

EpigrapM

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY

ISSUE 2 2003

Editorial

Welcome to another issue of *EpigrapM*.

This issue's President's Message focuses on the forthcoming IEC meeting in Lisbon. Due to global events the venue has been changed from Tunis to Lisbon. However, the move does not alter in any way the ILAE's firm commitment to the developing world. We hope to see as many ILAE members at the meeting as possible. Lisbon is a beautiful city, with plenty to see and do. There is a feature on the Lisbon Conference on page 7.

On pages 2 & 3 we report on the awardees of the ILAE/IBE Ambassador for Epilepsy and Social Accomplishment Awards for 2003. Following feedback from the Chapters Convention in Madrid we have responded by starting a 'Country Focus' feature on pages 4, 5 & 6. This is an opportunity for Chapters to contribute information about initiatives taking place in their country. In this issue we have news from Brazil, Colombia, Hungary, Malta, Pakistan and Uruguay. I hope this will become a successful, regular feature and warmly welcome your contributions for the next issue due to be published early in 2004. The 'Bulletin Board' on page 8 also enables chapters to share information and news on epilepsy initiatives - this feature continues to be an important part of *EpigrapM* but contributions are intended to be briefer than those in the 'Country Focus.'

I am also pleased to report that the compilation of a central database of ILAE members, held at the ILAE headquarters in Brussels, is almost complete and we will soon have accurate contact details for all Chapters. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who has provided the Brussels office with updated information. The intention is that all of you will personally receive a copy of *EpigrapM* in the future. If that doesn't happen with this issue, I can assure you we are working on it!

This is the last issue of *EpigrapM* to be produced under the sponsorship of Janssen Cilag. I would like to thank Janssen-Cilag for their generous unrestricted sponsorship of *EpigrapM* over the last 8 years. Novartis, to whom we are very grateful, has agreed to sponsor *EpigrapM* and I look forward to it going from strength to strength under their sponsorship.

Finally, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Lisbon.

Ley Sander, Editor.

President's Message

Lisbon to confirm commitment to Africa

This issue of *EpigrapM* is published just ahead of the forthcoming 25th International Epilepsy Congress in Lisbon, Portugal – a 'milestone' meeting of the worldwide ILAE and IBE chapter members. This biennial event always provides an opportunity for exchanging experiences between people from countries that differ widely in culture, technological development and social structure.



In line with our mission of promoting a worldwide development of epileptology the International Epilepsy Congress always takes place in a different region of the world, to give everyone the opportunity to benefit from the positive outcomes of such a high quality convention. Also in support of this aim, a new 'ad hoc' office of the International Director of Meetings has been created. The role is supported by the ILAE and IBE who will provide help and support to the national Chapters responsible for taking on the challenge of organising such complex events.

PAINFUL DECISIONS

Originally the 25th International Epilepsy Congress had been committed to the Tunisian ILAE-IBE Chapters in recognition of the outstanding activity of the Tunisian Epileptological community and of the strategic priority of the African continent in the ILAE-IBE policy. The unfortunate turn of the international political situation prompted us to have to reconsider this decision when the organisation was already very advanced. You are all aware of the process that led us to take the painful decision to move the congress away from Tunis, taking the risk of frustrating the enthusiastic commitment of our Tunisian friends and the expectations of all the African Chapter members. Irrespective of our personal feelings on this matter we have to

honour the decision that was taken after an open discussion and in a democratic way that involved all the Chapters.

I know that everyone felt discomfort and sorrow for not being able to confirm the original destination and great appreciation for the tremendous efforts that Amel Mrabet and her colleagues had put in to organising the meeting up to this stage.

COMMITMENT TO AFRICA

To confirm the ILAE commitment to Africa, and to the developing world in general, a considerable amount of money has been budgeted to help delegates from developing countries to participate in the 25th International Epilepsy Congress. Thanks to these resources, the Convention of African delegates (originally planned for Tunis) will be able to take place in Lisbon, enabling the process of creating an ILAE African Regional Commission to start.

It was felt appropriate to convene delegates from all African Countries in a sort of 'Constituent Assembly' to discuss a commission structure appropriate to the special problems of the area and to promote the creation of new African Chapters. Thanks to the effective help of the WHO, I have been able to extend the invitation to many countries where an ILAE Chapter does not yet exist.

