Report of the second meeting of ILAE NeuroBiology Commission

http://www.ilae.org/Commission/neurobio/index.cfm

Saturday June 28th, 2014, Stockholm Convention Center – 8:30 am-5:00 pm


The meeting of the NBC started at 8:30 am and closed at 5:00 pm.

Budget issues
The 2014 budget approved by ILAE-EC is summarized below:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Servolo Course 2014</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
</tr>
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<td>LASSE 2014</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<td>Gordon Conference 2014</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Translation Research TF-UPHAR Meeting in Cape Town</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Calls</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Meetings - Stockholm &amp; San Servolo</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training &amp; Beyond TF meeting - San Servolo 26-27 July 2014</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translational TF meeting – June 29th 2014 Stockholm</td>
<td>$29,034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$100,034</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the next year the budget of the TFs will be formally submitted to the Treasurer Committee of NBC (to be nominated). TF budget submission deadline is September 15th, 2014. The budget request form (Annex 1) will be sent to TF Chairs before this deadline. The Commission budget will be submitted to the EC in November 2014 and a decision on the approved NBC budget will be available by February 2015.

Actions: -find a Treasurer!
-send TF budget by September 15th 2104

Web site

Material of the activities of the NBC and TF was uploaded and will be updated every 3 months. Please send photos of members, pictures of TF activities and TF updates to Katja Kobow.

Jean Gotman will be contacted to ask permission to activate a hyperlink connection to NBC web site. The forms for WONOEP XIII registration and for NBC support will be posted on the website. The questionnaire of the Resource Mapping TF will be also posted on the web site.

Actions: -update TF activities
-send KK missing photos and other pictures
-upload forms and
-request a hyperlink
-send proposal for a NBC logo.
Translational TF
Aristea and Terry reported on the future developments of Translational TF Initiative 1. A TF meeting is organized for the 30th of June and a specific report will follow. Terry reported on Multi-Parts program that has been developed as a 2-year project in stroke field to plan and organize multi-institute pre-clinical trial centers. Multi-part was contacted to organize a similar effort in epilepsy research, as previously planned in TASK 6 (STEP 6) action of the TF.

**Actions:**
- progress TF activities according to TF report

Resource-mapping TF
The activity of the TF was discussed and it was decided that the aim of Initiative 2 is too ambitious. The achievement of a proper mapping of international resources will require contacts with national chapters and regional commissions. This action is demanding and requires resources that are not now available. It was decided that the questionnaire developed by the TF (Annex 2) will be posted on the web site and will be available either for download or for on line compilation. The future of this Initiative will be reconsidered after evaluating the response to the on line survey.

**Actions:**
- upload questionnaire to NBC website

Neurobiology contributes to Epilepsia.
Epilepsia Editor in Chief Astrid Nehlig and Associate Editors E. Bertram, H. Potschka and A. Mazarati, participated to the discussion. G. Mathern joined at the end of the meeting. It emerged from the discussion that there is no easy solution to the fact that many authors do not send their articles to Epilepsia. It is clear that Epilepsia is only a second or third choice after the authors have submitted to more highly ranked journals. Moreover, there is a clear competition between Epilepsia and more general Neuroscience journals such as Neurobiology of Disease and Experimental Neurology. Also Epilepsia is not always perceived as a journal interested in basic or translational research. Finally Epilepsia is often considered an unfriendly journal and authors complain because the level of demand by reviewers is not always adjusted to the impact factor of the journal.

**Actions:**
- devote a whole free supplement of Epilepsia to basic science topics, either new emerging technology or else, possibly in response to a call by the Editors-in-Chief

WONOEP TF
XIII WONOEP was rescheduled for the period August 31st – September 3rd 2015. The main ILAE meeting will start Sept. 5th. Details on the location, application, etc. of XII WONOEP are reported in the attached first announcement (Annex 3; see also http://www.ilae.org/Commission/neurobio/index.cfm ).

The format utilized in the last 2 WONOEPs is confirmed: 5 half-day sessions on subthemes that will be identified after abstract selection. Each session will start with a 30-min critical introduction of the subtheme, followed by 8-10 data-blitzes (max 15 min. each) and will be concluded by general discussion lead by a panel of discussants. WONOEP travelling fellowship (3-4) of 300-500 Euro, were approved, if the budget allows. Applicants must have obtained their last training degree no more than 5 years before application and will present their own work at WONOEP. Candidates can only apply once in 5 years.

