal vertebrae using a sliver of shin bone. William Bateson of Yale University deplored the American enthusiasm for eugenics. The French delegation presented Sir Patrick Manson with a

gold medallion in his likeness for his efforts on malaria. A historical exhibit curated by Henry S. Wellcome was shifted to Wigmore Street after the congress, where it became the Historical Medical Museum. Osler was the

⁴ According to Cushing – ‘the transactions of no other medical congress had been so thoroughly reported in the lay press; and as an aftermath not only the newspapers but the Government, in consequence of Ehrlich’s address, calling a spade a spade, faced for the first time the open discussion of venereal diseases, with the result that a Royal Commission was appointed to consider this great national menace.’ Cushing also provides a wonderful description of the congress, which is worth quoting at length here as it conveys a sense of what these major events were like. Cushing wrote: ‘The XVIIth International Congress, likely to be the last of those unwieldy periodical gatherings of medical men from all over the world, was held in London from Wednesday, August 6th, to Tuesday the 12th, under the presidency of Sir Thomas Barlow. Thirty-two years before, in 1881, another of these congresses had been held in London, which Palmer Howard of McGill and his protégé William Osler had attended, and which was graced by “the presence of the Prince of Wales and the Crown Prince of Prussia”. Both were now in their graves, and so also were all the great figures that made notable a congress at which Pasteur and Bastian had tilted over spontaneous generation, and at which Huxley, Lister, Virchow, and Koch had all spoken. Comparable to these, there were no outstanding figures at this second London congress, whose transactions, comprising a staggering list of subjects, may be said to have been based almost entirely on the further development of the researches of those giants. There was one exception perhaps, the most picturesque figure of the congress, a German from Frankfort, Paul Ehrlich, the discoverer of salvarsan, whose brilliant career was to end just two years later, and after only twelve months of war, believing to the end that his Kaiser was an upholder of peace. Into the whirlpool of huge assemblages of this sort are always drawn other gatherings which have no official connexion with the main body. Thus there met at the Royal College of Surgeons, on the day before the great congress opened, the International Association of Medical Museums ... [The ILAE meeting is another example of a similar satellite meeting.] It was a brilliant and memorable scene when, on the morning of August 6th, in the Albert Hall, packed to the doors and ceiling, Prince Arthur of Connaught, speaking for the King, formally opened the congress. He was followed by Sir Edward Grey, who spoke for the Government; and then came addresses from twenty-five or more official delegates from several countries, picturesque in uniform or academic gown. If nothing more, it showed what a vast labour of organisation in providing for 7,000 participants had been put on the shoulders of practically one man, Dr Wilmot P. Herrington. The whole congress indeed, was on such a scale as to make any subsequent attempt to rival it appear hopeless. Indeed, Professor von Müller, who, with his wife and daughter, was among Osler’s special guests at Brown’s, and who was chosen President of the succeeding congress [which, but for a cataclysm unforeseen, would have been held in Munich in 1917] expressed himself despairingly in regard to the possibility of competing with it. That things were going well is evident from a card scribbled in the course of the week to H.B. Jacobs: I send you the Congress medal – not Gallic! but the Lister is good. Such a time as we are having. Great success. I had 196 men of my section at dinner at

president of the medical section (as he wrote – ‘we had a deuce of a business with this congress & only just escaped alive’). Cushing’s diaries again give a glorious description of the congress.⁴

the R. A. C. [Royal Automobile Club] on Wednesday [i.e. August 6th] & we are seeing a host of your old friends here ... The British can hardly be outdone in bountiful hospitality, and what was probably being duplicated in countless other places went on at Brown’s Hotel, where, during the ten days, in a large sitting-room two round tables seating eighteen people were filled to overflowing twice a day – for both luncheon and dinner ... Nor was this all, for at tea people came uncounted ... And on the Sunday night, at Brown’s we dined with the Holters, in luxury and pride as it turned out, at the commodious, domesticated London tavern there they had established themselves in apartments suitable for the entertainment of all the doctors. They gave us meat and drink and friendship and hospitable discourse ... On Monday, at the American Embassy at half-past one I found the Ambassador, and discussed with him the state and prospects of our country at the time I parted from it; the state, prospects, inhabitants, habits and climate of Great Britain; and the expediency of having the Rockefeller hook-worm movement brought to the attention of the doctors at their closing session that evening. Then the Ambassador, who is not yet a proud man (except perhaps in the season), walked along with me, expounding his satisfaction in getting back since the first of August to informal clothes and hats, remarking, as we passed Buckingham Palace, on the politeness of the sentries in saluting his automobile (which bears the arms of the United States) when he rode by in it, and their consideration in letting him pass unobserved when he went afoot. But, after all, I suppose their consideration is due to his neglect to wear our national “cockade” on his hat ... There were magnificent dinners – one of 500 guests at the Hotel Cecil given by the Government, and at which John Morley, Lord President of the Council, presided – and another at the Savoy, given by the President of the Congress. There were conversaziones at the South Kensington Museum, and by the Corporation of London at the Guildhall. There were receptions at Windsor Castle, at Lambeth Palace, at Strawberry Hill, and at all the London hospitals. On Sunday there were excursions to Oxford, to Cambridge, and on the river, and, for the more pious who remained, a special service at St. Paul’s and another at the Abbey. But perhaps the most picturesque of all the entertainments was the evening fête on August given by Lord and Lady Strathcona in the Botanical Gardens at Regent’s Park, which were decorated like a fairyland by Japanese lanterns pendent from long bamboo poles, and where there was music from the Royal Artillery band, and where the pipers of the Scots Guard played, and a folk-song quartet provided entertainment. There a wonderful old man just approaching his ninety-third year stood under a marquee at the head of the receiving line, prepared to shake hands with approximately 5,000 people who approached in a sinuous queue without apparent end, until Oslerian desperation, after this had gone on for more than an hour, entered into a conspiracy with his wife, who sent word to their host that she wished to speak with him. So chairs were brought, and during the process of his extracting from her a promise that they would visit him at Glencoe later in the summer, the endless queue was broken and diverted to the supper tent’ (Cushing 1925).



Interior of Royal Albert Hall, site of 17th (and last) International Medical Congress
The Royal Albert Hall must have been a magnificent setting for the congress. The Hall (the full title is *Royal Albert Hall of the Arts and Sciences*) was opened by Queen Victoria in 1851 and has a capacity of 8,000–9,000 people. It is one of London's most famous landmarks. In the months before the medical conference, Ralph Vaughan Williams' Symphony No. 2 (the 'London' symphony) was composed and played there. In addition, one of London's most spectacular grand balls was held (on the theme of 'The fête at Versailles'), considered a defining event of the Edwardian twilight before the coming of the First World War. The medical congresses were in their way in the style of these cultural extravaganzas. (Courtesy Royal Albert Hall Archives)



William Osler presided over the medical section of the London congress.

The work of the congress was divided into 22 sections and, as the *New York Times* wrote on 6 August, dealt with subjects ranging from 'disinfection of eyeglasses to the resuscitation of the dead'. The section on neuropathology extended over several days and included such topics as the operative treatment of epilepsy; symptoms of cerebellar disease; motor aphasia, anarthria and apraxia; the relation of the myopathies; and the nature of parasyphilis. ILAE members were among the speakers, and included L.J.J. Muskens, who gave a talk on the posterior longitudinal fasciculus, and Gyula Donáth. On the afternoon of Thursday 8 August, a clinical and pathological meeting took place at the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, at which patients illustrating family and hereditary nervous diseases were presented.

The congress ended, as it began, at Royal Albert Hall, although to a much-diminished audience. The Right Honourable John Burns, president of the local government board, gave an address on public health, the suffragettes made one final attempt to crash the proceedings, and it was over. The League's meeting followed on 13 August at the Royal Society of Medicine, and seems to have been meagrely attended. The first few items on the agenda concerned the national committees. A handful of talks followed, mostly on institutional aspects of epilepsy and statistics. On 13 August a visit was arranged to the London County Council epileptic colony at Epsom,

and on 14 August to the David Lewis Colony at Alderley Edge near Manchester.

**5th Meeting of the ILAE
Copenhagen
24 August 1939
Held in conjunction with the 3rd International
Congress of Neurology (which had 500 delegates)**

Programme: (no separate ILAE scientific programme)

The 3rd International Congress of Neurology in Copenhagen in 1939 – the occasion of the League's 5th meeting – almost failed to take place owing to the unstable political situation in Europe. But the organisers decided in favour, and the meeting went on as planned from 21 to 24 August 1939. King Christian attended the opening ceremony, and J.F. Fulton of New Haven, Connecticut, gave the inaugural address, titled 'Centres of the Nervous System and Muscular Activity'. Viggo Christiansen presided. Already in January, ILAE president William G. Lennox had opted not to organise a separate scientific programme for the League in Copenhagen but to have members wishing to read papers on epilepsy apply through the regular channels of the neurological congress. The symposia topics featured that year were the autonomic nervous system, heredo-familial disease and neurological aspects of the avitaminoses. The 9 September 1939 issue of the *Lancet* published an account of the proceedings. In

the scientific sessions, which were held at the University of Copenhagen, Macdonald Critchley gave a talk on disorders of nocturnal sleep in narcoleptics, and J. Aldren Turner one on congenital myopathy masquerading as Oppenheim's disease. Delegates were shown a movie on congenital myotonia in goats. Lennox gave two presentations: the first on the electroencephalographic records of relatives of epileptics, and a second on diphenyl hydantoin in epilepsy. H.P. Stubbe Teglbaerg spoke on vitamins in the treatment of nervous disease. A much-anticipated lecture by H.M. Sinclair on the link between a lack of vitamin B₁ and neurological conditions was inexplicably cancelled. On the third day of the congress, science took a holiday to enable members to enjoy an excursion to Elsinore and sightseeing around North Zealand. The city of Copenhagen hosted an evening reception in the town hall.

A letter to the American League dated 1 December 1939 and signed jointly by Lennox and Stanley Cobb (then president of the American League) told ILAE members that 'the meetings of the International League against Epilepsy in Copenhagen ... went off well in spite of the very tense political situation at the time. A constitution was adopted, the officers were re-elected, and resolutions were adopted approving the action of the American branch in organising a Laymen's League against Epilepsy' (Lennox and Cobb 1939). The League contingent also managed a trip to the Filadelfia colony at Dianalund. Many years later Lennox wrote poignantly that the banquet had been a 'tragic' affair, the

Delegates to the League's meeting in Copenhagen in 1939 made a side visit to Filadelfia Epileptic Colony in Dianalund. Dianalund is the Filadelfia organisation's epilepsy centre and the only such centre in Denmark. It then as now specialises in the treatment of epilepsy, and has had a distinguished faculty throughout its history, with no less than three of the ILAE presidents employed there. Currently there are 67 beds for diagnostic work-up and 49 residential beds. It is part of a network of European Epilepsy Centres which have always been prominent and influential in the ILAE. (Courtesy Danish Epilepsy Centre, Filadelfia)



congress having been interrupted by the start of the German blitzkrieg (Lennox and Lennox 1960, 1034). Since Germany did not invade Poland until 1 September, 6 days after the close of the congress, time may have clouded Lennox's recollection. But in any event, delegates were indeed soon feeling the effects of the hostilities, for example with the cancellation and rescheduling of ships bound for the United States. The next International Neurological Congress, agreed for in Paris in 1942 or 1943, would have to wait until 1949.

**6th Meeting of the ILAE
New York
13 December 1946
Held in conjunction with the Association for
Research in Nervous and Mental Disease
(which had 300 delegates)**

Programme – main themes:

History
Aetiology and Pathology
Experimental Studies
Electroencephalography
Medical Treatment

War and Epilepsy
Psychological – social
Papers to be read by title

The ILAE's first post-war meeting was held on 13–14 December 1946, jointly with the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York. Although considered by Lennox to be an 'international' meeting, the ILAE at this point was composed of little more than the American branch. Still, as Lennox pointed out, the secretary, H.I. Schou, was working hard to breathe new life into the European chapters. Representatives of both the British and Dutch branches made it to New York. The *New York Times* published a brief report of the meeting on 14 December under the heading 'Convulsive Therapy Effective in Epilepsy, Doctors Told'. The League held its business meeting on 13 December, picking up where it had left off in Copenhagen. The scientific programme comprised 44 lectures from members of the American branch, and one given by a foreign invited speaker (in the session on EEG by Grey Walter, the British league member). The programme is listed here in full as it throws an interesting light on the vigour of the American Branch at that time and the thrust of contemporary research.⁵

⁵ The programme of lectures was as follows:

Historical

- 1 Research before Hughlings Jackson: aetiology and pathology
- 2 Fifty twin pairs affected by seizures
- 3 Alterations of the cerebral white matter in epilepsy
- 4 Seizures in patients with brain tumour

Oswie Temkin
William Lennox
I. Mark Scheinker
Paul F.A. Hoefer, Edward B. Schlesinger, Harry H. Pennes

Experimental studies

- 5 The pattern of muscular response to evoked cortical discharge
- 6 Cerebral concussion and convulsive reactivity – physicochemical studies
- 7 Electrolytes of the brain in experimental convulsions
- 8 Cerebral blood flow and metabolism of epileptics
- 9 Conditions modifying convulsions in animals
- 10 Wheat gluten as a convulsant
- 11 Epilepsy and convulsive therapy
- 12 Cerebral metabolism in metrazol convulsions in the dog
- 13 Changes in the oxygen tension of the cerebral cortex of the cat during experimentally-induced convulsions
- 14 Histochemical and action potential studies on epileptogenic areas of the cerebral cortex in man and the monkey

Theodore C. Ruch, H.T. Change, Arthur A. Ward
E. Spiegel, M. Spiegel-Adolph, H.T. Wycis, M. Marks

Harry F. Colfer
Frederic A. Gibbs, Erna L. Gibbs
James E.P. Toman, Louis S. Goodman
Theodore C. Erickson
Lothar B. Kalinowsky
E.S. Gurdjian, John E. Webster, W.E. Stone
Phillip W. Davies, Antoine Rémond

Alfred Pope, Arthur A. Morris, Herbert Jasper, K.A.C. Elliott,
Wilder Penfield

Continued

Electroencephalography

- 15 Analytical means of discovering the origin and nature of epileptic disturbances W. Grey Walter
 16 Highest level seizures Wilder Penfield, Herbert Jasper
 17 Origin of bilaterally synchronous epileptic discharges Herbert Jasper, Wilder Penfield, J. Droogleever-Fortuyn
 18 Paroxysmal electroencephalographic patterns of children without known clinical epilepsy Margaret A. Kennard
 19 Normal electroencephalogram in patients having proven epilepsy John A. Abbott, Robert S. Schwab
 20 Febrile convulsions in children Margaret Lennox
 21 Sleep record in epilepsy Erna L. Gibbs, Frederic A. Gibbs

