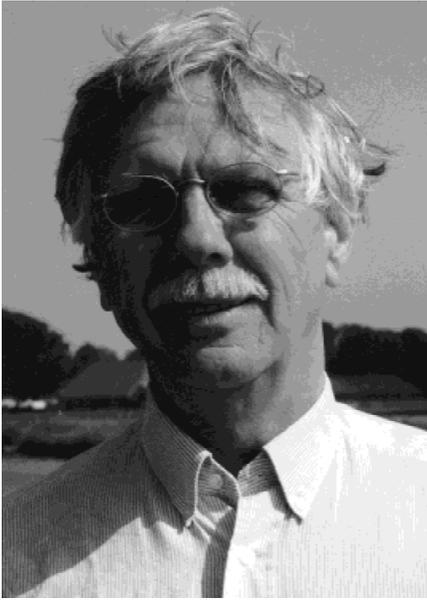


## Announcement and Calendar of Meetings

### ANNOUNCEMENT

**Arthur Sonnen**  
1931 – 2000



The sudden death of well-known epileptologist Arthur (Thuur) Sonnen on November 9, 2000 came as a shock to those familiar with the field of epilepsy. Born in Eindhoven, The Netherlands, on July 27, 1931, Arthur became a victim of lung cancer at age 69, 6 years younger than today's average life expectancy for Dutch men. His amiable personality and continuing high energy level gave no hint of his medical condition, even as he presented his second educational CD-ROM to many friends from all over the world at the 4<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Epileptology in Florence last October. He continued to the end to pursue, with even greater intensity, his life-long mission to minimize the suffering of people with epilepsy.

Arthur trained in neuropsychiatry with Professor Prick in Nijmegen. At that time in the Netherlands, the study of neurology and psychiatry were still conjoined. Arthur had an active interest in psychiatry and its relevance to managing cases of epilepsy. In 1964, Arthur joined the Dr Hans Berger Clinic, a center specializing in the treatment of epilepsy, in Breda, The Netherlands. In 1985, he became Department Chief succeeding Dr. Jan Bruens. Arthur remained an active and vital staff physician and academician until his retirement in 1991. He was extremely well liked by his patients for his genuine concern and medical expertise. Truly dedicated to his work, he never once stayed home when not feeling well.

Arthur did not limit his many extracurricular activities to the confines of his clinic or even national borders. Committed as he was to discussing epilepsy's complex nature in reader-friendly language, Arthur published numerous booklets, articles, and brochures, and he hosted a series of educational programs about epilepsy on national television. He was the founding member of the National Committee for Functional Neurosurgery, a group that helps select and monitor candidates for surgical treatment of epilepsy.

A man of global scope and vision, Arthur recognized early on the importance of video as a diagnostic and didactic tool, and he set out to build an exhaustive international collection of films and documentaries featuring epilepsy. To this end, he organized the International Epilepsy Audiovisual Festivals in association with the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE). This resulted in the unique "Global Epilepsy Research Archive (GERA)," named for his dear wife, Gera. This archive was a cornerstone and an integral part of the newly established International Epilepsy Resource Center of both the IBE and the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE). Without Arthur's foresight in founding the GERA archive, it is unlikely that this Center would have been possible. The archive was recently transferred to the Epilepsy Center in Zurich and is now administered by Arthur's good friend and colleague, Dr. Ian Mothersill (mothersill@swissepil.ch).

To foster a better understanding of epileptic seizures, Arthur used his considerable clinical skills and academic acumen to form and chair the ILAE Commission on Video Classification of Seizures. A fervent and enthusiastic leader, Arthur succeeded in arranging the financing, production, and distribution of a highly successful series of didactic CD-I and CD-Rom depicting different epileptic seizures.

Arthur was a prominent advocate, first in The Netherlands and later throughout Europe, for uniform standards regarding epilepsy patients' fitness to drive.

As his natural inquisitiveness made him critically explore all possibilities that might contribute to his patients' well-being, it is not surprising that Arthur was asked to write the chapter on "Alternative and Folk Remedies" for *Epilepsy: A Comprehensive Textbook*, edited by Drs. Engel and Pedley.

Arthur's thorough command of languages and fine sense of humor made him a much sought after speaker on special occasions. He often expressed himself in poetry and wrote a poignant poem while in his sickbed. Entitled "The Monument," the work describes an 80-year-old widow who comes to his office with her 45-year-old son

who, notwithstanding many years of treatment, is still suffering from frequent seizures and requires care by his aging mother. The poem illustrates both Arthur's compassion for his patients and their families, as well as his own capability for poetic pathos.