It was proposed that the evening of the 31st a special lecture on the evolution of biomarker discovery by an expert external to the epilepsy field (Blennow, Alzheimer expert). The final subtopics of XIII WONOEP will be defined according to the abstracts that are received. The following themes have been considered: Central and peripheral biomarkers, Biomarkers of co-morbidities, Biomarkers of treatment response, Genetic biomarkers, Biomarkers of epileptogenesis, epileptogenicity, brain injury, seizure, tissue reorganization, etc. The following speakers and discussants were proposed for the 5 sessions: A Pitkanen, D Janigro, R Sankar, I Scheffer, T O’Brien, WP Liao, JR Engel, D Henshall, N Garcia-Cairasco, J Noebeles (comorbidities) K Staley, Z Szallasí, M Kokaia, W Loescher, AM Vezzani, U Heinemann, G Avanzini.

The first call for abstracts (see attached file) will be published through WONOEP mailing list (that needs to be checked and improved) and will be published on ILAE web site and on Epilepsia, Epilepsy Currents and other epilepsy and neuroscience journals and web sites of neuroscience societies (SfN and FENS). Fundraising will start soon after.
WONOEP application form will be available on line on the web site. Aristea proposed to submit applications and abstracts through the registration system of ILAE meeting – after approval by Holmes/Finola. Abstract submission will end of January 2015 and by the end of February 2015 abstract selection by WONOEP TF and LOC will be completed. Invitations and fellowships invitations will be sent out by April 1st, 2015. The NBC confirmed that WONOEP content will be reported by ad hoc regular reviews (WONOEP APPRAISALS) that will be published on Epilepsia. A senior and a junior scientist will be engaged for the production of the review, at least one month before WONOEP. Detailed instructions on the style of the review will be given to the responsible authors. **The reference persons in charge of the development of the WONOEP APPRAISAL will be also responsible for the presentation of WONOEP HIGHLIGHT at the Istanbul 2015 ILAE meeting on September 5th.**

The WONOEP TF met after the NBC meeting to discuss the following issues: The budget for lodging, meals and local facilities at Halki Palace will be around 32/35.000 Euro.

The local organizers will provide informations on

- Accurate directions on how to reach the venue from the airport
- a local secretarial support and the relative costs
- costs of 3-4 water taxis from the airport to the WONOEP venue
- costs of a possible excursion and dinner the evening of September 2nd

The WONOEP TF

- will prepare an application form (mention gender)
- will revise the mailing list for WONOEP and will ensure the diffusion of the first announcement, as described above
- Hunt for attendants in charge of WONOEP APPRAISAL/WONOEP HIGHLIGHTS

**Actions:**
- update WONOEP mailing list
- follow next organization steps
- obtain logistic information from local committee
- check first announcement
- prepare application form
- application form on web site and request next steps to Richard Holmes/Finola Quinn
- finalize WONOEP list of discussants and program
- propose topics for 2017 WONOEP

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**Education and Beyond TF Initiatives 3**

The Commission discussed the report prepared by the TF chair that evaluates the content of experimental epileptology in Courses and training events sponsored by ILAE (Annex 4) aimed at verifying one of the objectives of the mission of ILAE. Most of the events sponsored by CEA and other regional commissions have an inadequate content (if any) of neurobiology issues. The potential request emerging from these training events could be provided by the NBC, upon formal request. The need for a formal application to demand the contribution of the NBC to educational events sponsored by ILAE and by other agencies was discussed. Two types of contributes are identified in the proposed application form (Annex 5): scientific contribute and economical support. Both types of applications will be evaluated by the NBC members via skype conferences and a decision about the support will be taken before the budget request of the Commission is submitted, either by the end of November (non-financial contribute) or by the end of March (financial contribute). Requests of support must be submitted before the 15th of July of the year before the event.

The new procedure and the application request/form will be disseminated to all ILAE Commissions and to the organizers of already sponsored events.