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President's Message *continued*

I fervently hope that the enthusiastic reaction I received when the Convention was planned for Tunis will not be lessened by the change of location and that the Convention will set in motion the process for establishing a Regional Commission for African Affairs which will complete the ILAE Regional Commission system. The other missing area; the so-called 'Eastern Mediterranean' region has already completed its constitution which will be ratified in Lisbon.

COMMITMENT/COLLABORATION

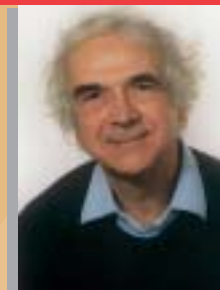
I would also like to warmly thank the Portuguese Chapter, the organising and scientific committees and the International Director of Meetings, Richard Holmes, for making it possible to re-arrange, what is expected to be, a very successful meeting in Lisbon. Thanks to their commitment and to the collaborative attitude of many distinguished colleagues, it has been possible to keep the planned structure of the meeting almost unchanged and to substitute the people who resigned from their positions in the original program. We will miss all of them, especially the original Congress President, Amel Mrabet and

the chair of the topic 'Transmissible Disease'; Saleh Al Deeb.

The program includes scientific and social sessions plus educational seminars (mainly organised by our educational agency, EUREPA) as well as a young investigator course organised by the Commission on Neurobiology. In addition, the ILAE and IBE commissions are making significant contributions by holding very interesting parallel sessions. An innovative decision has also been made to time all the business meetings before or after the Congress, so as to avoid any overlap with the scientific sessions.

I look forward to a very successful Congress and I sincerely hope that all of you will contribute to helping the ILAE overcome its recent difficulties and continue to be the most influential collective body of people engaged in alleviating the burden of epilepsy throughout the world.

Giuliano Avanzini,
President, ILAE



EUROPEAN EPILEPTOLOGY AWARD 2004

at the 6th European Congress on Epileptology, Vienna, Austria, 30th May- 3rd June 2004

The Commission on European Affairs (CEA) wishes to invite nominations for the European Epileptology Award 2004. The award will be presented to a European epileptologist in recognition of his or her outstanding contribution to European epileptology at a special symposium during the 6th European Congress on Epileptology in Vienna, Austria in 2004.

The CEA will contribute EUR10,000 to the award and a committee specially selected by the CEA will

judge the nominations and chose the recipient.

The nomination assessment committee will consist of the following members:

Christoph Baumgartner (Austria) – Chair, Scientific Advisory Committee, 6th ECE 2004

Svein Johannessen (Norway) – Chair, Commission on European Affairs

Emilio Perucca (Italy) – Secretary, Commission on European Affairs

Federico Vigevano (Italy) – Chair, European Advisory Council

Kristina Malmgren (Sweden) – Secretary, European Advisory Council

More details, including nomination procedures and forms are available on the congress website at www.epilepsyvienna2004.org. Nominations should be sent to vienna@epilepsycongress.org before the 30th of November 2003.

ILAE/IBE Ambassador for Epilepsy and Social Accomplishment Awards 2003

Every two years the ILAE/IBE selects amongst many nominations a number of people to be given the prestigious award- Ambassador for Epilepsy. In addition a social accomplishment award is also given. The awardees are people who have made important contributions to the international activities of the epilepsy community. Epigraph would like to congratulate all the awardees for their significant accomplishments.



Dr Athanasios Covanis

Dr Athanasios Covanis has been President of the Greek Association against Epilepsy for the past 8 years during which time he has built up the association to international level. In addition to promoting scientific and social aspects of epilepsy in Greece, he has also contributed internationally with lectures, papers and publications. In 1994 he created the Greek League against Epilepsy of which he has been President since mid-2002. He is a Vice-President of IBE and a member of the Scientific Advisory board of EUREPA. He was a member of the Organising Committee for the 7th European Epilepsy & Society Conference, Athens 2000 and the 7th Mediterranean Conference, Athens 2001.