Medical treatment

- 22 Promising anticonvulsants Houston Merritt
 23 Five years' experience in the treatment of epilepsy with diphenytoin diimide Howard D. Fabing, J. Robert Hawkins, R. Finley Gayle
 24 The treatment of epilepsy with methylphenyl hydantoin (Mesantoin) Harry L. Kozol
 25 Effects of trimethyloxazolidine dione (Tridione) and of dimethylethoxyloxazolidine dione on seizures and on the blood Jean P. Davis, William G. Lennox

War and epilepsy

- 26 Problems in post-traumatic epilepsy Fred A. Quadfasel, A. Earl Walker
 27 Activated electroencephalography in post-traumatic epilepsy I. Charles Kaufman, Curtis Marshall, A. Earl Walker
 28 Electrocorticographic characteristics of the cerebrum in post-traumatic epilepsy A. Earl Walker, Curtis Marshall, Elizabeth N. Beresford
 29 The incidence of epilepsy following craniocerebral injury C. Wesley Watson
 30 Epilepsy and war and the Veterans Administration Pearce Bailey

Psychological – social

- 31 Survey of physician interest and of educational opportunities for epileptics by the American Epilepsy League Gertrude Potter, William G. Lennox
 32 Psychological problems of patients Charles D. Aring, Milton Rosenbaum
 33 The intelligence of 300 private patients A.L. Collins, William G. Lennox
 34 Personality reaction patterns of children with epilepsy Kate Levine-Kogan, Staff of Baird Foundation Clinic

Papers to be read by title

- 35 Effect of convulsive activity of brain upon its carbohydrate metabolism Norman S. Olsen, J. Raymond Klein
 36 Spectrophotometric and enzyme studies in the cerebrospinal fluid of epileptics M. Spigel-Adolf, H.T. Wycis
 37 Preconvulsion paroxysmal electroencephalographic changes after metrazol injection Eugen Ziskind, Nicholas A. Bercel
 38 The electroencephalogram in cerebral palsy Myer A. Perlstein, Erna L. Gibbs, Frederic A. Gibbs
 39 Extracranial causes for convulsive seizures in the adolescent with especial reference to structural inadequacy in the development of the chest and heart Temple Fay
 40 Treatment of epileptic patients with 3-methyl-5,5-phenylethylhydantoin and phenobarbital Anthony E. Loscalzo
 41 A fifteen-year study of epilepsy in children Edward M. Bridge, Laslo Kajdi, Samuel Livingston
 42 A pattern analysis of Bellevue–Weschler adult intelligence scales on patients with epilepsy Harry Sands, Jerry C. Price
 43 Psychopathologic studies on 'epileptoid psychopathic personalities' Oskar Diethelm, Fred V. Rockwell, Donald J. Simons, Ary J. Sherfey
 44 The reaction time of patients with petit mal epilepsy Robert S. Schwab
 45 Paroxysmal convulsive disorder variants R.W. Waggoner, B.K. Bagchi

Papers included contributions from a constellation of the epilepsy stars of the time, and made what must have been a fascinating event. It is notable, too, that six papers were read by women (Lennox 1947, cited in Goodkin 2007). Overall, the work represented an exhaustive survey of research in the field, including EEG, new therapies and operative techniques, psychosocial aspects of epilepsy and traumatic epilepsy induced by war. Of special interest, the meeting brought together both the scientific and social sides of epilepsy.

7th Meeting of the ILAE

Paris

**5–10 September 1949 (ILAE meeting was on
8 September⁶)**

**Held in conjunction with the Congresses of the
International Society of Electroencephalography
and the 4th International Neurological Congress
(at these congresses, there were 1,038 delegates
in all)**

Programme: the League had no separate programme, but participated in the epilepsy sessions of the larger organisations. As reported in *Epilepsia*, 27 papers on epilepsy – focusing especially on EEG and drug treatment – were given (International League 1949, 7).

In 1949, the International League met in Paris, in conjunction with the Congress of the International Society of Electroencephalography⁷ and the International Neuro-

logical Congress. The overall event attracted 1,038 participants from 44 nations, including 795 neurologists. The inaugural session kicked off in the great amphitheatre of the Sorbonne on the morning of Monday 4 September. Dignitaries in attendance included the French minister of health and a representative of the president of the republic. The next day, delegates were welcomed at the Hôtel de Ville by Pierre de Gaulle, brother of the general and president of the municipal council. The late French summer was very fine but hot, and the lecture rooms close and dark. The *British Medical Journal* reported on 24 September 1949 that ‘the neighbouring cafés were thronged throughout the day with distinguished neurologists of all nations refreshing themselves and recovering between sessions’. The event also marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of Jules-Joseph Dejerine (one of the original patrons of the ILAE). The celebratory activities included the presentation of a medal commemorating both Dejerine and his wife, presented at La Salpêtrière, and the placing of flowers on the couple’s tomb by a group of American neurologists. A number of exhibitions featured photographs of the pioneers of neurology, the results of treatment for spinal cord lesions in war veterans, and books and other neurological works published since 1935.

The ILAE business meeting, chaired by Lennox with Williams as secretary, preceded three sessions on epilepsy. The sessions themselves were chaired, in order, by Lennox and M. Kaila (Helsingfors), J.O. Trelles (Lima) and Georges de Morsier (Geneva). Margaret Lennox and colleagues gave a talk on petit mal epilepsy; Lennox on 100 pairs of epileptic twins; B. Ch. Ledebour on petit mal; A. Earl Walker on the surgical treatment of epilepsy; and H.P. Stubbe Teglbaerg on the role of the diencephalo-hypophyso-cortical system in the pathogenesis of epilepsy. Tracy Putnam spoke about modern anticonvulsive drugs, and Wilder Penfield and K. Kristiansen on clinical classification in localised epilepsy. In other sessions, Herbert Jasper gave a plenary presentation on EEG in neurosurgery, and Antoine Rémond and Henri Gastaut on clinical neurophysiology (IVe Congrès 1950). In a closing discussion on the current state of neurological studies around the world, Foster Kennedy introduced what the *New York Times* (11 September 1949) called a ‘ringing demand’ that neurology be universally recognised as an independent speciality.

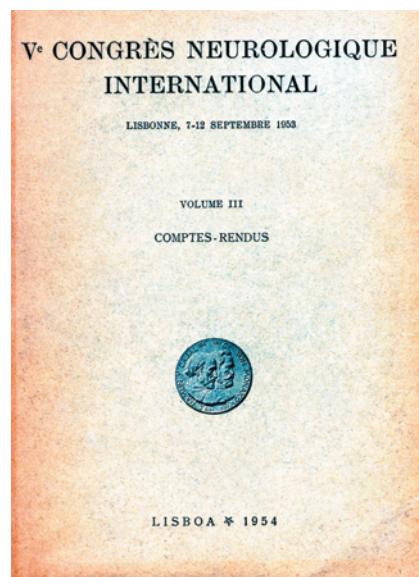
⁶ The precise date of the ILAE meeting is a little hard to make out. The programme states only that the ILAE would have its meeting at the beginning of the sessions on epilepsy. The first of these appears to have been on Thursday 8 September, led by Lennox and Kaila (IVe Congrès 1950, 57).

⁷ This was the second international meeting of the EEG Society. The first was held in London in 1947, largely at the instigation of Grey Walter, a member of the British branch of the ILAE. The first two congresses led to the founding of an international federation in 1945 and the creation of an influential journal, *Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology* (*Electroencephalography* 1952). The third congress was held in Cambridge, Massachusetts, August 1953.

**8th Meeting of the ILAE
Lisbon
7 September 1953
Held in conjunction with the 5th International
Congress of Neurology (which had approximately
1,000 delegates)**

*Programme – a single-day workshop:
The Temporal Lobe Epilepsies (sole topic)*

The League next met in 1953, on the occasion of the 5th International Neurological Congress, in Lisbon. All sessions of the congress were held in the new hospital of Lisbon, which also housed the faculty of the university. The congress commemorated the centenaries of both Santiago Ramón y Cajal and Constatin von Monakow, and a handsome medallion featuring both had been designed by the sculptor Leopoldo de Almeida. Georges Guillain presided over the event. The organisers included 24 vice-presidents, among them Wilder Penfield, Sir Francis Walshe and Henry Aslop Riley, who himself led a delegation of 170 Americans. Mieczyslaw Minkowski of Zurich read a paper on Constantin von Monakow's contributions, with Monakow's daughter Masche beside



The League's scientific meeting at the 1953 Lisbon Congress was devoted to the temporal lobe epilepsies. (Courtesy Excerpta Medica)

him on the podium. (A complementary event took place in Madrid on 14–15 September consisting of both a scientific session and a visit to the Cajal Museum at the Cajal Institute. A special train from Lisbon was arranged for the occasion.)

The main congress was organised according to four themes: vascular lesions of the brain, diseases of the brain, functions of the parietal lobe and metabolic diseases of the nervous system. Jean Lhermitte gave a paper on anosognosia and disturbances of the body image that the *Lancet* in its report of 26 September called 'perhaps the most applauded of all the contributions to the congress'. Delegates enjoyed a series of social teas and short excursions around Lisbon, as well as (for a fee) a dinner dance at the Casino d'Estoril.

The ILAE's own meetings took place in the anatomy lecture hall (according to a scheduling card, from 9:15 to 10:15 on Monday 7 September⁸) and the scientific session was singular both for its focus and its form: the entire day was devoted to spirited discussion of the temporal epilepsies, based on 20 expert commentaries solicited beforehand by Henri Gastaut to a manuscript he had written on the topic. The contributors (listed below) were the glitterati of the epilepsy world and the commentaries are superb in their scope and insight. The meeting was recently written up in *Epilepsia* as a historical note (Shorvon 2006). The business meeting, too, was notable for having ratified a new constitution for the League, its first since 1939. Among other things, the constitution formalised the custom of having the General Assembly 'meet at the place and about the time of the International Neurological Congress'.

Contributors to the workshop on temporal lobe epilepsy were Henri Gastaut, Murray Falconer, John F. Fulton, Bartolomé Fuster, Frederic A. Gibbs, J. Guillaume, G. Mazars, Y. Mazars, Herbert Jasper, Birger Kaada, Margaret Lennox, William G. Lennox, Paul D. MacLean, Otto Magnus, Richard Masland, Kenneth W.E. Paine, G. Pampiglione, Wilder Penfield, A. Subirana, Robert S. Schwab and Jerome K. Merlis.

⁸ The ILAE also showed films on the evenings of 10 and 11 September. The scheduling card for the general programme carried a note at the bottom which read: 'The International League Against Epilepsy invites all delegates to attend the League's scientific sessions.'

9th Meeting of the ILAE**Brussels**

Between 21 and 28 July 1957 (the exact date of the League's meeting within this week is not known)
Held in conjunction with the 6th International Congress of Neurology, the 4th International Congress of Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology, the 3rd International Congress of Neuropathology and the 5th Symposium Neuroradiologicum, all taking place under the auspices of the 1st International Congress of Neurological Sciences (the number of delegates is unknown)

Programme: at least 21 talks (the published proceedings reports six as having been received late; where or if they figured on the programme is not specified), clustered under the following broad divisions:

Discussions:

Clinical Classification of the Epilepsies (Macdonald Critchley)
 Changes in Generalised and Focal Seizure Activity with Age (Frederic A. Gibbs)
 The Anatomy of Temporal Lobe Seizures (Wilder Penfield)
 Aetiology, Pathology and Pathogenesis of Temporal Lobe Epilepsy (Henri Gastaut)

Theme:

The Interpretation of Normal and Pathological Potentials in Electromyography (A. Fessard, chair)

Symposia:

The Ontogenesis of the EEG in Man and Animals (J. Knott, chair)
 The Relation of EEG to Localised Cerebral Pathology (Grey Walter, chair)
 The Pathology and Clinical Aspects of Petit Mal (Frederic A. Gibbs, chair)
 Conditioned EEG (Henri Gastaut, chair)

By 1957, the world of neurology had become very complicated. Used to meeting together with the International Congresses of Neurology, and of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology, in addition the ILAE now

found itself alongside the 3rd International Congress of Neuropathology and the 5th Symposium Neuroradiologicum, all taking place under the auspices of the 1st International Congress of Neurological Sciences. Dedicated to Arthur van Gehuchten of Louvain, the event also marked the centenaries of Sir Charles Sherrington, Joseph Babinski and Sir Victor Horsley. A bronze medal commemorated all four.

The opening ceremony featured a musical overture and greetings from His Majesty Baudouin I, king of Belgium, after which the minister of public health received the delegates at the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire du Palais du Cinquantenaire. The congress itself took place at the Palais des Beaux Arts de Bruxelles, where hostesses trained for the coming Brussels World Fair shepherded people to and from the sessions. The official banquet was held in the Salle des Pas-Perdus of the Palais de Justice, with music and dancing. Additional offerings included a symphonic concert and an exhibition by the Royal Library on Andreas Vesalius and the history of the human body (van Alphen 2005, 27–28, 30).

Large as it apparently was, the meeting made barely a ripple in the popular press. Even more critical, between 1955 and 1959, *Epilepsia* ceased production, simultaneously suppressing news of the ILAE and its members. What we know of the Brussels programme survives in a brief report in the 10 August 1957 issue of the *Lancet* (although not broken down by organisation). Earl Walker gave a talk on results of operations for extrapyramidal syndromes. Wilder Penfield and Francis Walshe presented opposite views on the concept of the centrencephalic system.

The ILAE sessions, which appear to have been shared with those of the EEG society, were published in a proceedings edited by Ludo van Bogaert and J. Radermecker and reviewed, not entirely flatteringly, in *Brain*. ‘This volume’, wrote an anonymous author, ‘seems the ultimate condemnation of giant congresses. The editors have done their best, but the large volume contains a tedium of abstracts in several languages. Facts are buried in an expensive mass grave, their epitaphs the one-minute index which occupies less than three of the 700 pages. Fortunately it is the custom to publish elsewhere also, for there are some distinguished authors and good papers’ (*Notices* 1960, 193).