**Actions:**
- finalize the form for NBC support
- advertise call for NBC support within and outside ILAE

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**Education and Beyond TF Initiative n. 4: Beyond training project**

On July 1st the project was discussed during a meeting of the Managing Committee with the Secretary General of IBRO, Sten Grillner. Future plans of collaborations on the project were envisaged. A meeting of
the TF is planned for July 27th in San Servolo, Italy. The following plan will be discussed and steps will be made to achieve the goals:

**Task 1** - Identify ILAE-sponsored Courses for project testing/validation: to be discussed during the TF meeting

**Task 2** - Identify specific epilepsy research topics of regional relevance: to be discussed during the TF meeting

**Task 3** - Define criteria to evaluate the fundability of applicants from limited resources areas: to be discussed during the TF meeting

**Task 4** - Define grant application and rules along the outline in Annex 6.

**Step 5** - Develop a strategy to raise funding external to ILAE (IBRO, NIH, private)

**Step 6** - procedure for grant evaluation (liaisons with Regional Commissions)

**Actions:** follow indications of the future TF meeting

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**Dissemination TF Initiative 6**

The program of neurobiology activities at the 2015 ILAE meeting in Istanbul is defined and a flier for dissemination was prepared (Annex 7). The flier will be distributed to any possible Neuroscience meeting, Course or event. A copy of the flier will be circulated among NBC members for dissemination.

After the NBC meeting a later version of the Educational session was prepared in collaboration with Walter van Emde Boas:

**The Best of two worlds: Translational Epileptology**

1. Of mice and men: clinical and neurobiological perspectives in temporal lobe epilepsy; proposed speakers C Özkara & A Depaulis
2. When a seizure is a seizure; proposed speakers M de Curtis & P Kahane
3. What do and can clinicians expect from neuroscientists?; proposed speakers J.Engel & G. Avanzini
4. Beyond the Neuron(s): where is epilepsy; proposed speakers D Janigro & TBA

IBRO accepted a NBC symposium on epilepsy: The organizing committee of the 2016 ECE meeting in Prague was contacted to strengthen the links with NBC activities. A message to CEA will be sent.

Contacts were activated with IBRO though the Secretary General Sten Grillner.

**Actions:** send flier to all NBC members for dissemination - fliers to FENS meeting and San Servolo Course - CONTACT CEA FOR NBC ACTIVITIES IN 2016 ECE IN PRAGUE - proposals for ECE 2016 – link to TF activities

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The next NBC meeting is planned for September 4th 2015 in Istanbul.
Annex 1

NBC Task Force 2015 budget request
(submission deadline September 15\textsuperscript{th} 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>XXX Task Force</th>
<th>Type of activity</th>
<th>Date of event</th>
<th>budget request</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Epilepsy research laboratories: questionnaire

Name of institution / department:
Address: including Street, Number, zip code, city, country

Website: Principal investigator: Co-workers:
E-mail: Phone:

Research focus/interest:
[ ] Mechanisms of Epileptogenesis
[ ] Mechanisms of Ictogenesis
[ ] Pathology
[ ] Pathophysiology
[ ] Pharmacology
[ ] Epileptogenesis
[ ] Ictogenesis
[ ] Behavior & Psychology
[ ] Imaging
[ ] Genetics
[ ] Neuromodulation-stimulation
[ ] Natural products
[ ] Other - please specify: ...............  

Available techniques:
[ ] Electrophysiology (in vitro; ex vivo; in vivo)
[ ] Brain microdialysis
[ ] Seizure models
Chemically-induced; 6Hz model; maximal electroshock;
species & strain:
[ ] Epilepsy models
post SE; brain stimulation; post-trauma; post-stroke; dementia-related; genetic epilepsies (absence epilepsy; audiogenic epilepsy)
species & strain:
[ ] Video/EEGs seizure monitoring
[ ] Genetic
[ ] Imaging (autoradiography; MRI; fMRI; tractography)

Specific equipment available:
[ ] Immunohistochemistry
[ ] Molecular biology
[ ] Optogenetics
[ ] Imaging (MRI; µPET)
[ ] Behavioral paradigms
[ ] Other – please specify

Key publications (3):
Graduate programs:
Collaboration
XIII Workshop on Neurobiology of Epilepsy - WONOEP 2015

Heybeliada Island, Istanbul, Turkey
August 31st – September 4th 2015

Scientific Organizing Committee
Katja Kobow, Raman Sankar, Filiz Onat, Candan Gurses and Marco de Curtis

WONOEP XIII, a satellite event of the 31st ILAE/IBE International Epilepsy Congress, will take place at the Heybeliada Island, Istanbul, Turkey. The main topic of WONOEP XIII is Biomarkers in Epilepsy. Abstracts on peripheral and central biomarkers, biomarkers of co-morbidities, response to treatment, genetic biomarkers as well as biomarkers of epileptogenesis, brain injury, seizure, or tissue reorganization will be considered.