Arthur Sonnen was indeed a remarkable man who used his fine clinical skills and personal talents for communication to bring about a broader understanding of epilepsy around the world. Despite his modest nature and the total absence of self-promotion, Arthur's commitment and accomplishments on behalf of people with epilepsy everywhere resulted in his designation as Ambassador for Epilepsy by the IBE and ILAE, and he was decorated by the Dutch Queen for his national contributions to epilepsy. Those who were fortunate enough to know him and work with him feel a mixture of gratitude for what Arthur had achieved during his lifetime and grievous bereavement at the loss of what even more might have been.

Arthur's absence will be most sorely felt by his wife Gera, his son, three daughters, and five grandchildren. He left us after too short a time, but we are grateful for having known him and for the legacy he leaves behind.

Harry Meinardi  
Piet Voskuil  
Ian Mothersill  
Marius Sonnen  
*The Netherlands*

#### The Monument

Wearily, she drags herself in, her son on her arm.  
She sits down, eighty kilos of granite and at her side the  
handbag with her son's medicine.

I think, she once was a flower, a delicate butterfly with  
a skipping rope and a spinning top, rosy cheeked and  
desired by her man.

He works for the railways but was sidelined to the buffet  
years ago, next to a Christmas card from her sister in  
Overschie.

And then there's been her son for forty-five years.  
I ask him how he is doing; he looks up at her in des-  
peration,  
Almost embarrassed, she hands me his seizure booklet  
filled with crosses.

I write, I calculate and I talk and she, stony faced, accepts  
the new prescription—it won't help, he will keep falling.  
She stoops with difficulty but will always pick him up.

Then she drags herself out again, her son meekly following  
She stoops with difficulty but will always carry him.

Arthur Sonnen, October 2000  
(English translation by his son, Marius Sonnen)

#### CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

##### Sixth Workshop on Neurobiology of Epilepsy (WONOEP)

The Sixth Workshop on Neurobiology of Epilepsy (WONOEP VI) is an ILAE-sponsored meeting devoted to the basic neuroscience of epilepsy. WONOEP VI will be held May 8–10, 2001, at the Tropical hotel in Iguazu, Brazil, immediately before the 24th International Epilepsy Congress in Buenos Aires. WONOEP VI will feature a workshop format emphasizing open discussion centered around the theme "Ictogenesis and Epileptogenesis." All epilepsy investigators are invited to apply by e-mailing a one-page abstract describing the research they would like to present to [wasterla@ucla.edu](mailto:wasterla@ucla.edu). Abstracts are due by November 1, 2000. Because the number of participants in WONOEP is limited, this deadline will be strictly enforced. A committee of the ILAE Commission on Neurobiology will select 40 abstracts, and the authors will be invited to participate in the Workshop. Young investigators (those who completed their medical degree or Ph.D. training after 1990) are encouraged to apply to present either a full communication or a poster. Preference will be given to young investigators from Latin America. Food and lodging costs will be paid by WONOEP. Some travel scholarships will be available to young investigators. For further information, contact Dr. Esper Cavalheiro, Escola Paulista de Medicina, Rua Botucato 740, CEP 04023-900, Sao Paulo, Brazil; or Dr. Claude Wasterlain, West Los Angeles VA Medical Center (127), 11301 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90073, U.S.A. Dr. Wasterlain's fax number is (818) 895-5801.

##### Neuropsychology Workshop Added to Buenos Aires World Congress

The Organizing Committee for the International Epilepsy Congress announces an additional workshop on "Neuropsychological Evaluation in Epilepsy: A Practical Course." The workshop is sponsored by the Neuropsychology Subcommittee of the ILAE's Commission on Diagnostic Strategies. The workshop will be held Sunday, May 13, 2001 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Retiro Room at the conference center. The faculty are all members of the Neuropsychology Subcommittee. Topics include: Effects of level of intelligence and AEDs on neuropsychological test performance; Assessment of language and perceptual deficits; Assessment of sensory and motor deficits; Assessment of executive ("frontal lobe") functions; Assessment of learning and memory deficits; Impact of epilepsy on mood, quality of life, and psychosocial status; Application of functional activation studies (PET, fMRI) to assessing focal cognitive functions; Pediatric and cross-cultural issues in epilepsy; and Role of the intracarotid amobarbital procedure in epilepsy surgery. For further information, see <http://www.pialaska.net/~elsensoh/Neuropsychology.html>

##### 24th International Epilepsy Congress

The 24th International Epilepsy Congress will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 13–18, 2001, hosted by the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE), the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE), the Argentine League Against Epilepsy (LACE) and the Argentine Bureau for Epilepsy. The XV International Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology will also

be meeting in Buenos Aires, May 16–20, 2001, and several joint programs have been arranged on the overlapping days. Plenary sessions will include the following main topics: neurobiology of human epilepsy tissue and relevant animal models, subtle manifestations of psychopathology in epilepsy, public health issues and prevention of epilepsy, comprehensive care in 2001, and epilepsy in the school years.