10th Meeting of the ILAE

Rome

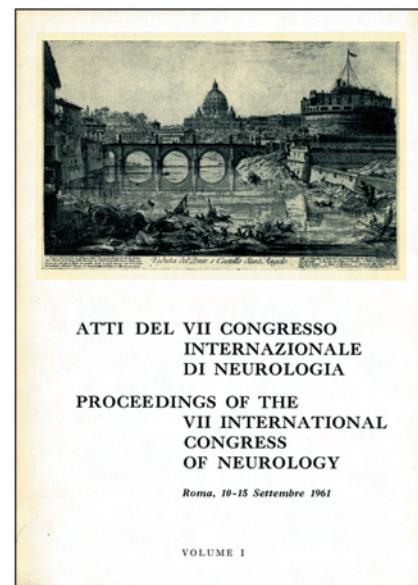
10 September 1961

Held in conjunction with the 7th International Congress of Neurology and the 5th International Congress of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology (at which congresses, the number of delegates was approx. 1,500)

Programme – 7 lectures:

- EEG and Clinical Study of Epilepsy in Childhood (R. Vizioli)
- The Differential Diagnosis of Epileptic Attacks and of Anoxic Crises (J. Roger and M. Vigouroux)
- EEG and Clinical Study of Epilepsy During Maturation of the Monkey (W.F. Caveness)
- EEG and Clinical Study of Epilepsy During Maturation of Man (P. Passouant)
- The Transition of Epilepsy in Infancy to That in Childhood (P. Kellaway)
- The Transition of Epilepsy in Childhood to That of Adult Life (Th. Alajouanine and P. Castaigne)
- Social Aspects of Epilepsy in Childhood (A.M. Lorentz de Haas)

The ILAE's 10th meeting, on 10 September 1961, in Rome, overlapped with the 7th International Congress of Neurology and the 5th International Congress of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology (ICECN). The main scientific sessions took place in the Palazzo Pio, a 'superb concert hall on the Vatican side of the river', according to the *British Medical Journal* (30 September 1961), and smaller 'free' talks in classrooms at the Città Universitaria. The primary topics of the neurological congress were neurologic disorders in porphyria, phenylketonuria and galactosuria; and brain disturbances associated with cardiopulmonary disorders. As 1961 marked the dual centenary of Henry Head and of Broca's original communication, Macdonald Critchley chaired a symposium on aphasia. In the EEG congress, H. Magoun directed a session on the relation between unit activity and electroencephalogram; Mary Brazier on intracerebral electrography in man; and J. Radermecker on the EEG of non-epileptic paroxysmal disturbances. The *American Journal of Psychiatry* later reported that 'something novel in the atmosphere of the [combined] congress ... was comforting to anyone who is anxious to



The ILAE's 10th meeting in Rome in 1961 was notable for the proposal to found the International Bureau for Epilepsy. The Bureau existed informally until 1966, when its council met officially for the first time in Wiesbaden, Germany. (Courtesy Excerpta Medica)

see an increasing integration of neurology, psychiatry and the behavioural sciences' (L.D.P. 1962). Amusements included receptions at the Diocletian Baths, the Capitoline Museum and the Castle of San Angelo, a banquet at the Grand Hotel and a private audience with the Pope at the Castel Gandolfo.

The ILAE's scientific programme, which was sketched briefly in *Epilepsia*, dealt exclusively with epilepsy in childhood. The General Assembly followed and lasted half an hour. The British Epilepsy Association held a special conference on the role of lay organisations in the treatment of epilepsy at which A.M. Lorentz de Haas, president of the Dutch branch of the ILAE, and Ellen Grass, president of the American Epilepsy Federation, were among the speakers. At the end of the meeting, Abraham Mosovich of Argentina proposed that an international bureau be set up to address the social needs of people with epilepsy. Several issues, with financing prime among them, remained to be worked out. But the so-called Mosovich motion constituted the beginning of the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE). By the time of the League's next meeting, in Vienna, the IBE had already taken shape.

11th Meeting of the ILAE**Vienna****9 September 1965**

Held in conjunction with the 8th International Congress of Neurology and the 6th International Congress of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology (at which congress, the number of delegates is unknown)

Programme – a single-day workshop:

Proposed Terminology and Classification of the Epilepsies

As in Rome, the League's next meeting, at the Hofburg in Vienna, was organised in conjunction with the 8th International Congress of Neurology and the 6th ICECN. No popular account of the meeting has surfaced, so it is difficult to form an overall impression of the proceedings. Nor is the total number of delegates known, although a letter in the ILAE archives from Henri Gastaut anticipated several thousand. The topics chosen by the EEG and clinical neurophysiology group were modern trends in the neurophysiological investigation of brain diseases; the EEG in stress; and spinal cord function. The congress of neurology devoted its presentations to late sequelae of head injuries; neuromuscular diseases; and disturbances of the occipital lobe. The second and third topics were scheduled as joint symposia with the EEG congress. In this context, Gastaut and H. Regis gave a talk on electrical activity of the occipital lobe in humans. Macdonald Critchley gave the Otto Pötzl memorial lecture on visual agnosia.

The ILAE's scientific session was a sort of recap of 1953 in that it was devoted to one topic: a discussion of a proposed terminology and classification of the epilepsies sent 2 months beforehand to all registered members of the combined congress. The hope was to generate an instrument that the World Health Organization (WHO) might ultimately adopt for general use, and this indeed was achieved. The classification was largely that drawn up by Gastaut and bulldozed through by him. At its General Assembly, the League executive announced a number of important pieces of business. In particular, for the next meeting in 1969, the ILAE hoped to increase the time spent reading papers. Second, the IBE had grown rapidly since its inception in 1961. But the functions of the two organisations, and the relationship between them, remained to be worked out, and urgently. Finally, the Dutch branch

had chosen an 'attractive' emblem. Designed in the form of a wave and a spike, the emblem represented both epilepsy (the spike) and the fight against it (the wave). Branches that had no emblem were encouraged to adopt that of their Dutch colleagues. Eventually, and certainly by 1976, it became the emblem of the League itself.

11th International Congress of the ILAE**New York****27 September 1969**

Held together with the World Congress of Neurological Sciences⁹ (total number of delegates reportedly 'several hundred'; 893 neurosurgeons alone)

Programme – 9 lectures:

Classification of the Epilepsies (H. Gastaut)

Clinico-electrographic Differentiation of Minor Seizures

(J. Roger and C.A. Tassinari)

Differentiation between Absence Status and Temporal

Lobe Status (E. Lugaresi and C.A. Tassinari)

Reticulo-cortical Epilepsy (P. Gloor)

Stereo-encephalography in Minor Seizures (P. Bancaud)

NIH Collaborative Study of Absence Attacks (P. White)

Panel on Evolution and Prognosis of Minor Seizures

(J. Aicardi, D. Daly, A. Matthes, L. Oller-Daurella, G. Pampiglione and W. Trojaborg)

EEG Telemetry and Behaviour (S. Geyer and J. Guey)

Patterns of Development in Children with Minor Cerebral

Seizures (D. Taylor)

The programme for the (now formally named) 11th International Congress of the ILAE, held at the Hilton Hotel in New York, appeared in a supplement to *Epilepsia* in 1969. According to ILAE correspondence, it was drawn up by the AES in consultation with the International League. Reports of the larger Congress of Neurological Sciences are thin on the ground. Since the parent congress met from 20–27 September, and the League's meeting (in the Mercury Room) was confined to 27 September, it

⁹ The 9th International Neurological Congress and the 4th International Neurosurgical Congress. The two congresses numbered '11' is an artefact of the ILAE's counting system (see Box 1 for an explanation).

is not clear how many people would have been around for the opening ceremony, to which President Richard Nixon sent a ‘hearty’ welcome. Interestingly though, epilepsy was the unanimous choice for the first of three main topics for the meeting, followed by cerebral vascular disease and dementia in children (Walker and Alphen 2005). Apparently Derek Denny-Brown organised a paradigm-shifting symposium on cerebral dominance that included Oliver Zangwill, Henri Hecaen, Wilder Penfield and Brenda Milner (Zaidel 2006, 167). A presentation by Geoffrey Dean proposing that multiple sclerosis is an environmental disease made the 25 September issue of the *New York Times*.

First up in the ILAE’s programme was the presentation of Gastaut’s classification of the epilepsies, followed by talks by Joseph Roger and Carlo Tassinari, Elio Lugaresi, Pierre Gloor and Jean Bancaud. The afternoon session, held jointly with the IBE, listed presentations related to a National Institutes of Health (NIH) collaborative study on absence attacks; a panel on the evolution and prognosis of minor seizures; and two additional talks: ‘EEG Telemetry and Behaviour During Minor Seizures’ (S. Geyer and J. Guey) and ‘Patterns of Development in Children with Minor Cerebral Seizures’ (D. Taylor). The ILAE General Assembly followed. Minutes published later in *Epilepsia* reported the discussions as ‘lively’.

**12th International Congress on Epilepsy
Barcelona
8 September 1973
Held in conjunction with the 10th International
Congress of Neurology, 8–11 September
(number of delegates unknown)**

Organised by the International League Against Epilepsy:
President, H. Gastaut
Secretary, L. Oller-Daurella

Programme – main themes:

Neurophysiological Bases of Epilepsy: The Epileptic Neuron
Recent Progress in Neurophysiology and Other Diagnostic
Methods of Epilepsy
Iatrogenic Aspects of Antiepileptic Drugs: Toxicity
Clinical Pharmacology of Antiepileptic Drugs: Recent
Advances

The League’s 12th congress took place in connection with the 10th International Congress of Neurology at the Palacio de las Naciones in Barcelona. A commemorative medal struck for the congress carried the profiles of Otfried Foerster and Pio del Río Hortega. Social events included a reception, official dinner and a concert at the Palau de la Música. Later, in the 38th issue of the IBE Newsletter, Richard Masland reported that the congress had constituted ‘one of the largest assemblies of neurologists from around the world’. Under the auspices of WHO, Macdonald Critchley, A. Subirana, Henri Gastaut and G. Castellanos chaired a joint ILAE/WFN symposium on the clinical pharmacology of antiepileptic drugs, during which Gastaut also presented his *Dictionary of Epilepsy*: ‘the results’, wrote Masland, ‘of seven years of work by Dr Gastaut and an international committee of the International League.’ Although no count of delegates survives, over 100 reports were given, including ‘encouraging’ results of new drugs such as the benzodiazepines and clonazepam, as well as dipropyl acetate and dimethoxymethyl phenobarbital. There were ‘unfortunately few presentations related to the socio-economic problems of persons with epilepsy’.

The ILAE General Assembly saw some excitement when the proposed slate of new officers was put to the vote. F. Poirier of Montreal questioned the democratic appropriateness of voting on an entire slate and requested individual voting, which was approved by the assembly. Then, when Gastaut proposed as vice-president Johann Kugler, a renowned clinical neurophysiologist from Munich but little involved with epilepsy, Heinz Penin of Bonn, chairman of the German league, voiced his opposition and instead presented Dieter Janz, who was voted in. Gastaut stormed out of the room in a fury, but realised he had left his glasses behind and had to return (Cereghino 2007). In other business, the League ratified a new constitution that introduced, for the first time, a series of bylaws. The constitution also ‘interlocked’ the boards of the ILAE and the IBE. One year later, the two organisations – one professional, one lay – announced their intent to become all things to all people involved with epilepsy: a single entity called Epilepsy International. Championed especially by J. Kiffen Penry, with others, this experiment would ultimately fail. But for the next decade, trying to make it work absorbed much of the League’s and the Bureau’s energy.

13th Congress of the ILAE**Amsterdam****9–12 September 1977**

Held in conjunction with the 11th International Congress of Neurology and the 9th International Congress of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology and the 9th Symposium of the International Bureau for Epilepsy

No. of ILAE delegates: 450

Organising Committee: *Scientific Programme Committee:*

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| M. Lund (Honorary President) | David Daly |
| H. Meinardi (Vice-President) | F.H.J. Knaven |
| J.H. Bruens | H. Meinardi |
| F.J.H. Knaven | J.K. Penry |
| J.K. Penry | |
| F. Rubio Donnadieu | |
| J. Seyffert | |
| G. Burden (Secretary) | |

Programme – main themes:

- Cognition and Epilepsy: School and Work
- Chronic Toxicity of Antiepileptic Drugs
- Metabolites and Mechanism of Action of Antiepileptic Drugs
- Diagnosis of the Structural Basis of Epilepsy Including Diagnostic Techniques

The 13th ILAE Congress was held at the RAI Congress Centre in Amsterdam, in conjunction with the ICECN, the 9th Symposium of the IBE and the 11th World Congress of Neurology. Harry Meinardi served as the local organiser. Participants numbered roughly 450. Delegates to the official opening were treated to music provided by a harpist, a cellist and a flutist – all offspring of local professionals in epilepsy. Ellen Grass gave the opening speech. The special IBE lecture given by Donald Tower, assistant US surgeon-general, was titled ‘Epilepsy: A World Problem’.

The conference started with a joint meeting of the International Federated Societies for Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology (IFSECN) and the ILAE/IBE on the themes of epilepsy and alertness and experimental models of epilepsy. Among the speakers were Juhn Wada, who lectured on kindling, and Brian Meldrum, who showed how photosensitive baboons could be used to assay anti-epileptic drugs. The conference itself had four main themes (listed above) and eight parallel sessions (held on 10–11

September). Keynote speakers for the ILAE meeting included Mogens Dam on the chronic toxicity of anti-epileptic drugs, and Dieter Janz on morphological aspects of epilepsy examined with the help of computer-assisted tomography in epilepsy. Forty-three lectures were presented and 38 posters shown at the meeting. The ILAE meeting was followed by a joint symposium with the WFN on 12 September, moderated by Janz and titled ‘Pharmacotherapy of Epilepsy and Pharmacokinetics of Antiepileptic Drugs’. This symposium included lectures by Rene Levy, Roger Porter, A. Sherwin, E. van der Kleijn and Fritz Dreifuss (among others).

On Friday night, the Netherlands government and the burgomaster and aldermen of Amsterdam hosted a reception for participants in the new Van Gogh Museum, which the guests were invited to explore. The ‘Ladies Programme’ included a ‘Surprising Amsterdam Tour’. Special visits were organised to ‘De Cruquiushoeve’ (a part of the Heemstede Epilepsy Centre) and the Breda and Kempenhaeghe Epilepsy Centres. An important outcome of the Amsterdam meeting was that the ILAE and IBE moved to ‘implement’ Epilepsy International as an ‘agent’ of the two organisations by creating a board of directors and delegating to the agent most activities. In particular, the League’s quadrennial congress and the Bureau’s quadrennial symposium would be collapsed into a single yearly event called the Epilepsy International Symposium. The proceedings would be published by Raven Press as *Advances in Epileptology* (the first of which – from the Vancouver congress – was indeed published in 1980). The ultimate aim was to work towards a formal merger, to be voted on at the General Assembly in Kyoto in 1981.