Abstracts of 300 words or less should be submitted as Word files to wonoep@epilepsycongress.org. The abstract submission form is available at the Neurobiology Commission website (http://www.ilae.org/Commission/neurobio/events.cfm).

A maximum of 40 abstracts strictly related to the main topic will be selected and the authors will be invited to WONOEP after April 1st 2015. Lodging and meals will be provided to the selected participants. Travel costs will not be supported. A WONOEP registration fee of 100 Euros is applied to all selected participants.

Invited speakers are strongly encouraged to submit an abstract also to the 2015 ILAE/IBE International Epilepsy Congress in Istanbul (September 5-10, 2015). The registration fee will be waved if registration to WONOEP is combined with registration and submission of an abstract to the 31st ILAE/IBE meeting (see http://www.epilepsyistanbul2015.org). In this case, proof of registration to the ILAE main meeting should be provided before 15th June 2015.

WONOEP 2015 is organized by the ILAE Neurobiology Commission and by the WONOEP Task Force.

WONOEP queries: Katja Kobow (katja.kobow@uk-erlangen.de) and Marco de Curtis (decurtis@istituto-besta.it)
### Annex 4

**Meetings sponsored by ILAE 2012-2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edition</th>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Relevance</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Sessions</th>
<th>Basic Science</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workshop on Neurobiology of Epilepsy</td>
<td>13th</td>
<td>WONOEP</td>
<td>Internat</td>
<td>Epilepsy + Neuroscience</td>
<td>migrating</td>
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<td>ILAE</td>
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<td>San Servolo Epilepsy Summer School</td>
<td>13th</td>
<td>Bridging - 5th</td>
<td>Internat</td>
<td>Epilepsy + Neuroscience</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>ILAE + CEA</td>
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<td>Internat</td>
<td>Epilepsy Surgery</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>ILAE + CEA</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
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<td>Pediatrics – 3rd</td>
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<td>Internat</td>
<td>Pediatric Epilepsy</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>ILAE + CEA</td>
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<td>Pharmacol</td>
<td>12nd</td>
<td>Internat</td>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>ILAE</td>
<td>3rd</td>
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<td>Latin America Summer School on Epilepsy</td>
<td>9th</td>
<td>LASSE</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Epilepsy</td>
<td>South America</td>
<td>CLAA - ILAE</td>
<td>54</td>
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<td>Intern. Postgraduate Practical Epilepsy School</td>
<td>9th</td>
<td>Internat</td>
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<td>Slovenia</td>
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<td>Baltic Sea Summer School</td>
<td>8th</td>
<td>BSSSE</td>
<td>Regional</td>
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<td>Baltic area</td>
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<td>Migrating Course on Epilepsy</td>
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<td>Internat</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Internat</td>
<td>Pharmacology /Therapy in epilepsy</td>
<td>Israel</td>
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<td>Caucasian Summer School on Clinical Epileptology</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>RCSSCE</td>
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<td>Epilepsy</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
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<td>Internat</td>
<td>Epilepsy surgery</td>
<td>Italy-France</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>EPODES</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Epilepsy surgery – basic and advanced course</td>
<td>Czec Rep.</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
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<td>International Course on Drug Resistant Epilepsy</td>
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**APPLICATION FORM (PRELIMINARY VERSION)**

**REQUEST FOR SUPPORT/CONTRIBUTE OF ILAE NEUROBIOLOGY COMMISSION**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 15TH OF THE YEAR BEFORE THE EVENT**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Type of request</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>neurobiology contribute</td>
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**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION REQUESTS:** JULY 15 OF THE YEAR BEFORE THE EVENT

**DECISIONS ABOUT NON-FINANCIAL SUPPORT WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE END OF NOVEMBER OF THE SAME YEAR**

**DECISIONS ABOUT SUPPORT WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE END OF MARCH OF THE YEAR OF THE EVENT**

