

# **Layout for an ILAE Summer School on Diagnostic Methods**

From the ILAE Commission on Diagnostic Methods (DM)

## **1. DM Topic-oriented summer schools**

1.1 Neuropathology

1.2 Neurophysiology

1.3 Neuroimaging

1.4 Neuropsychology

ILAE summer schools addressing diagnostic methods should have a similar purpose and outline as specified below. However, each course will have the freedom to adapt to the local environment (venue), selected themes and available staff. The course' budget should be self-sustainable from registration fees and support from other funding sources. ILAE and regional support can be requested through the DM commission to cover travel bursaries for attendees from resource-poor countries (IBRO and other national/intl. societies should also be approached for such travel bursaries), and such requests will be evaluated for possible support during the annual budget allocation. Organizers should ensure that the course does not conflict in time or resources with other Congresses organized by the ILAE.

## **2. Course organization**

2.1 Each summer school should be held for a minimum of 5 days (English language) including interactive morning lectures (covering clinics and/or research) as well as teaching seminars in the afternoon (introducing diagnostic devices, i.e. microscopes, EEG, scanner, test batteries). Virtual teaching platforms can be developed in the near future to maintain a long-distance ILAE teaching facility (such as VIREPA or other online platforms).

2.2 Each course should have room for up to 50 participants/students, either with advanced experience in diagnostic disciplines (i.e. neuro-/pathology; neurophysiology; neuroradiology, neuropsychology) or with background in neurosciences or any other clinical discipline. The course should be advertised at least 9 months before the course starts. Applicants should submit a statement describing their current academic or work position, training, area of interest and expertise. In addition, they should provide a letter of support from the local Epilepsy Center or Program, which should help to evaluate and select participants. The course director(s) will choose attendees from the application list (deadline to be announced), on the basis of merit, need and mission of the ILAE course. Care will be

exercised to encourage participation from the wide constituency of the ILAE. Course invitations should be launched and disseminated through the ILAE website and newsletters, as well as through regional commissions, national ILAE chapters, or other medical societies, also using available email lists.

2.3 During the entire course, each group of up to 10 participants should be trained by well recognized and distinguished experts (tutors). Lecturers should be invited (from local centers to reduce budget) to introduce participants into the general topic how to diagnose and treat epilepsy and the particular requests to the diagnostic discipline from a clinical perspective. There will be no remuneration for teaching faculty, but budget should cover travel costs (economy airfare) and hotel accommodation for all tutors and lecturers. The tutors and lecturers should participate in as many activities as possible and for as long as possible in the course.

2.4 Training facilities for interactive diagnostic work-up in separate groups should be made available at the meeting venue.

2.5 Courses should be organized during consecutive years either at same location or as migrating courses in Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Choice of location should take into consideration the need for easy accessibility, adequate logistic facilities, and affordability in terms of associated costs.

2.6 In order to qualify as a summer school of the ILAE/DM commission, any expert in the field can apply as course director. Nominal decision will be taken by all members of the DM commission through open vote at annual business meeting, or ad-hoc meetings as needed. The decision will be based upon submitted documents describing the topic, structure, targeted audience and budget calculation (including venue and dates).

2.7 A typical course timetable may have the following structure:

Morning lecture part I (1 lecture with enough room for discussion - 1.5h; general topics in epileptology, should change day by day to cover many related **clinical** disciplines)

Morning lecture part II (1 lecture with enough room for discussion - 1.5h; specific topic-related themes, should change day by day to cover the addressed topic of summer school)

Early afternoon group work (tutor with group working in different class rooms).

Groups should have alternating access to diagnostic devices (if access is restricted and cannot be made available every day for every group, i.e. multi-head microscopes, MRI scanner, EEG machines)

Late afternoon case presentation (with entire auditorium to discuss student's own examples)

2.8 The summer school will be evaluated by each participant using a standardized ILAE questionnaire, which will be made available by the ILAE administrative office. Awardees of ILAE or other travel bursaries are required to complete this questionnaire. The DM commission will participate in reviewing the questionnaire to help improve further course planning. Additional follow-up evaluations may be sent to participants at later dates.



Ingmar Blümcke

Chairman

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