10th Epilepsy International Symposium**Vancouver****10–14 September 1978****No. of delegates: approx. 1,000**

Organising Committee: *Scientific Programme Committee:*

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| D.D. Daly | F.E. Dreifuss |
| F.E. Dreifuss | P. Gloor |
| E.R. Grass | I. Løyning |
| K.A. Melin | J.K. Penry |
| J.K. Penry | M. Seino |
| T. Wada | J.A. Wada |
| J.A. Wada | |

Programme – main themes:

Intensive Monitoring
Natural History and Prognosis
New Surgical Treatment Through Experimental Models
New Drug Testing, Marketing and Availability
Comprehensive Care of Epilepsy

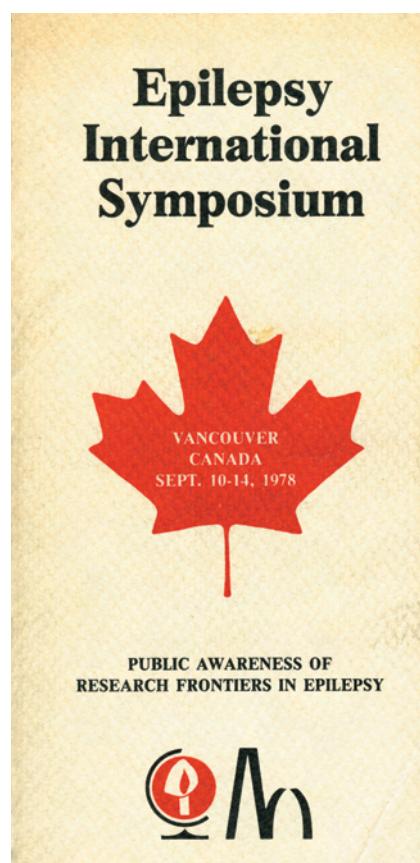
Guest lecture: Wilder Penfield: The Man and His Work
(William Feindel)

International Bureau for Epilepsy Lecture: Perspectives and Limits to Our Knowledge of Epilepsy: Progress from Research (Robert Naquet)

The 10th Epilepsy International Symposium was the first of the ILAE/IBE symposia to be held outside Europe and the first to be held under the new, joint ‘brand’ of

Epilepsy International. The meeting took place at the Bayshore Inn Hotel on Vancouver’s harbour. Aside from the opening reception, special events included a variety of sightseeing tours in the Vancouver area, as well as a dinner at the Vancouver Aquarium with the ‘famous Killer Whale Show’. Harry Meinardi later noted that the input of papers was so tremendous that up to eight parallel sessions had to be organised, and the audience therefore was exposed to only a tiny percentage of all the data presented. A public seminar he gave on the symposium theme of public awareness of research frontiers in epilepsy was attended by more than 500 people from as far away as Alaska. Juhn Wada, chair of the conference, held a buffet dinner party at his home. Guests at the symposium banquet on 13 September ate baked fillet of salmon and toasted the Queen. But Epilepsy International was already struggling with financial problems which would plague it throughout its decade-long existence. Writing to Meinardi on 4 September 1978, Wada owned that as the symposium had ‘no liquid funds of its own ... I will not know whether I will have to mortgage my house or not, until after the symposium’. One colleague recalls that he did in fact have to mortgage his home to raise funds for the congress, but fortunately the meeting did not make a loss.

The symposium had an unusual range of affiliated sponsoring organisations (10 in all, representing various constituencies in three countries¹⁰). The opening ceremony at 3pm on 10 September began with folk songs of Canada, Japan and the United States, and an Irish blessing. How excruciating this was is unclear, but it was then followed by a special message from Kiffin Penry and the two guest lectures by Penfield and Naquet. The conference proper was held over the next 3 days and was a massive affair. A total of more than 350 papers were presented. The plenary sessions started at 8:30am and were followed by parallel sessions and special sessions



The amusements at the 10th International Epilepsy Symposium in Vancouver (1978) included a killer whale show.

¹⁰ The sponsoring organisations were from the Pacific rim countries, Japan, Canada and the United States: the American Epilepsy Society, the Canadian League Against Epilepsy, Japanese Epilepsy Society, Western Institute on Epilepsy (United States), British Columbia Epilepsy Society, Canadian Association of EEG Technologists, Canadian Epilepsy Association, Canadian Neurological Society, Epilepsy Foundation of America and University of British Columbia. Each session had a specific sponsor: 1 American Epilepsy Society; 2 Japanese Epilepsy Society; 3 Canadian League Against Epilepsy; 4 ILAE; 5 Western Institute on Epilepsy (United States), British Columbia Epilepsy Society, Canadian Epilepsy Association and Epilepsy Foundation of America.

continuing to 5pm. This conference represents the first of the large-scale ILAE conferences to which we have grown accustomed in recent years. The proceedings, consisting of about 310 papers, were published as extended abstracts or abstracts in the *Advances of Epileptology* series. The full extent of the scientific content can be gathered from this volume.

**11th Epilepsy International Symposium
Florence
30 September–3 October 1979
No. of delegates: approx. 800 (from press reports;
probably somewhat fewer)**

| <i>Organising Committee:</i> | <i>Scientific Programme Committee:</i> |
|------------------------------|--|
| F. Castellano | J. Bancaud |
| R. Gibbs | J.K. Penry |
| R.H.E. Grant | L. Bergamini |
| H. Meinardi | C.A. Tassinari |
| J.K. Penry | R. Canger |
| F. Rubio-Donnadieu | J.A. Wada |
| R. Zappoli (Local Committee) | S. Garattini |
| F. Angeleri (Chairman) | F. Angeleri |
| R. Canger (Secretary) | D. Janz (Chairman) |
| | R. Gibbs (Secretary) |
| | E. Lugaresi |
| | H.M. McGuckin |
| | H. Meinardi |
| | P.L. Morselli |

Programme – main themes:

Anatomo-electro-clinical Correlations in Human and Experimental Epilepsies
Psycho-social Disorders in Epilepsy
Neurobiological Basis of Epilepsy
Advances in Drug Treatment

The event organiser Maria Grazia Riontino pulled out all the stops for the 11th Epilepsy International Symposium, held at the Palazzo dei Congressi in Florence. Organisers and committee members were housed at the Hotel Baglioni. The social programme featured a welcome cocktail offered by the drinks maker Cinzano, along with an organ concert at the Basilica di San Miniato al Monte and a dinner at the villa reale ‘La Ferdinanda’, as well as



Delegates to the Florence congress in 1979 were treated to a Gucci fashion show.



The woodcut print of St Valentine included in the Florence programme.

an excursion to San Gimignano and Siena. Francesco Castellano, who was on the organising committee, had ties to the Gucci family, and Gucci provided a gala evening at the Palazzo Corsini with proceeds to go to the Italian chapter of the ILAE and to Unicef. The programme included a private viewing of Gucci's autumn-winter fashion and accessories show, preceded by a vin d'honneur and followed by a 'lively Italian spaghetti-party'. The participants were invited to compete in an amateur catwalk which was won by Dietrich Scheffner, a neuro-paediatrician from Berlin who was awarded an elegant coat for his pains. Celebrity pianist Stelvio Cipriani performed.¹¹ The programme booklet carried a woodcut print of St Valentine and salutations from the president of the Italian Republic. The medieval print also appeared on the memorial 500-lire stamp which the Italian Post Office issued at the insistence of Raffaele Canger – the first successful attempt of this kind. The opening ceremony included addresses by the Italian authorities and a welcome address by William Feindel on behalf of WHO. Castellano offered the special IBE lecture, titled 'The Role of Volunteerism in the Fight Against Epilepsy'. In honour of the year of the child, Harry Meinardi spoke on the social impact of epilepsy on the children. The conference ended with a lay session titled 'Living with Epilepsy Around the World' – hardly a global session, with five of the six papers from Europe and the sixth from Canada – and also a special session on immunological aspects with six papers. In total, 156 papers were presented and 135 posters shown.

In a round table on the social implications of epilepsy, Castellano and Patsy McCall (who were to marry on 1 December that year) together posed the question, 'How to Win? Should Lay Associations and Medical Leagues Merge or Stay Separate?' The issue was timely, as on 31 March 1980, Meinardi wrote eagerly to Canger to ask for the transfer of 'a small amount of money [that] was left' given 'the dire financial situation of [Epilepsy International].'¹²

Despite the symposium's careful execution and brilliant social success, Arthur Ward later wrote to Kiffin

Penry that he had received overseas mail expressing disappointment with the scientific content and grumbles that speakers had been invited without consulting the organising committee.

12th Epilepsy International Symposium

Copenhagen

6–10 September 1980

No. of delegates: approx. 295

| <i>Organising Committee:</i> | <i>Scientific Programme Committee:</i> |
|------------------------------|--|
| Mogens Dam (Chairman) | Mogens Dam (Chairman) |
| Lennart Gram (Secretary) | Harry Meinardi |
| Bent Johansen | Jorgen Danielsen |
| Harry Meinardi | Paolo L. Morselli |
| J. Kiffin Penry | Fritz Dreifuss |
| | Anders Munthe-Kaas |
| | Lennart Gram (Secretary) |
| | J. Kiffin Penry |
| | Eigill F. Hvidberg |
| | Erik H. Sindrup |
| | Werner Koella |
| | Michael Trimble |

Programme – main themes:

Preclinical Drug Development
Controlled Trials on Antiepileptic Drugs
Education of the Patient and the Public
Differential Diagnosis of Seizures

This symposium was held at the Bella Center in Copenhagen under the high patronage of the Prince of Denmark. The Danish Queen Mother Ingrid was present at the opening ceremony. Mogens Dam, as chairman, gave the first of a number of opening addresses. Maurice Parsonage presented the IBE lecture titled 'Recollections of a Student of Epilepsy' (and an extended abstract was published). In the course of his address, he gave voice to his thoughts on the idea of unifying the IBE and the ILAE: 'I must confess to some doubt as to how well it will succeed ... [It] may cause more problems than it solves. I believe the League and the Bureau each have important individual roles to perform and it is my earnest hope that they will not be lost sight of in any kind of merger that may come about in the future.' Rubio Donnadieu then spoke to

¹¹ On returning home, one delegate met the vice-president in charge of Columbia Records classical music division and passed Fornaciari's name on to him (Robert Graebner to F. Angelieri, 26 October 1979).

¹² As of 31 December 1979, Epilepsy International was \$115,407 in debt (1979 dollars).



Among those present at the 1980 congress in Copenhagen was the Danish Queen Mother Ingrid.

the assembly as chairman of Epilepsy International, but unfortunately his comments do not seem to have been recorded. Guests were treated to a welcome cocktail in the Royal Museum of Fine Art. Other offerings during the week included a performance by the Royal Danish Ballet in the Royal Theatre ('Elverhøj' in the 19th-century setting of Bournonville, one of the ballet company's classics) and a reception at Copenhagen Town Hall, where they were greeted by the Lord Mayor, followed by a concert in the Naval Church. The official dinner was held at the Nimb restaurant in the Tivoli Gardens. Special sessions were given on endocrine problems in epilepsy, folate and epilepsy, and managing epilepsy associations. A workshop on Spielmeyer–Vogt–Batten disease was held at Filadelfia Colony, Dianalund. Accompanying persons had a generous choice of tours, including to Elsinore, Roskilde Cathedral, Copenhagen itself and to the Royal Copenhagen Porcelain Factory.

Behind the scenes, the organisation on the Epilepsy International side was complicated by a now chronic shortage of funds. To the dismay of the League and of the IBE, in the lead-up to the congress Ellen Grass, one of the founders of the Bureau, announced her intention to come neither to Copenhagen nor to the next symposium in Kyoto (in 1981). She also would no longer

support travel expenses for the special IBE lecturer, although Parsonage had already been selected. Instead, she proposed to fund a key speaker to an epilepsy meeting in Yucatán.

Ninety-five of the papers from the conference were written up as extended abstracts as the fourth volume in the *Advances in Epileptology* series, and this was dedicated to Henri Gastaut on the occasion of his 65th birthday. In his generally favourable review of the volume, Brian Meldrum wrote, 'Broadly, this volume reflects the diversity of problems currently occupying the energies and compassionate concern of physicians and researchers. However, the latter group will probably find that basic science is underrepresented' (Meldrum 1982).

13th Epilepsy International Congress

Kyoto

17–21 September 1981

Held in conjunction with the 10th International Congress of Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology and the 12th World Congress of Neurology

No. of ILAE delegates: 894

Organising Committee:

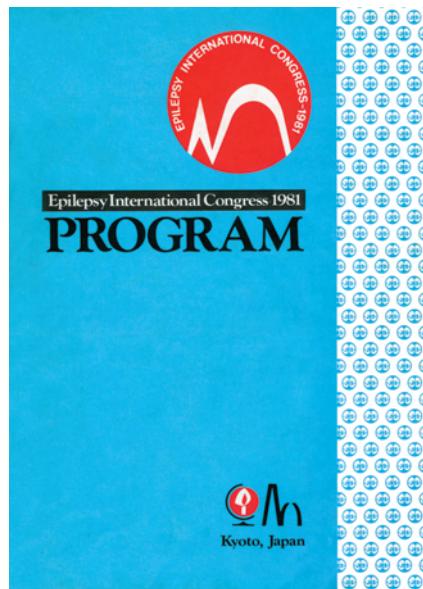
T. Wada (Chairman)
D. Daly
O. Henriksen
P. McCall-Castellano
H. Meinardi
K. Penry
J. Wada

Scientific Programme Committee:

T. Wada (Chairman)
D. Daly
Y. Fukuyama
O. Henriksen
P. McCall-Castellano
H. Meinardi
T. Okuma
K. Penry
J. Wada

Programme – main themes:

Classification of Epileptic Seizures and Epilepsies
Aetiological and Preventive Aspects of Epilepsy in the Developing Nervous System
Antiepileptic Drugs: Pharmacology and Treatment of Epilepsy
Epilepsy and Behaviour
Habilitation and Rehabilitation in Epilepsy
Cerebral Lateralisation and Epileptic Manifestations



A vote at the Kyoto congress in 1981 rejected the idea of fusing the ILAE and the IBE.

The 13th Epilepsy International Congress¹³ was held at the Kyoto International Conference Hall. It was immediately preceded by the 10th ICECN and followed by the 12th World Congress of Neurology. The Japanese government issued a commemorative stamp. Sixty-six companies were represented at a technical exhibition. The opening ceremony was held in the main hall of the congress centre, in the presence of their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Hitachi, and featured a performance of ceremonial court music. The special IBE lecture, titled 'Epilepsy: East and West', was given by Haruo Akimoto, congress president. Toshitaka Hidaka was invited to talk on 'Eyes for Animals'. Delegates were feted at a welcome party in the large gardens surrounding the Conference Hall immediately following the ceremony, where there was ample supply of sake and traditional Japanese dishes. Two nights later a banquet took place at the Kyoto Hotel. Accompanying persons could choose to go on a histor-

ical tour of Kyoto, a Buddhist art and garden tour, or to attend a tea ceremony and kimono show. The Japanese Epilepsy Association held a public seminar chaired by Juhn Wada and featuring, among others, Carlo Tassinari, Ernst Rodin and Henri Gastaut. The Kyoto congress was the largest held to date in the region, with the number of attendees close to 1,000. The meeting was also the first to be attended by representatives (three) of the People's Republic of China. One event that featured prominently in the press was the robbery of a delegate at a bus stop, a very unusual happening in Kyoto. This prompted the media to make a collection, and the delegate walked away with a small surplus.