Dr Zenebe Gedlie Damtie

Dr Zenebe Gedlie Damtie played a decisive role in the establishment of the first epilepsy clinic in Ethiopia and was a founder of the Epilepsy Support Association of Ethiopia (IBE Chapter). He was presented with an educational grant by the ILAE Commission on Education and Developing Countries, 1996 and was actively involved in several Global Campaign initiatives, including consultative meeting on the implementation of the campaign in Africa, 2001 and 2002. Dr Damtie was a member of the Organising Committee for the African Renaissance epilepsy conference in South Africa in 2002, is an editorial committee member of EPILEPSY, and a member of the IBE African Commission.



Dr Dragoslav Ercegovac

Dr Dragoslav Ercegovac, is Professor Emeritus of the Medical Faculty and Centre of Multidisciplinary Study of the University of Belgrade and President of the Ethical Committee of the Serbian Medical Association. He was granted the Fulbright-Hays Senior Research Award at the Eastern Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute for work in the field of electrophysiology, focusing on evoked response studies in psychiatric disorders. Dr Ercegovac is an active Member of the New York Academy of Sciences, Associate Clinical Member of the American Academy of Neurology, Yugoslav Delegate Member of the European Advisory Group of ILAE and author and co-author of 7 books and 152 scientific publications.

Mr Michael Glynn

Mr Michael Glynn, Chief Executive Officer of Brainwave - The Irish Epilepsy Association, a former member of the IBE Regional Association's Commission is currently Vice-Chair of the IBE European Committee Management Group. He is a very active member of the Joint Epilepsy Council of the UK and Ireland (JEC) and chairs its Awareness Action Group. He has worked to increase links between the JEC and the Nordic Group of IBE chapters. Mr Glynn was a speaker at the 23rd International Epilepsy Congress, Prague, and worked on the 22nd International Epilepsy Congress, Dublin. He was also involved in last three IBE Epilepsy & Society meetings in Bologna, Athens and Lloret de Mar.





Dr Renzo Guerrini

Dr Renzo Guerrini has, since the beginning of his academic career in 1987, been conducting research into the etiology, nosology and treatment of epilepsy. He has participated in the international task force for the classification of epilepsies and epileptic syndromes. Although most of his work and research time has been carried out in Italy, he has worked at the Centre Saint Paul in Marseilles, was Fellow/Professor at the California Comprehensive Epilepsy Program – UCLA, and spent time at the Montreal Neurologic Institute and at the Paediatric Neurology Dept, University of Barcelona. He was recently appointed Professor of Child Neuropsychiatry and Director of the Epilepsy and Neurogenetics Unit at the University of Pisa.



Dr Marshal Mo-Song Hsi

Dr Marshal Mo-Song Hsi is Associate Professor in the Dept of Neurology at Change Gung Memorial Hospital, Taipei. In 1992 he was founding President of the Taiwan Epilepsy Association (TEA) and is currently Honorary President. In 2000 he was elected Chair of the Asian & Oceanian Epilepsy Association (AOEA) and re-elected to the position in 2002. Dr Hsi is a Regional Sub-editor of the IE News and a Vice President of the IBE Executive Committee. He was a member of the Organising Committee for the Asian Oceanian congress in Taipei 1998 and continues to work to promote contact between epilepsy associations in the region.



Dr Vladimír Komárek

Dr Vladimír Komárek has been President of the Czech League Against Epilepsy since 1999. He is currently Associate Professor of the Second Medical School, Charles University, Prague and Head of the Department of Child Neurology, Motol Hospital, Prague. Dr Komárek is also Vice-President of the Czech Neuropediatric Society and a member of several other national neurological associations. He is a member of the Editorial Board of "Epileptic Disorders". Dr Komárek was Deputy Minister of Health Care in the Czech Republic between 1990 and 1991 and was Secretary General of the 23rd International Epilepsy Congress, which was held in his home city in 1999.



Dr Jeffrey Noebels

Dr Jeffrey Noebels, President of the American Epilepsy Society (AES), has served on several international committees over the past 25 years. In the United States Dr Noebels has been a member of the Epilepsy Foundation Professional Advisory Board and Director of its Gene Discovery Project. He has sat on the AES Childhood Onset Epilepsy Committee and was a chair of its Long Range Planning Committee. At international level he has been a member of the organising committees of several meetings including the 19th International Epilepsy Congress, Rio de Janeiro 1991; Workshop on Transgenic Models of Epilepsy, Venice 1996; 9th International Child Neurology Congress, Beijing 2002; and the 25th International Epilepsy Congress, Lisbon 2003.