Title of the event

Proposed date of the event

<table>
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<td>international course</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>regional-interest course</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Previous editions

| no | ☐ | yes | ☐ | when? |

Previously supported by NBC?

| no | ☐ | yes | ☐ | funded amount |

Previously supported by ILAE or ILAE Commissions?

| no | ☐ | yes | ☐ | funded amount |

Other supports for this edition of the event?

| no | ☐ | yes | ☐ | funded amount |

The program of the event includes a section on neurobiology of epilepsy?

| no | ☐ | yes | ☐ |

Is a support required to enhance neurobiology aspects of the event?

| no | ☐ | yes | ☐ |

General description of the event (max 200 words)

List of faculties:

Location site of the event

Venue facilities
Percentage of teaching method:  
- Frontal lectures: %  
- Practical sessions: %  
- Project development: %  
- Hands-on activities: %  

Target audience

Number of expected attendants

Proposed budget:  
- Faculty support  
- Venue facilities  
- Local assistance  
- Sundry  
- Proceedings costs  
- Bursaries for students  

Total budget

Please, define the criteria for bursary application (max 200 words)

The NBC contribute will be utilized for the following

Expected proceedings

Please, attach to the present form a detailed preliminary program and a detailed budget plan

Contact person name
General description of the grant scope/application:
The Training and Beyond Grant Program seeks to foster the development of local research activities in geographical areas with limited resources and to promote scientific collaboration within an International research network. Project proposals must have a first validation during ILAE-sponsored Training Courses, such as LASSE and San Servolo Course. Grant application is proposed by a scientific network as a joint research projects. Seeding funds for research will be given to the partner in the less-advantaged geographical area and travelling from and to this region are provided to team partners. The main goal is to favor the development of the neurobiology of epilepsy allowing established research groups to set up collaboration with emerging groups within a less-advantaged region.

Scope of the Grant Program. The program is designed to intensify the scientific exchange among research laboratories from well-established epilepsy research Laboratories with new Laboratories in Africa, South America and Asia, thus creating conditions for scientific developments in the field of neurobiology of epilepsy in these areas. Collaborative, multi-team project application must focus on region-specific epilepsy theme and should be first validated during one of the training Courses sponsored and supported by ILAE under the tutorship of scientists and clinicians with well-recognized expertise in epilepsy research field. ILAE-sponsored Courses are LASSE, San Servolo Course,. Candidate teams will be invited to apply xxx?? The research activity in the limited-resource area will be funded and collaborations will be supported through research missions to work on scientific questions specifically proposed in the submitted project.

Research teams. Projects are presents by a Principal Investigator active in Countries of limited resources in Africa, South America and Asia (excluding China, Japan and), who coordinates an international research team that involve up to 3 established groups in the field of epilepsy research. The Principal Investigator should not be older than 40 years of age. Established participating research group must have a local coordinator with recognized competence in the area of the project. The hosting Institute in established and emerging teams should provide the necessary infrastructure and resources to achieve the goals of the project.

Research funded. Projects should focus on research in neurobiology of epilepsy, and in particular on scientific topics of regional relevance for the area of the Principal Investigator. The projects should be planned for a two year period with a detailed definition of the chronogram of activities. The feasibility of the research project should be tested at one of the ILAE-sponsored Courses x

Financial support. Funding is provided for 2 years from the acceptance of the grant application. The Grant Program finances research activity in the Coordinator Country for a sum of $. Research missions and exchange trips by doctoral and post-doctoral students and faculty from the participating institutions will also be funded for up to $ for the 3 years. Applications should be submitted through ILAE NBC xxx. The applicant must indicate how the funding will support collaboration with research partners. An applicant will only be eligible for the same category of the African Collaboration Grant every five years. Supplementary funds could be sought from other sources. Proof of price quotations (e.g. flights, accommodation, etc.) should be attached to the application.

Application procedure. An electronic version of the application form with inserted signatures must be submitted electronically to xxxx. Deadlines and completeness of application forms should be strictly adhered to. Late applications will not be considered. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Training and Beyond Grant is made on a competitive basis. Applications are evaluated through peer review by a team of ILAE xx.

Reporting activities. Grant holders must submit a short report every year, according to the guidelines provided with the Award Letter.
Annex 7