On the first full day (18 September) a 3-hour joint session was held with the ICECN on the topic of blood levels of drugs and the EEG after which the ILAE meeting got under way. The ILAE conference comprised six plenary themes, 32 free communication (oral) sessions and 20 free communication (poster) sessions covering diverse subjects. In addition, there were six special sessions (on the topics of biochemistry, myoclonic seizures, diagnosis, precipitation, rehabilitation and pregnancy), a meeting of the study group on psychosis in epilepsy and a 3-hour session in which seven clinical and educational films were shown. Gastaut was also invited to give a special didactic lecture on benign partial epilepsies with functional focus. Thirty-four countries submitted 373 papers, of which 6 were rejected and 20 later withdrawn. No satellite symposia were held, although one had been organised by Syva International of Palo Alto, but subsequently cancelled over scheduling difficulties. A Ciba-Geigy-sponsored symposium was similarly abandoned. Although in principle the ILAE was not opposed to the idea of such events, they clearly were not felt to be a high priority in the minds of the conference organisers (how this was to change in later meetings). In a major disappointment to the supporters of Epilepsy International, in a General Assembly vote the chapters rejected the merger. The League and especially the Bureau were not yet ready to give up the idea, however, and the initiative limped along for another few years. Another important agenda item of the General Assembly was the revised classification of epileptic seizures, which was presented after 12 years of discussions with the chapters on the part of three subsequent commissions on classification. The proposal was discussed once more, and then approved.

¹³ As on the programme. It is not clear whether 'Congress' was deliberate or an inadvertent substitution for 'Symposium'.

14th Epilepsy International Symposium**London****15–18 August 1982****No. of participants: 587**

| <i>Organising Committee:</i> | <i>Scientific Advisory Committee (includes</i> |
|------------------------------|--|
| R.H.E. Grant (Chairman) | <i>Organising Committee):</i> |
| A. Draig | B.S. Schoenberg |
| O.M. Jones | M. Turner |
| H. Meinardi | G. Stores |
| J.K. Penry | D. Howe |
| E.H. Reynolds | C. Polkey |
| A. Richens | T. Betts |
| F. Rubio Donnadieu | B.S. Meldrum |
| P. McCall-Castellano | N. Hernandez |
| R. McKenzie Smith | F. Sjöqvist |
| | P. Morselli |
| | N.S. Gordon |

Programme – main themes:

Education of Medical Undergraduates and Post-graduates
 Education of Non-medical Professionals Concerned with the Overall Care of Persons with Epilepsy
 Relationship Between Epilepsy and Neurological Disorders
 Relationships Between Epilepsy and Psychiatry Disorders
 Mental Subnormality in Epilepsy
 Paediatric Clinical Pharmacology and Clinical Trials of Antiepileptic Therapy

Satellite Symposium:

Rational Prescribing in Epilepsy (Ciby-Geigy)

Perhaps the most memorable aspect of the 14th Epilepsy International Symposium is that it nearly ended up in court after the conference organiser refused to submit an audited financial statement of congress expenditures. By all accounts the affair was an organisational and financial disaster. Announcements were badly timed; the meeting was scheduled for August; speaker slides were misplaced; and far fewer delegates attended than anticipated. A ‘surtax’ was added to the registration charge, and some speakers received details only at the last minute and refused to pay. The banquet at the Grosvenor House Hotel was so ill-attended that tickets were given away free. Those who had the misfortune to be present were drearily serenaded by the Grenadier Guards. But the congress itself had

a curious epilogue. At some point, possibly during the physical dismantling of Epilepsy International, the tapes of the talks from the London meeting went missing. Later, Fritz Dreifuss’s lecture on post-traumatic epilepsy turned up as the background to a song on the album ‘Since the Accident’ by the Australian rock group Severed Heads (Cereghino 2007). The London congress may have been the first to feature a ‘satellite’ symposium – on rational prescribing in epilepsy at the Royal Aeronautical Society, organised scientifically by Simon Shorvon and supported financially by Ciba-Geigy. Syva had wished to organise a satellite but were told they could only do so if they were major participants in the exhibition. The issue of the place of satellite symposia at the international congresses was one that the ILAE would revisit many times.

15th Epilepsy International Symposium**Washington, DC****26–30 September 1983****No. of delegates: 700**

| <i>Organising Committee:</i> | <i>Scientific Advisory Committee:</i> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Roger J. Porter (Co-Chairman) | Roger J. Porter (Co-Chairman) |
| Arthur A. Ward, Jr. (Co-Chairman) | Arthur A. Ward, Jr. (Co-Chairman) |
| Francesco Castellano | Fritz E. Dreifuss |
| George Goldin | Nyrma Hernandez |
| Patsy McCall-Castellano | Richard Mattson |
| Thomas O’Neil | Patsy McCall-Castellano |
| J. Kiffin Penry | Paolo L. Morselli |
| Masakazu Seino | Allan Sherwin |
| C. Alberto Tassinari | |

Programme – main themes:

Hormones and Pregnancy in Epilepsy
 Role of Government in Epilepsy
 Surgical Aspects of Epilepsy
 Neurotransmitters and Peptides in Epilepsy
 Antiepileptic Drug Binding

The 15th symposium was co-sponsored by the American Epilepsy Society and the Epilepsy Foundation of America, and was held at the Washington Hilton Hotel in downtown Washington. The red, white and blue official

programme carried a greeting from president Ronald Reagan. To the irritation of some European delegates, the opening ceremony included the presentation of the colours by the US Marine Band and Armed Forces Color Guard. Arthur Ward and Marion Barry,¹⁴ the mayor of Washington, DC, welcomed the delegates. The official banquet featured Sidney's Orchestra and the Buck Creek Jazz Band. Accompanying persons were offered a tour of the capital city and a trip to the national aquarium in Baltimore. Depakote had just become available. The occasion had been heralded as Epilepsy International's first meeting in the United States. Technically and scientifically, it was a success. Moreover, the congress generated \$53,528 profit for Epilepsy International. Mogens Dam, then president of the League, pronounced the fact of a surplus 'amazing'. It is probably fair to say that the success was due in large part to professionalism and usual attendance of the American Epilepsy Society and to the fact that Roger Porter, as head of the Epilepsy Branch of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, was able to use the institute's resources to absorb some of the organisational costs. But the organisation was doomed in any event. Although the next two congresses, in Hamburg and Jerusalem, were also nominally titled 'Epilepsy International', the merger attempt was effectively ended.

**16th Epilepsy International Congress
Hamburg
6–9 September 1985
Held in conjunction with the 13th World Congress
of Neurology
No. of ILAE delegates: approx 1,200**

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Congress President:</i> | <i>Scientific Committee:</i> |
| D. Janz | P. Wolf (Chairman) |
| | A.V. Delgado-Escueta |
| <i>Organising Committee:</i> | F. Dreifuss |
| P. Wolf (Chairman) | O. Hallen |
| F. Castellano | J. Loeber |
| M. Dam | H. Meinardi |
| P. McCall-Castellano | B.S. Meldrum |

¹⁴ Seven years later, Barry was sent to prison for 6 months following a high-profile drug bust. He was later re-elected to the mayoralty.

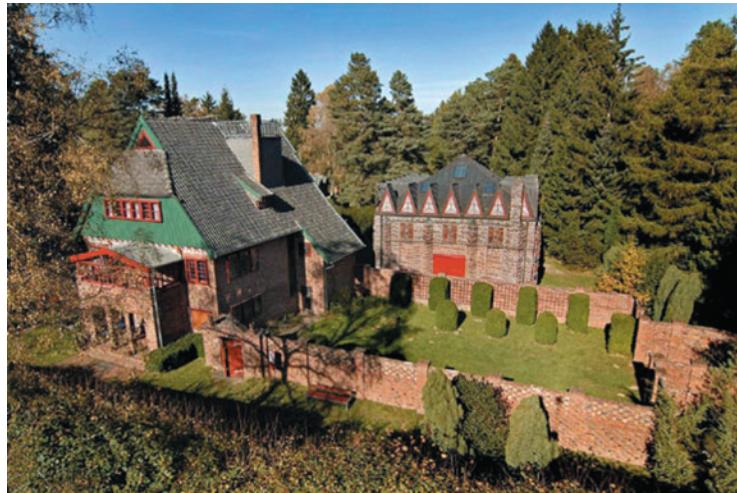
| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| H. Meinardi | D. Scheffner |
| H. Penin | E.J. Speckmann |
| R. Porter | R. Thorbecke |
| H. Reith | |

Programme – main themes:

Self-Help Groups and Parallel Sessions
Do Antiepileptic Drugs Cure Epilepsy?
Natural History
Neuropathology
Biorhythmicity and Epilepsy
Electrogenesis

Attendance at the 16th Epilepsy International Congress was a surprise to the organising committee, which had planned optimistically for up to 800 participants but ended up having to contend with 1,000-odd delegates from all over the world. This was the first congress outside Asia to be attended by (two) delegates from the People's Republic of China. One of them, Shichuo Li, was later to become one of the vice directors general of WHO and in this capacity was a very important ally in establishing the Global Campaign. A neurosurgeon, he founded the Chinese Epilepsy Association, which he helped to become a national chapter of the League in 2005. In 2008, this chapter hosted the regional Asian and Oceanian Congress of Epileptology. The opening ceremony took place at the Congress Centrum Hamburg, where the delegates were addressed by the Lord Mayor of the Free and Hanseatic City, Klaus v. Dohnányi.¹⁵ Dieter Janz welcomed the delegates just a day following his recovery from acute *Borrelia* meningoencephalitis. During the next days, over 500 papers were given. Jerome (Pete) Engel, Jr. organised a joint symposium with the WFN on new investigations of the epileptic focus. The congress also featured the 2nd International Epilepsy Audiovisual Festival, which culminated in a special evening of awards and entertainment, including drama and dancing. The social programme offered, on the second night, a gathering in the Ratsweinkeller of the Hamburg Town Hall and,

¹⁵ Brother of the well-known conductor Christoph v. Dohnányi. Their maternal grandfather was Karl Bonhoeffer, a leading German psychiatrist. Their uncle, Dietrich B. Dohnányi, a highly respected protestant theologian, was executed by the Nazis because of his involvement with the 20 July 1944 uprising against Hitler.



In Hamburg in 1985, the ILAE General Assembly approved a major change to the election process for officers. Shown is the Bossard Museum, one of the excursions offered at the 16th Epilepsy International Congress in Hamburg. (Source: Kunstabteilung Bossard)

a day later, a concert in the Hamburg Michaelis Church. Art excursions were organised to the house and exhibition hall of sculptor J.M. Bossard, where delegates met the artist's widow, herself a sculptor and Peter Wolf's aunt, and to 'Altes Land', a fruit-farming district on the south bank of the Elbe River.

The success of the meeting was attributed in part to the 2 years that had elapsed since the last meeting, in 1983, the relatively low registration fee, coordination with the WFN congress¹⁶ and a subsidy offered by the German league to its members if they wished to attend. At its General Assembly, the League implemented the unanimous decision of the board of directors of Epilepsy International, taken in 1984, to dissolve the organisation effective 6 September 1985 at 2:30pm. In another major piece of business, the ILAE voted to make the election procedures for the Executive Committee more democratic, beginning in 1989 (see Chapter 2).

17th Epilepsy International Congress

Jerusalem

6–11 September 1987

No. of delegates: 1,126 (as of 9 September 1987)

| <i>Organising Committee:</i> | <i>Scientific Programme Committee:</i> |
|------------------------------|--|
| J. Manelis (Chairperson) | J. Manelis (Chairperson) |
| J. Hemli (Treasurer) | A. Carmi |
| M. Dam | H. De Boer |
| W. McLin | J. Engel |
| H. Meinardi | M. Dam |
| R.J. Porter | C.A. Tassinari |
| M. Seino | M. Trimble |

Programme – main themes:

Religion, Law and Epilepsy
Biochemistry, Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy
New Diagnostic Approaches
Employment
Higher Cerebral Function and Epilepsy
Sleep and Epilepsy

Satellite Symposia:

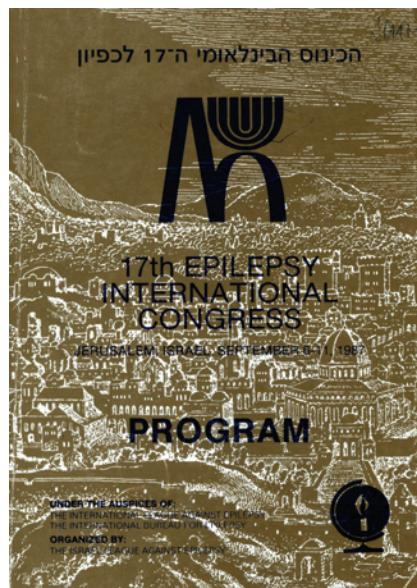
Recent Advances in Childhood Epilepsy (Ciba-Geigy)
Focus on Vigabatrin (Merrell Dow Research Institute)
Antiepileptic Drug Research: The Second Fifty Years
(Warner Lambert/Parke-Davis Research; this symposium celebrated the 50th anniversary of phenytoin)
The Management of Resistant Epilepsy (Hoechst and Roussel Uclaf)

¹⁶ Coordination with the WFN was actually a mixed blessing. Enshrined in the League's constitution since 1973, by 1985 the arrangement had become cumbersome. In particular, for the 1985 congress, the choice site (the headquarters hotel) had been entirely pre-empted by the WFN, spurring complaints by League officers. In 1997, the constitutional requirement was abandoned, although the relation with the WFN was maintained in other ways.

