

ILAE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES – 1909–1977

One of the core activities of the ILAE is the holding of conferences. These are at national (usually annually), regional (biannually) and international levels. The numbering and naming of the ILAE international meetings has been confusing, reflecting the rather erratic history of the ILAE and its relationships with IBE and Epilepsy International. The ILAE meetings were furthermore held in conjunction with the meetings of the neurological and sometimes neurophysiological associations (which themselves changed affiliation and assignation several times).

Prior to 1973, ILAE conferences were not officially numbered but 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. 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' – it was a largely American affair.

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'.

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, 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'.

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1909	ILAE Meeting	Budapest
1910	ILAE Meeting	Berlin
1912	ILAE Meeting	Zurich
1913	ILAE Meeting	Copenhagen
1946	ILAE Meeting	Paris
1953	ILAE Meeting	Lisbon
1957	ILAE Meeting	Brussels
1961	ILAE Meeting	Rome
1965	ILAE/IBE Meeting	Vienna
1969	11 th ILAE/IBE Congress	New York
1973	12 th ILAE/IBE Congress	Barcelona
1977	13 th ILAE Congress/9 th IBE Symposium	Amsterdam