

THE FOUNDING OF THE IBE AND THE MOSOVICH MOTION

At the ILAE meeting in 1961 in Rome, an event of great importance to the epilepsy movement occurred. A motion was proposed by Abraham Mosovich, the President of the ILAE Argentinian branch, to establish a separate organization which would co-operate closely with the ILAE and would be called the *International Bureau for Epilepsy* (IBE). The IBE it was proposed would be the ‘social arm’ of the ILAE.

The Mosovich motion, as it came to be called, was approved and the IBE began to form – dominated by the energy of George Burden, its first head. Although launched initially as ‘an arm’ of the



Abraham Mosovich is shown here on the extreme left

ILAE, the limb soon became effectively semi-detached, and this caused sometimes acrimonious and heated debate. Gastaut wrote about the ‘*insufferable independence of the Bureau*’ which had extended further than the ILAE intended, and that ‘*this competition between two organizations that have the same goals is ridiculous and intolerable*’. There was considerable friction between Gastaut and George Burden. By 1966, the IBE had become formally constituted as a separate entity, an achievement due in large part to the enthusiasm of Burden and his fellow executives. The Bureau adopted the candle as its motif (a symbol borrowed from the British Epilepsy Association). The ILAE logo of the spike and wave (borrowed from the Dutch branch) was first also mentioned in the *Epilepsia*



George Burden

report of the 1965 meeting although did not appear on conference programmes until 1975. The animosity between the two organizations soon ceased, with successful joint congresses and co-operation on joint ventures. It became clear to all that the two organizations, standing shoulder to shoulder, presented a formidable lobbying platform on behalf of epilepsy.

The Netherlands Branch (*Federatie voor Epilepsie-bestrijding*) has adopted an attractive emblem of its own, in the form of a stylized wave-and-spike **M**. In the words of the Secretary, Dr. Otto Magnus, the emblem itself has a symbolic character, the “spike” representing epilepsy, and the “wave”, the fight against it. This emblem has already been adopted by the French National Branch of the League, and Dr. Magnus has suggested that other National Branches which have no emblem might adopt it. Your Executive has reached no decision, but this suggestion should be sent to all the national branches for their consideration, in the coming year.

First appearance of ILAE logo – in *Epilepsia*