The Jerusalem congress in 1997, held at the Hilton Hotel, has a special hold in the memory of people who were there. Prior to the opening, a press release announced that an epileptic patient had not only been drafted into the Israeli army but had also been granted a pilot's licence (Bialer 2007). A session on religion, law and epilepsy drew a number of interesting and sometimes whimsical papers. Francesco Castellano had written to the Pope to request a statement from the Holy See about the modern Church interpretation of the Gospel of Mark on epilepsy. In response, the Pope put Castellano in touch with Gian Luigi Gigli, a neurologist at the University of Rome who said he would write an article for the *EI Newsletter*. More exciting, the Pope would provide a statement for the congress, and the congress did include a speaker from the Vatican. Former congressman Tony Coelho, himself an epilepsy sufferer and then president of the American Epilepsy Foundation, gave a speech. The League had worked out a policy on satellite symposia, and the result was a flurry of pharmaceutical company-sponsored events. The social programme included a reception hosted by the renowned Theodor 'Teddy' Kollek, at the time still Lord Mayor of Jerusalem, and the programme for accompanying persons included a tour of Kibbutz Tzora. Not

all recollections of the congress were pleasant: at the time, Israel was in the midst of a diarrhoea epidemic, and at least one delegate went home on a drip. International politics could not be avoided. WHO had been asked to participate, but declined any official role owing to its shared position with the UN on the status of Jerusalem. For the first time, the chairperson of both the scientific and organising committees was a woman, the redoubtable Judith Manelis, who was closely associated with both the IBE and ILAE.

The programme was large, well organised and wide-ranging, featuring a notably high proportion of social as well as scientific topics. In addition to the six plenary sessions, there were seven free oral communication sessions and seven poster discussion sessions, five 'special' meetings (the first four each lasting 90 minutes and covering fundraising; public education; psychotic symptoms in patients with temporolimbic epilepsy – ictal or interictal; and the production and utilisation of audiovisuals). The fifth 'special meeting' lasted 3 hours and was to turn out to be the precursor of the Eilat conferences. It was organised by Meir Bialer and covered the topics of improved formulations, derivatives, active metabolites and new drug delivery systems of existing antiepileptic drugs. The programme also, for the first time, scheduled in business meetings of the ILAE and IBE and its commissions, and of the British branch.



Satellite symposia were a notable feature of the 1987 congress in Jerusalem.

18th International Epilepsy Congress

New Delhi

17–22 October 1989

No. of delegates: approx. 1,000

| Organising Committee: | Scientific Advisory Committee: |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| M.C. Maheshwari (Chairman) | M.C. Maheshwari (Chairman) |
| A. Das Gupta | A. Das Gupta (Co-Chairman) |
| F.E. Dreifuss | A.P. Aldenkamp |
| Joop N. Loeber | J.J. Cereghino |
| J. Manelis | W.A. Hauser |
| R.L. Masland | K.S. Mani |
| William M. McLin | H. Meinardi |
| H. Meinardi | C.E. Polkey |
| M. Seino | E.H. Reynolds |
| P.K. Sethi | |

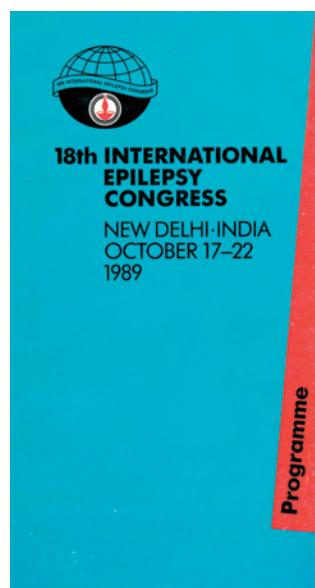
Programme – main themes:

Epilepsy and Surgery
 New Developments in Antiepileptic Drugs
 Epilepsy and Education: Cognitive Factors in Learning Behaviour
 Prognosis in Epilepsy
 Epilepsy and Risks
 Primary Health Care (PHC) and Epilepsy International Community-Based Epilepsy Research Group (ICBERG)

Satellite Symposia:

Trileptal: An Improvement in Antiepileptic Therapy (Ciba-Geigy)
 Advances in Vigabatrin in Research (Merrell Dow)
 The Prognosis of Resistant Epilepsy (Hoechst)
 International Merritt-Putnam Symposium: Epilepsy: Delivery of Quality Care with Limited Resources (Parke-Davis)

India had bid several times previously to host an ILAE congress, and in 1985, in Hamburg, they were successful. The 18th IEC, held at the Taj Palace Hotel on Sardar Patel Marg, was the first to take place in a developing country. Publicity for the event was good and, despite a



The 18th IEC in New Delhi (1989) was the first ILAE international congress to be held in the developing world.



Commemorative epilepsy stamp issued by India.

last-minute decision by the Ministry of External Affairs to impose severe restrictions on delegates from Israel, Taiwan and South Africa, about 1,000 delegates showed up. Speakers at the inaugural session included the acting chief justice of India, Shri S. Mukharji, Lt Governor Shri Romesh Bhandari and K.S. Mani, president of the congress. Following the opening ceremony, delegates enjoyed a cultural show and dinner. Other social activities included an evening visit to the Red Fort for son-et-lumière, and a final banquet and dance. Lennart Gram presented the new ILAE guidelines for clinical trials. Simon Shorvon wrapped up the Merritt-Putnam Symposium with a talk on the primary care of epilepsy in developing countries. The 3rd International Audiovisual Festival on Epilepsy included drama, public service announcements and general education. Accompanying persons could choose among a panoramic tour of new and old Delhi, a visit to the Crafts Museum and the Railway Transport Museum, shopping at the handicraft emporium, and displays of hair styles (an event intriguingly titled 'Hair Styles Through the Ages'), hand painting and bangles, as well as a sari-wrapping demonstration and competition. The League had aimed to generate money for the Indian Epilepsy Association, and it did: \$180,000. At the time of the congress, India had only an IBE chapter, and the congress spurred the country to develop a professional branch of the League. India was finally approved as a chapter of the ILAE in 1997.

The programme was extremely varied, but had a distinctive emphasis on the problems of epilepsy in

developing countries. Around 2,500 authors were listed for the papers and posters. It was structured into six main sessions – each divided into two separate modules (for the first time, a pattern now routinely employed as the ‘main’ and ‘post-main’ sessions), 30 free communication sessions, a special 3-hour session on 20 October 20 on the classification of the epilepsies chaired by Joseph Roger and J.S. Chopra, and other special sessions on heredogenesis and teratogenesis in epilepsy, pregnancy and genetics, cognitive factors in learning behaviour and a patient forum. There was a video session on classification, and an all-day audiovisual festival featuring 23 short films made by individuals, charities and professional film-makers as well as the BBC and ITV. For the first time too, the International Merritt–Putnam Symposium was held on the delivery of quality care with limited resources (this was to become a permanent and important fixture of subsequent conferences). The three poster sessions offered a total of 10 cash prizes of \$200 each for the 10 best posters (this innovative idea seems never to have been repeated). There was also a special session to discuss the revised proposal for an international classification of epileptic syndromes and epilepsies, which the classification commission had brought in with amendments made following previous discussion in Hamburg 1985. The revised proposal was then presented to the General Assembly, and accepted.

**19th International Epilepsy Congress
Rio de Janeiro
14–19 October 1991
No. of delegates: 1,315**

| <i>Organising Committee:</i> | <i>Scientific Advisory Committee:</i> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| P.R.M. de Bittencourt (Co-Chair) | P.R.M. de Bittencourt (Co-Chair) |
| F.M.S. Freitas (Co-Chair) | C.A.M. Guerreiro (Co-Chair) |
| R.R. Seixas (Treasurer) | H.M. de Boer |
| J.O. Ávila | N. Fejerman |
| F.E. Dreifuss | L. Gram |
| J.N. Loeber | U. Heinemann |
| M.C. Mahashwari | N. Hernandez |
| W.M. McLin | J.L. Noebels |
| H. Meinardi | |

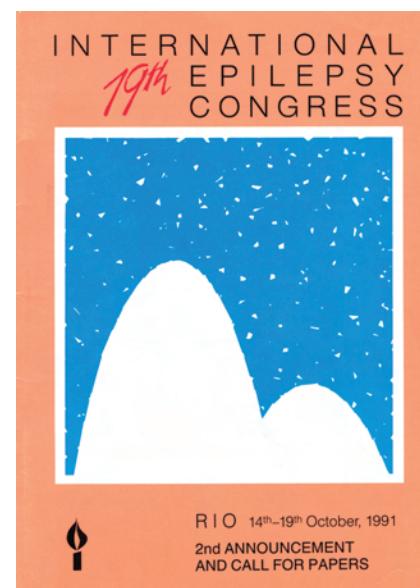
Programme – main themes:

- Epilepsy in Infancy and Childhood
- Basic Mechanisms in Behavioural and Structural Biology of the Epilepsies
- Genetics in Epilepsy
- Therapy and the Prognosis of Epilepsy
- Habilitation and Rehabilitation of People with Epilepsy
- Quality of Life and Epilepsy
- Special Topic: Tropical Diseases and Epilepsy

Satellite Symposia:

- Lamictal (Lamotrigine): A New Antiepileptic Drug (Wellcome)
- Issues in Epilepsy: An Agenda for the 21st Century (Ciba-Geigy)
- The Clinical Relevance of the Epidemiology of Epilepsy (Sanofi Pharma)
- Vigabatrin: A New Era in the Treatment of Epilepsy (Marion Merrell Dow)

The Rio congress had an inauspicious start after the Copacabana Beach Hotel cancelled the contract well into the project. Further delays were caused by waffling of the



Organisers of the 19th IEC in Rio de Janeiro (1991) had to cope with the economic meltdown in Argentina.

ILAE and IBE over whether even to hold the congress in Rio. At an earlier EEG meeting there, Pete Engel had ended up in the middle of a bank robbery, and he sent Harry Meinardi a snapshot he had taken of the event to illustrate the point. The League and the Bureau confirmed their commitment to Rio in spring 1990. But, in 1991, a cholera epidemic sparked another wave of worry. The organising committee also had to endure a freeze on all bank accounts in Brazil, and oscillations of 150% in the US dollar exchange rate. An unspecified 'incident' resulted in security measures being put in place for the congress. Turmoil at home kept Yugoslavia from attending. In the end, the congress opened at the Hotel Glória. Six rooms were kept running at once, and simultaneous translation (English-Portuguese-English) was offered in the main room. The inaugural ceremony was graced by four honorary presidents, one of whom was Paulo Niemeyer, who had served on the ILAE executive from 1953 to 1957. Fritz Dreifuss and Natalio Fejerman co-chaired a satellite symposium on 'Issues in Epilepsy: An Agenda for the 21st Century' sponsored by Ciba-Geigy. Breakfast seminars, which had been introduced in India to acclaim, were continued in Rio. Keynote speakers were Joseph Roger, David Prince, Tomas Caskey, Dieter Schmidt, Jolyon Oxley and Bruce Hermann. The ILAE Commission on Surgery held a symposium for which Ted Rasmussen gave the keynote talk. Brian Meldrum, Dreifuss and Roger Porter gave a series of courses on the recent developments in the neurobiology, diagnosis and therapy of seizure disorders. Apart from the opening cocktail reception and closing banquet, participants had the option of a number of local and post-congress tours. Accompanying persons were treated to a tea and jewellery show, and a variety of city excursions.

A major milestone for the Rio congress was that, for the first time, the congress abstracts were published in *Epilepsia*. This practice has continued ever since, although in 2007 in the online version only. Over 500 papers and posters were presented. In its final report on the congress, the organising committee stated that, among other problems, the congress had been run out of a bank account in Holland, which delayed transfer of monies. The committee concluded: 'The mixed criminal/beautiful appeal of Rio de Janeiro certainly had its attractions? Prior to the congress, in Salvador, Bahia, Engel led the first Workshop on Neurobiology of Epilepsy (WONOEP; see Chapter 5).

20th International Epilepsy Congress

Oslo

3–8 July 1993

No. of delegates: 2,500

Organising Committee:

Svein I. Johannessen

(Chairperson)

Johan Kr. Falk-Pedersen

(Treasurer)

Johan A. Aarli

Tor Arne Alknes

Paulo R.M. de Bittencourt

Leif Gjerstad

Olaf Henriksen

Joop N. Loeber

William M. McLin

Harry Meinardi

Edward H. Reynolds

Scientific Advisory Committee:

Svein I. Johannessen

(Chairperson)

Patricia A. Gibson

Leif Gjerstad

Uwe Heinemann

Yngve Löning

Christoph Pachlatko

Roger J. Porter

Olaf Henriksen

Programme – main themes:

New Concepts on Epileptogenesis

Psychosocial Aspects of Epilepsy in Adolescence

Progressive Nature of Epilepsy: Contribution of Basic Sciences

Non-epileptic (Pseudoepileptic) Seizures versus Epileptic Seizures

Economic Aspects of Epilepsy

Epilepsy Surgery and Social Outcome

Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy of Epilepsy

Satellite Symposia:

Novel Aspects of Antiepileptic Drug Development (Novo Nordisk and Abbott Laboratories)

Felbamate: A New Compound for the Treatment of Epilepsy (Schering-Plough International)

Merritt-Putnam Symposium: Antiepileptic Drugs: Optimal Use and Future Prospects (Parke-Davis)

New Horizons in Epilepsy: the Challenges of Quality Care (Wellcome Foundation)

Trileptal: Experience and Future Role (Ciba-Geigy)

Topiramate: A Promising New Agent for the Treatment of Epilepsy (Cilag International)

Rational Polypharmacy in Treatment of Epilepsy: Theoretical and Practical Considerations (Marion Merrell Dow)

Neurostimulation for the Treatment of Epilepsy (Cyberonics)

Based on attendance in Rio, the organisers of the 20th International Epilepsy Congress were told to plan on 1,200 participants. When registrations topped 2,300, the most the ILAE had ever encountered, the site had to be changed and all the arrangements redone – very late in the game. Svein Johannessen, who chaired the organising committee, recalls that the banquet was the biggest sit-down dinner ever to occur in Oslo, and consequently sparked a run on reindeer meat. In a less amusing mishap, keynote speaker Alan Richens succumbed to a bout of food poisoning and had to leave the podium in the middle of his talk (S.I. Johannessen, personal communication). The opening ceremony featured Cliff Richard, a hugely successful British pop singer in the 1960s who at the time of the Oslo meeting was making a comeback. The congress venue was the Oslo Plaza. Unbeknownst to the delegates coming and going to sessions on epilepsy, elsewhere in the same facility, the Oslo Accord between Israel and representatives of the Palestinians was being hammered out. Once the ILAE meeting was over, it became clear that the surge in attendance had to do with the pharmaceutical industry: new antiepileptic drugs had come onto the market or were about to do so (including

felbamate, vigabatrin, topiramate, lamotrigine, tiagabine and oxcarbazepine), and drug companies were bringing people to the meetings. Drug-company-sponsored satellite symposia were popular, although organisers were strict about them not overlapping with the scientific sessions. The local press covered only the banquet. *Le Monde* printed one article that mentioned reflex epilepsies and genetic factors in the disease, and another reporting on the increased presence of the pharmaceutical companies. There were eight satellite symposia, which was a record for the ILAE and to this day was surpassed only in Dublin. Over 1,000 papers and posters were presented.

