

WONIEP, WONOEP AND THE ILAE COMMISSION ON NEUROBIOLOGY

Basic science in the ILAE was boosted greatly by the creation of the Commission on Neurobiology in 1988, and by the organisation of the *Workshops on Neurobiology of Epilepsy* (WONOEP). WONOEP grew out of the *Workshops on Neurotransmitters in Epilepsy* (WONIEP), which were initially independent of the ILAE and were first held in Paris in 1981 under the leadership of Paolo Morselli and Kenneth Lloyd. WONIEP II was held in San Antonio, Texas, in 1983, and included papers on catecholamines, opioids, excitatory amino acids and neuropeptides. At the WONIEP III meeting, in Soverato, Italy, it became apparent that GABA had certain proconvulsant, as well as anticonvulsant, properties, and that simple GABAergic drugs may not be as effective in suppressing seizures clinically as drugs working on other neurotransmitter systems. WONIEP IV was held in Stresa, Italy, and it was then that the request was made to the ILAE to create a *Commission on Neurobiology* which would continue the workshops under the aegis of the ILAE (using the new title – WONOEP) and also to organise scientific sessions and courses on basic research at the international meetings. This agreement has allowed basic science to flourish within the ILAE. The first WONOEP was held in Salvador, Brazil, and since then 8 further WONOEPs have been held preceding international congresses, each dealing with important areas of basic research in epilepsy. Similarly, basic science has featured strongly at ILAE congresses and meetings, and basic scientists have become active members of the ILAE community.

The Commission on Neurobiology was created to ensure continued participation of basic scientists in the International Epilepsy Congresses, and it was mandated that one of the main themes at each congress be devoted to basic research or that significant basic research be included among the presentations of each of the themes. Basic science main themes then were included in all congresses after 1991.

WONOEP meetings

WONOEP I 1991	Molecular Neurobiology of Epilepsy
WONOEP II 1993	Progressive Nature of Epileptogenesis
WONOEP III 1995	Mechanisms of Chronic Models of Epilepsy
WONOEP IV 1997	Parallel Studies of Epileptogenesis in Human Tissue and Animal Models
WONOEP V 1999	Brain Plasticity and Epilepsy
WONOEP VI 2001	Ictogenesis and Epileptogenesis
WONOEP VII 2003	Developmental Programs in Epileptogenesis
WONOEP VIII 2005	Developmental Issues of Epilepsy
WONOEP IX 2007	The Transition from the Interictal to the Ictal State