Other topics include pediatrics, genetics, status epilepticus, febrile seizures, economic aspects of epilepsy, pediatric epilepsy surgery, cortical malformations, long-term monitoring, and AED trial methodology.

For further information, visit the Congress website: <http://www.anajuan.com/epne>. The General Secretariat is Ana Juan Congressos. E-mail for general information requests: [epilepsy@anajuan.com](mailto:epilepsy@anajuan.com); E-mail to register or obtain registration information: [registration@anajuan.com](mailto:registration@anajuan.com); E-mail for abstract information: [scientific@anajuan.com](mailto:scientific@anajuan.com)

#### **Focus on Epilepsy VI: Treatment of Epileptic Syndromes—From Molecular Targets to Quality of Life**

“Focus on Epilepsy VI,” an international conference, will be held July 7–10, 2001, in Mont-Tremblant, Québec, Canada. The main theme of the conference is “Treatment of Epilepsy Syndromes.” Congress organizers are Dr. Massimo Avoli (McGill University, Canada), Dr. Michael Rogawski (National Institutes of Health, U.S.A.), Dr. Giuliano Avanzini (Istituto Neurologico “C. Besta”, Italy), and Dr. Claude Wasterlain (UCLA, U.S.A.). Further information may be obtained from the conference website, <http://www.total.net/~periplus/focus/>, or by contacting Periplus Convention Management, Tel: (514) 933-0502; Fax: (514) 933-4513; E-mail: [periplus@total.net](mailto:periplus@total.net)

#### **The Fifth Etnean Epilepsy Workshop**

The 5th Etnean Epilepsy workshop will be held on September 27–29, 2001, at the St. Thomas Convent in Linguaglossa on the slopes of Mt. Etna near Taormina, Sicily. The main themes of the workshop will be neuronal damage and neuroprotection in epilepsy, post-traumatic epilepsy, and sleep and epilepsy. The organizing committee invites free communications and posters. Preference will be given to those submissions that are relevant to the main themes. Deadlines for submission of ab-

stracts (250 words), which must be sent to the scientific secretary, is June 15, 2001. Registration fee is 200,000.00 Lire (US \$100). Medical students and trainees will be admitted free of charge. An independent scientific committee will select a poster for the Lombroso Award of one and a half million lire. For further information, contact the workshop’s secretary: Dr. Antonio Pavone, EEG, Epilepsy Unit, Neurology Department, Ospedale Garibaldi, 95100 Catania, Italy by mail, Fax: (39) 095-31-21-52, or E-mail: [hsepa@tin.it](mailto:hsepa@tin.it)

#### **Sixth Eilat Conference on New Antiepileptic Drugs (Eilat VI)**

The Sixth Eilat Conference on New Antiepileptic Drugs will be held April 7–11, 2002, at the Dan Hotel in Eilat, Israel. The conference program is designed to provide critical reviews and updated information about new antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) that are in different stages of development as well as to present progress reports on recent findings concerning marketed new Antiepileptic Drugs. Sessions to include: Dose-response relationships with conventional and recent AEDs, teratogenic effects of conventional and recent AEDs, prevention of epileptogenesis, AEDs and seizure aggravation, and update on clinical implications of AED metabolism. Free papers (posters) are welcome. The Organizing Committee includes M. Bialer, S. I. Johannessen, H. J. Kupferberg, R. H. Levy, P. Loiseau, and E. Perucca. For further information kindly contact the conference secretariat: Target Tours Ltd, Eilat VI, P.O. Box 29041, Tel Aviv 61290, Israel. Tel: +972 3 5175150; Fax: +972 3 5175155; E-mail: [eilatvi@targetconf.com](mailto:eilatvi@targetconf.com). Visit our website: [//www.eilatvi.co.il](http://www.eilatvi.co.il)

#### **9th International Child Neurology Congress**

The 9th International Child Neurology Congress will be held September 20–25, 2002 in Beijing, China. This will be the first international pediatric neurology congress in which the venue is China. A major theme of the Congress will be epilepsy. For further information, refer to the Congress’s website [www.cicst.org.cn/icne2002](http://www.cicst.org.cn/icne2002), or contact the Congress Secretary, Dr. Jiang Yu-Wu, Department of pediatrics, First Hospital, Beijing Medical University, Beijing 100034, P.R. China. E-mail: [icnc@public3.bta.net.cn](mailto:icnc@public3.bta.net.cn)