21st International Epilepsy Congress

Sydney

3–8 September 1995

No. of delegates: approx. 2,000

| <i>Organising Committee:</i> | <i>Scientific Advisory Committee:</i> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Peter G. Procopis (Chair) | Samuel F. Berkovic (Co-Chair) |
| Samuel F. Berkovic | Peter G. Procopis (Co-Chair) |
| Hanneke de Boer | Albert P. Aldenkamp |
| Jack Hoffman | Roy G. Beran |
| Svein I. Johannessen | Annie Bye |
| Joop N. Loeber | Olivier Dulac |
| William M. McLin | Jerome Engel, Jr. |
| Edward H. Reynolds | Johan Kr. Falk-Pedersen |
| Keith Roberts | Peter Fenwick |
| Ernest Somerville | Gregory L. Holmes |
| Peter Wolf | Roderick Mackenzie |
| | Emilio Perruca |
| | Felicity Purdy |
| | Philip A. Schwartzkroin |

Programme – main themes:

Genetics and Molecular Biology of Epilepsy

Epilepsy and the Law

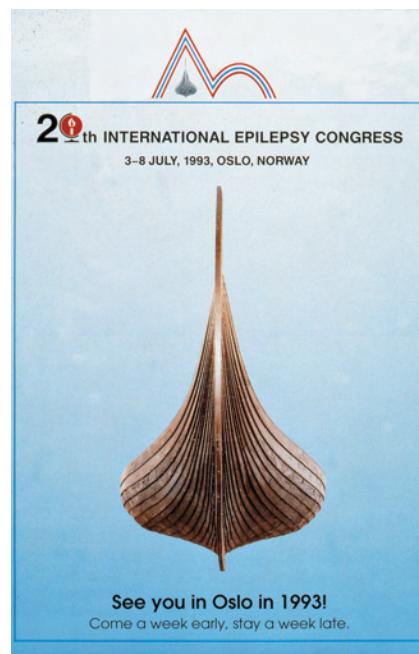
Choice of Antiepileptic Drugs in Childhood and Adult Epilepsies

Functional Neuroimaging

Role of Psychiatry in Epilepsy

Surgical Treatment of Epilepsy in Childhood

Intellectual Disabilities and Epilepsy

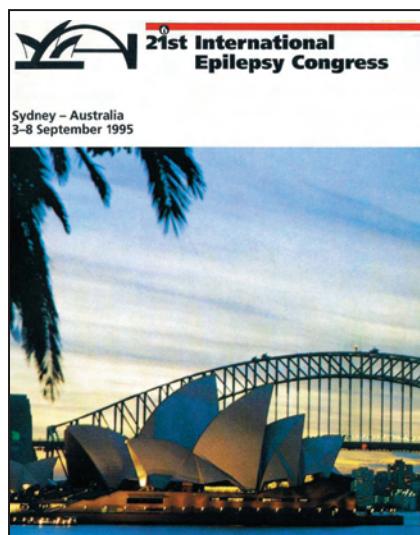


The 20th IEC in Oslo (1993) heralded a new era in ILAE meetings.

Satellite Symposia:

- Clobazam: A New Perspects (Hoechst)
- Topiramate: Update (Cilag)
- Tiagabine: A Novel Drug for the Treatment of Epilepsy (Novo Nordisk)
- Remacemide Hydrochloride: Anticonvulsant and Neuro-protectant (Astra)
- Vagus Nerve Stimulation: A Path to Seizure Control? Mechanism of Action, Projections and Effects (Cyberonics)
- Clinical Controversies in the Treatment of Epilepsy (Marion Merrell Dow)
- Oxcarbazepine: A First-Line Drug (Ciba-Geigy)
- Felbamate Update (Schering-Plough)

Oslo set the standard for the next phase of congresses. The site of the 21st congress, in Darling Harbour, Sydney, proved a great draw. Australia was only just beginning to emerge as a mass tourist destination, yet despite the distance, more people ended up going to Sydney than to Oslo. Genetics especially was blossoming. Similarly to Oslo, press coverage was small and with an added complication. A press conference called to elevate the profile of the meeting fizzled when the French decided to test a nuclear weapon on the Mururoa atoll in the Pacific. It was the only story in town, and no journalists showed up to cover the epilepsy congress (Berkovic 2007). Over 1,000 papers



By the time of the 21st IEC in Sydney (1995), genetics was an increasingly influential field of epilepsy research.

and posters were presented. The main social events were an Australian evening which featured exotic activities like sheep shearing, and a performance of Bizet's *Carmen* in Jørn Utzon's famous opera house. This production focused more on its feminist interpretation of the story than on the music, and was not to everybody's liking.

22nd International Epilepsy Congress**Dublin****29 June–4 July 1997****No. of delegates: 3,500***Organising Committee:*

- J.G. Kirker (Chair)
- G. Avanzini
- S. Berkovic
- H. de Boer
- J. Engel, Jr.
- J. Falk-Pedersen
- V. Komarek
- J. McMenamin
- J. Morrow
- P.G. Procopis
- E.H. Reynolds

Programme – main themes:

- Structure and Function of Epileptogenesis
- The Influence of Gender on Epilepsy
- Intractable Epilepsy
- Learning, Education and Behaviour in Childhood Epilepsy
- The Creative Arts

Satellite Symposia:

- The Role of Benzodiazepines in Acute Seizures (Athena Neurosciences)
- Current Results and Perspectives on Vagal Nerve Stimulation for the Treatment of Epilepsy (Cyberonics, Inc.)
- Can Antiepileptic Drugs Aggravate Epilepsy (Sanofi Pharma)
- Antiepileptic Drug Trials: Regulatory Requirements and Clinical Needs (Ciba-Geigy)
- Topiramate, a New Broad Spectrum Antiepileptic Drug in Adjunctive and Monotherapy: New Clinical Data (Janssen-Cilag)
- A New Era in Epilepsy Care: Profile of Tiagabine (Novo Nordisk)

- Levetiracetam: Treatment of Epilepsy Through a Novel Mode of Action (UCB Pharma)
- New Antiepileptic Drugs: The Anticonvulsant Derby? (Hoechst Marion Roussel)
- Treatment Outcome Measures in Epilepsy (Glaxo Wellcome)
- Merritt–Putnam Symposium: The Development of Anti-epileptic Drugs: Current Status and Future Directions (Parke-Davis)

The first choice for the 22nd IEC was Florence. But when political problems made that impossible, the League opted for Dublin on the recommendation of Richard Holmes, then treasurer of the IBE. Recognising that Florence was no longer viable, Holmes showed up at the Sydney congress with a full-blown plan for Dublin to show to the joint ILAE and IBE executive. The executives approved the plan, and Holmes cobbled it together rapidly, in the face of great odds. Attendance beat that of any other meeting to date. Because Dublin was not set up to have congresses of any considerable size, the Royal Society, a polo club, was fitted out for the purpose, with pony carts to take people around. Delegates had to watch where they walked. The opening ceremony was convened by Her

Excellency Mary Robinson, president of Ireland. Together with Ted Reynolds and Hanneke de Boer, she conferred a number of awards, including the 1997 Lifetime Achievement Award to George Burden. The congress also marked the establishment of the International Merritt–Putnam Research/Clinical Training Fellowship, funded by Parke-Davis. The major social event was an evening at Dublin Castle which was held open for the delegates for an extended visit. But the event had its share of disappointments too. The first was the launch of the Global Campaign Against Epilepsy, which received far less attention than the League had hoped. There were financial wrangles with the local organising company. Another problem was resentment caused by drug companies buying up blocks of hotel rooms, which resulted in wildly varying room rates. These last two factors proved major determinants in the ILAE's decision to hire its own full-time congress organiser. Over 1,200 lectures and posters were presented in Dublin.

23rd International Epilepsy Congress

Prague

12–17 September 1999

No. of delegates: 4,260

Organising Committee:

Vladimír Komárek (Chair)
Giuliano Avanzini
Hanneke de Boer
Jerome Engel, Jr.
Natalio Fejerman
Richard Holmes
John Kirker
Pavel Mareš
Tat'ána Pekilánová
Rudolf Ritter

Scientific Advisory Committee:

Pavel Mareš (Chair)
Richard Appleton
Giuliano Avanzini
Hanneke de Boer
Jerome Engel, Jr.
Vladimír Komárek
Judith Manelis
Shunsuke Ohtahara
Ivan Rektor
Rudolf Ritter
Heinz Gregor Wieser

Programme – main themes:

Ictal, Interictal and Semi-ictal Events
Epilepsy Surgery
Epilepsy and Plasticity
Epilepsy and Work
Epileptic Seizures and Syndromes in Childhood
Epilepsy and Adolescence



The 22nd IEC took place in Dublin Ireland. Pictured is an Ogham stone, Co. Kerry, walking around which was supposed to help cure epilepsy. (Courtesy Wellcome Library, London)

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The 23rd IEC in Prague was held at the Prague Exhibition Ground which, as in Dublin, had to be prepared for the congress to solve problems such as sound isolation of adjacent lecture halls. The meeting marked the 90th anniversary of the ILAE, and a brief history composed by Harry Meinardi was included in the bags of the participants. Attendance exceeded that of Dublin, and 50% of the registrants were sponsored by pharmaceutical companies. Indeed, although press coverage was otherwise essentially nil, an article on 22 September 1999 in the French *Le Temps*, titled 'Epilepsy Remains a Puzzle for Patients and Doctors', reported on a symposium organised by the French company Sanofi-Synthélabo. The European Epilepsy Academy experimented with packaging courses as a series of breakfast seminars. The congress typified the kinds of difficulties the League was increasingly experiencing with remote organisers. At one point, owing to communications problems, the League feared that the abstract book would not be ready before the congress, but it was. Approximately 1,200 papers and posters were presented. Prague was a very attractive destination, and the banquet was held in the Hradčany, the splendid old royal and imperial castle on the hill dominating the city. Delegates had to be very careful in town, and Masakazu Seino was unfortunate in the streetcar to be surrounded by a group of pickpockets and robbed.

24th International Epilepsy Congress Buenos Aires 13–18 May 2001 No. of delegates: approx 3,000

| Organising Committee: | Scientific Advisory Committee: |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Giuliano Avanzini | Carlos Acevedo |
| Jerome Engel, Jr. | Sam Berkovic |
| Michael D. Hills | Esper A. Cavalheiro |
| Vladimír Komárek | Jody Cochrane |
| Phil Lee | Pavel Mares |
| Zenón M. Sfaello | Amel Mrabet |
| José I. Shliapochnik | Istvan Mody |
| Edda B. Spinelli | Andre Palmini |
| | Josemir W. Sander |
| | Michael Trimble |
| | Peter Wolf |

Programme – main themes:

Neurobiology of Human Epilepsy Tissue and Relevant Animal Models
Subtle Manifestations of Psychopathology in Epilepsy
Advances in the Clinical and Molecular Genetics of Epilepsies
Public Health Issues and Prevention of Epilepsy
Comprehensive Care in 2001
Epilepsy and the School Years

Satellite Symposia:

Epilepsy Treatment, Current and Future: From Polytherapy to Neuroprotection (supported by GlaxoSmithKline)
Innovative Treatment Strategies with New Anticonvulsants (supported by Novartis)
Merritt–Putnam Symposium: Antiepileptic Therapy and Patient Comfort (supported by Pfizer)
From Clinical Trials to Clinical Practice (supported by UCB Pharma)

The first choice of a site for the 24th International Epilepsy Congress was actually Jakarta. Having made the selection, however, the League was embarrassed to learn that there was a political problem with Portugal owing to increasing difficulties with East Timor. In a quandary



Delegates to the 24th IEC in Buenos Aires (2001) were offered tango lessons.

over how to resolve the situation, the executive was let off the hook when Indonesia backed out citing the financial crisis in South-East Asia (P. Engel, personal communication). The decision then went to Buenos Aires. Now a different kind of problem occurred: the pharmaceutical industry strongly objected to the choice because of restrictions Argentina placed on the companies' ability to bring materials into the country. The joint executive of the ILAE and IBE decided to go ahead with the congress knowing that they might incur a loss. Moreover, the congress occurred during a period of transition, when the ILAE was gaining more control over the organisation of its congresses but did not quite have a mechanism in place. For example, local organisers had promised that many delegates would register on site. When they did not, the expense of arrangements made to accommodate them was lost. Natalio Fejerman had to deal with political fallout of his decision to select the best speakers from around the world instead of favouring local neurologists (Fejerman 2008). In the end, although the congress had 1,000 fewer sponsored delegates than Prague, the League was still able to negotiate \$1.4 million in support from the industry. The small surplus that remained at the end of the congress had to be distributed quickly owing to the worsening economic crisis in Argentina. The meeting was held at the Sheraton Buenos Aires Hotel. The General Assembly approved lists of epileptic seizure types and epilepsy syndromes assembled by the Core Group of the Task Force on Classification and Terminology. The social programme was memorable for offering delegates a series of tango dancing sessions.

25th International Epilepsy Congress

Lisbon

12–16 October 2003

No. of delegates: 2887 registrants

| <i>Organising Committee:</i> | <i>Scientific Advisory Committee:</i> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Giuliano Avanzini | Philip Lee (Co-Chair) |
| (Co-Chair) | |
| Philip Lee (Co-Chair) | Giuliano Avanzini |
| | (Co-Chair) |
| Frederick Andermann | Frederick Andermann |
| Johan Falk-Pedersen | Alexis Arzimanoglou |
| Natalio Fejerman | Joan Austin |
| Pierre Genton | Frank Besag |

Francisco Pinto

Youssef Comair

Jose Lopes Lima

Jeffrey Noebels

Pierre-Marie Preux

Simon Shorvon

Programme – main themes:

Epilepsy Surgery in Children

Status Epilepticus and its Consequences

Epilepsy in the Post-Genomic Era: Focus on the Genetics of Inhibition

The Treatment Gap

Problems in Learning and Behaviour

Transmissible Diseases

Quality of Life for Children with Epilepsy

Satellite Symposia:

Merritt–Putnam Satellite Symposium: Advances in Epilepsy Research: Exploring Multiple Approaches with Diverse Techniques (Pfizer)

Pregabalin: From Molecule to Medicine (Pfizer)

The Impact of New AEDs on Epilepsy Control (UCB)

Modern Aspects of Epilepsy Management (Novartis)

Challenges to the Traditional Paradigms of Epilepsy Management (Janssen-Cilag)

Women in Mind: Addressing Issues in All Stages of Life (GSK)

The 25th IEC was originally to have been held in Tunis. The choice of a North African country for the congress – the first ever – constituted an exciting achievement for the League in terms of strategic priority, logistical complexities notwithstanding. Unfortunately, the events of September 11 2001 intervened, and drug company support for the meeting evaporated. After putting the question of whether to stick with the original plans to a chapter referendum, the joint ILAE/IBE executive voted to move the venue to Lisbon – although the vote was not unanimous. The IBE in particular was a driving force in the decision, as they were financially strapped and depended solely on congresses for income: they could not afford a loss. In the broader community as well, the issue was a divisive one, and some members reportedly stayed away in protest (Manford 2004). Although the decision to move the congress was made late in the day, the local scientific and organising committees managed to produce an excellent varied programme with record

speed. The local members Drs Pinto and Lopes Lima did a superb job in these difficult circumstances, pulling a healthy rabbit out of a murky hat. The conference ran like clockwork, made a surplus for the League and Bureau, and was well attended; justification, proponents felt, for the decision to relocate.

The ILAE and IBE jointly offered bursaries especially intended to help African delegates to attend the meeting, but few applied, and in the end the funds went mostly to Asian members. However, a convention of African delegates originally planned for Tunis did take place in Lisbon with the intent of setting in motion the process for creating an African regional commission. Unfortunately, the convention was badly organised and the result more negative than positive, although by much hard work Giuliano Avanzini was later able to pull the initiative together again (P. Engel, personal communication). Another innovation at Lisbon was the introduction of IBE educational workshops aimed at those involved in the work of epilepsy associations.

Lisbon was the first congress to be organised entirely by the League's new International Director of Meetings Office, one step in the growing professionalisation of the ILAE. Another sign of this professionalism was the commissioning by the joint ILAE and IBE executive of a detailed evaluation of the congress (a report was written by a working group consisting of Thanos Covaris, Esper Cavalheiro, Bob Fisher and chaired by Simon Shorvon). This was also the first congress to adopt the scheme of seven themes over 5 days, which is still the pattern at the time of writing.

The programme comprised 8 Eurepa (see Chapter 3) breakfast teaching sessions, 7 main sessions and post-main sessions, 19 parallel sessions, 14 platform sessions and new sets of posters on each day. There were also two workshops (on multicultural aspects of non-epileptic seizures and frontal lobe epilepsy, sleep and arousal), a presidential symposium titled 'Genetics of Epilepsy in the Third Millennium' (two talks given by Satish Jain and Jeff Noebels), and two video sessions devoted to seizure semiology. There were, all in all, some 200 speakers and 641 posters. Some interesting statistics arose from the ILAE/IBE evaluation report which give a flavour of how the conference ran. The median attendance of the 7 main sessions was 525 persons (range 239–1400), the 8 Eurepa teaching sessions 55 (range 13–81), the 7 post-main sessions 430 (range 84–750), the 19 parallel sessions 100 (range

14–274), the 14 platform sessions 49 (range 13–144), the 6 satellite sessions 716 (range 620–1600), the presidential symposium 430, the video sessions 80 and 69, and the video sessions 75 and 61. There was a clear tendency for attendance to fall off on the latter days of the congress, and also a increasing, worrisome trend towards running industry satellite sessions unopposed during the noon hour. The danger is that these satellites may be seen as 'mini' main sessions. As the report put it, 'The tail should not wag the dog', and common criticisms were that the speakers were biased, the sessions were too marketing oriented and the satellites risked lowering the reputation of the main conference. The congress organisation was rated as very good by most registrants, but people also complained about the crowded rooms, and problems with sight, sound and heat. Interestingly, of a sample of 560 registrants, 69% had been to a previous ILAE/IBE congress (18% had attended five or more), and only 38% were members of ILAE and 11% of IBE.

26th International Epilepsy Congress

Paris

28 August–1 September 2005

No. of delegates: 5,090

Organising Committee:

Alexis Arzimanoglou
(Chairman)

Giuliano Avanzini

Jacqueline Beaussart

Natalio Fejerman

Pierre Genton

Eric Hargis

Phil Lee

Shih-Hui Lim

Corinne Simonet

Scientific Advisory Committee

Philippe Ryvlin (Chairman)

Yehezkel Ben Ari

Esper Cavalheiro

Yushi Inoue

Tim Pedley

Emilio Perucca

Ingrid Scheffer

Torbjorn Tomson

Programme – main themes:

Drug Resistance, Mortality and Surgical Treatment

Epilepsy and Neurological Disorders

Seizures and the Developing Brain

Genes and Syndromes

Cross-cultural Aspects of Epilepsy Care

Sex, Hormones and Epilepsy

Depression, Anxiety and Psychosis

Satellite Symposia:

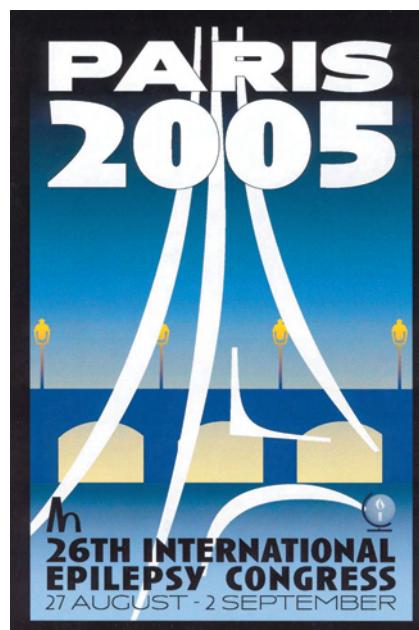
- Merritt–Putnam Symposium: Tolerance to Beneficial and Adverse Effects of Antiepileptic Therapy (Pfizer)
 Progress in the Treatment of Drug-Resistant Partial Epilepsy: Established and Evolving Therapies (Pfizer)
 The Evolution of the Epilepsies with Age (UCB)
 Safeguarding Developmental and Psychosocial Outcomes of Childhood Epilepsy Through Evidence-Based Management (Novartis)

The French chapter had originally hoped to host the 25th IEC, but lost out to Tunisia. France maintained its candidacy, however, and was successful the next time around. Out of concern that France might, paradoxically, be underrepresented, and given the considerable contribution the country had made to epileptology, the organisers requested and were granted permission to have two French co-chairs. The count of participants topped

5,000, for the first and only time in the history of ILAE congresses, and the congress was a resounding success. It was held in the Palais des Congrès, and presided over by Alexis Arzimanoglou, Philippe Ryvlin, Giuliano Avanzini (for the ILAE) and Phil Lee (for the IBE). The weather was perfect, and Paris shimmered (notwithstanding the depressing concrete jungle which was the Palais des Congrès). At the opening ceremony, Arzimanoglou discovered he had lost his voice. The popularity of the city had made it much more expensive than Lisbon, and a gala evening at the Musée d'Orsay was considered by some to be an extravagance, although it was a magnificent setting. The congress included several innovations, among them an interactive session for EEG technicians and nurses, and an expansion of the IBE education workshops introduced in Lisbon. Seventy-six travel bursaries were awarded, with special attention to delegates from developing regions. Thirty-one recipients of young investigator's awards were acknowledged at the opening ceremony. Despite the lure of dazzling weather outside, so many people attended the final presentation that a room twice the size had to be found: a measure of the meeting's success.

The programme opened with the presidential symposium, 'Epilepsy Due to Transmissible Diseases', with lectures by Giuliano Avanzini, A. Vezzani, P.M. Preux, A. Bhigjee and P. Lee, followed by the opening ceremony. The main programme, for 4 days, consisted of 28 parallel sessions, 21 platform sessions and 14 breakfast sessions (morning seminars and Eurepa sessions). The end of the congress featured an innovation, a 'chairs' symposium in which the chairs of seven main topics summarised the data from the sessions, an innovation which was to be repeated in future conferences. In addition, the Sunday morning prior to the opening of the conference included a Eucare symposium, special IBE sessions, an ILAE chapter convention, two interactive sessions for EEG technicians and nurses, an Eilat VIII session and the Merritt–Putnam symposium. All in all, the congress counted 1,372 posters and about 250 speakers who gave a total of some 350 talks. Results of the 8th Workshop on the Neurobiology of Epilepsy, which had according to tradition preceded the main congress, were also presented.

The General Assembly voted on a major revision of the constitution. Among the new chapters that were accepted, China stood out as the country with the largest population, and its accession marked the final success of many years of intricate diplomacy.



The 29th IEC in Paris (2005) was the largest ILAE meeting ever.

27th International Epilepsy Congress**Singapore****8–12 July 2007****No. of delegates: 2,900**

| <i>Organising Committee:</i> | <i>Scientific Advisory Committee</i> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mike Glynn (Co-Chair) | Shih-Hui Lim (Co-Chair) |
| Shih-Hui Lim (Co-Chair) | Peter Wolf (Co-Chair) |
| Alexis Arzimanoglou | Carlos Acevedo |
| Martin Brodie | Michel Baulac |
| Susanne Lund | Nadir Bharucha |
| Andrew Pan | Johan Falk-Pederson |
| Kathiravelu Puvanendran | Michael Saling |
| Grace Tan | Anna Maria Vezzani |
| Peter Wolf | Allen Hauser |

Programme – main themes:

- Issues in Developing Countries – The Three Gaps:
Knowledge, Research and Treatment
- Prognosis in People with Epilepsy: Seizure Control, Remission, and Intractability
- Men and Women with Epilepsy throughout Life
- Epileptogenesis in Relation to Genetic Predisposition in Abnormal Brain
- Stigma and Epilepsy: A Comprehensive View
- Neuropsychological and Psychosocial Aspects of Epilepsy: Neurobiological and Psychopathological Context
- Difficult-to-Treat Situations in Epilepsy

Satellite Symposia:

- Merritt–Putnam Symposium: Seizures in Patients with Brain Tumours – From Mechanisms to Management
- The Balancing Act of Epilepsy Management: Meeting the Needs of People with Epilepsy (UCB)
- The Joy of Sleep: A Close Look at the Interaction between Sleep and Epilepsy (Pfizer)
- A Novel AED on the Way to New Horizons (Schwarz)
- Neuron-Specific M-Current Potassium Channels: A New Target in Managing Epilepsy (Valeant Pharmaceuticals International)

This was the fourth time after Kyoto, New Delhi and Sydney that an ILAE congress was held in the region of Asia and Oceania, which holds a larger population than all other regions together, and where epilepsy care

BUDAPEST**28th INTERNATIONAL
EPILEPSY CONGRESS****June 28th–July 2nd, 2009**

The logo for the ILAE's centenary congress in Budapest in 2009.

has seen many improvements due to the commitment of local epileptologists. At the General Assembly, Peter Wolf gave a detailed account on the progress made in the League's educational agenda, and Giuliano Avanzini reported on the activities of the Global Campaign in various parts of the world, in particular the demonstration project in China. With the admittance of new chapters in New Zealand and Uganda, the ILAE came a step closer to the aim of reaching a membership of 100 national chapters at the centenary.

28th International Epilepsy Congress**Budapest****28 June–2 July 2009**

As this book goes to press, the final plans for the 28th IEC are being laid. This conference marks the centenary of the ILAE, and Budapest was chosen as the venue because the ILAE was founded there in 1909. The main themes are Autonomic Functions and Biorhythmicity; Searching for a Cure – Experimental Models and Human Epilepsy; Comprehensive Care around the World; The Family and Epilepsy – Clinical and Social Dimensions; Brain Development, Plasticity and Epilepsy; Imaging Epilepsy

Networks and Cortical Dysplasia; Non-specialist Management of Epilepsy – themes which have occupied the ILAE throughout the century. The centenary is being marked with the publication of this book, a supplement in *Epilepsia*

(vol. 50, suppl. 3), a historical exhibit, a historical theme in the programme, a reception and a dinner. As a conference, it promises much and will, one hopes, deliver the 2nd century of the ILAE in appropriate style.

| Year | Meeting | Location |
|------|---|----------------|
| 1909 | ILAE Meeting | Budapest |
| 1910 | ILAE Meeting | Berlin |
| 1912 | ILAE Meeting | Zurich |
| 1913 | ILAE Meeting | London |
| 1939 | ILAE Meeting | Copenhagen |
| 1946 | ILAE Meeting | New York |
| 1949 | ILAE Meeting | Paris |
| 1953 | ILAE Meeting | Lisbon |
| 1957 | ILAE Meeting | Brussels |
| 1961 | ILAE Meeting | Rome |
| 1965 | ILAE/IBE Meeting | Vienna |
| 1967 | <i>IBE European Institute</i> | Paris |
| 1968 | <i>IBE European Institute</i> | Dunblane |
| 1969 | 11th ILAE/IBE Congress | New York |
| 1970 | <i>3rd IBE European Symposium</i> | Marienlyst |
| 1971 | <i>4th IBE European Symposium</i> | Amsterdam |
| 1972 | <i>5th IBE European Symposium</i> | London |
| 1973 | 12th ILAE/IBE Congress | Barcelona |
| 1974 | <i>6th IBE European Symposium</i> | Brussels |
| 1975 | <i>7th IBE European Symposium</i> | Berlin |
| 1976 | <i>8th IBE/ILAE International Symposium</i> | Dublin |
| 1977 | 13th ILAE Congress/9th IBE Symposium | Amsterdam |
| 1978 | 10th Epilepsy International Symposium | Vancouver |
| 1979 | 11th Epilepsy International Symposium | Florence |
| 1980 | 12th Epilepsy International Symposium | Copenhagen |
| 1981 | 13th Epilepsy International Symposium | Kyoto |
| 1982 | 14th Epilepsy International Symposium | London |
| 1983 | 15th Epilepsy International Symposium | Washington, DC |
| 1985 | 16th Epilepsy International Symposium | Hamburg |
| 1987 | 17th Epilepsy International Congress | Jerusalem |
| 1989 | 18th International Epilepsy Congress | New Delhi |
| 1991 | 19th International Epilepsy Congress | Rio de Janeiro |
| 1993 | 20th International Epilepsy Congress | Oslo |
| 1995 | 21st International Epilepsy Congress | Sydney |
| 1998 | 22nd International Epilepsy Congress | Dublin |
| 1999 | 23rd International Epilepsy Congress | Prague |
| 2001 | 24th International Epilepsy Congress | Buenos Aires |
| 2003 | 25th International Epilepsy Congress | Lisbon |
| 2005 | 26th International Epilepsy Congress | Paris |
| 2007 | 27th International Epilepsy Congress | Singapore |
| 2009 | 28th International Epilepsy Congress | Budapest |

Table 1 Major ILAE meetings, symposia and congresses, 1909–2009 (see Box 1 for an explanation of the numbering system).

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