Dr Günter Krämer

Dr Günter Krämer, Medical Director of the Swiss Epilepsy Centre, Zurich, since 1994, was involved in hosting the IBE/ILAE International Epilepsy Resource Centre at the centre. He is currently President of the Swiss League Against Epilepsy. Dr Krämer was a member of the IBE Commission on Driving Regulations and is currently a member of the ILAE Sub-commission on Therapeutic Guidelines. He was a founding member and first speaker of the EUREPA Scientific Advisory Board and is active on several international epilepsy groups, including the German-Austrian-Swiss Working Group on Epileptology and the Working Group on presurgical diagnostics and operative therapy of epilepsy of German speaking countries.



Dr Claude Wasterlain

Dr Claude Wasterlain is a Professor of Neurology at UCLA School of Medicine, California. He has been a Corresponding member of the ILAE German chapter since 1979, a member of the ILAE Commission on Neurobiology since 1989, and a member of the Royal Society of Medicine since 1991. He has been a Visiting Professor to several Universities both in Europe and Asia. Dr Wasterlain has participated regularly in regional and international meetings since 1980 including 12th World Congress on Neurology, Kyoto 1981; International Colloquium on Neonatal Seizures, Nancy 1987; WONOE, Brazil 1991; 19th International Epilepsy Congress, Rio de Janeiro 1991; and the 22nd International Epilepsy Congress, Dublin 1997.



Mrs Susanne Lund

Mrs Susanne Lund is Chief Executive Director of the IBE Swedish Chapter. A Member of the IBE Public Education Commission since 1997, she is its current Chair. In 2001 Mrs Lund was appointed to the IBE Executive Committee with special responsibility for Communications, and is editor of the IE News. She was involved in the establishment of the Nordic Epilepsy Committee, a grouping of national epilepsy associations in that region. Mrs Lund, who has a special interest in issues relating to epilepsy and safety in the home, was a speaker at the 23rd International Epilepsy Congress, Prague and organiser of a workshop at the Epilepsy & Society Conference, Helsinki 1996.



**ILAE/IBE
Social Accomplishment Awardee 2003****Dr Chin-Wan Lai**

Dr Chin-Wan Lai is an accomplished neurologist with a strong academic background, who has dedicated many years to the study of the social aspects of epilepsy. He has initiated programs of education and intervention to improve the quality of life for people with epilepsy and their families. Dr Lai was the William G Lennox International Visiting Professor, Henan Medical University, People's Republic of China 1988 and also a visiting Professor at the National Taiwan University in 1992. He received the Excellence in Care Award from the Epilepsy Foundation in Kansas in 1998. He is also active in the Taiwan Epilepsy Society as a member of its International Liaison Committee. He was a member of the IBE Community Care Commission 1997 – 2001 and has published widely on the psychological aspects of epilepsy including driving, attitude surveys, and stress.

Country Focus



Demonstration Project in Brazil

Li Li Min

The first phase of the National Demonstration Project in Epilepsy in Brazil, launched in September 2002, was an epidemiological survey conducted to assess the prevalence of active epilepsy, treatment gap and quality of health delivery in two sites of approximately 100,000 inhabitants.

A consortium between the Brazilian Chapter of ILAE, the Brazilian Chapter of IBE and Project ASPE (executor of the Brazilian Demonstration Project) was created under the name 'Task Force' to study strategies to expand the Campaign Against Epilepsy, nationwide. The Task Force is coordinated by Americo Sakamoto, (President of the Brazilian Chapter of the ILAE), and its membership includes Marly de Alburquerque, (President of the Brazilian

Chapter of the IBE), Carlos Silvado, (Past-President of the Brazilian Chapter of the ILAE) and Li Li Min (Co-ordinator of the Demonstration Project in Brazil). It has prepared a plan for the training of health professionals in the management of people with epilepsy in the primary health system.

The program will start in the second semester of 2003 in cities within the local Brazilian-ILAE Chapter and is expected to be part of the permanent program of regular ILAE activities. The Task Force is considering other activities within the framework of the Manifesto of Campinas - one of which is co-operation with the Government on a policy for free distribution of anti-epileptic drugs (Carbamazepine, Phenytoin, Phenobarbital and Valproic Acid).



Colombia Active against Neurocysticercosis

Jaime Fandiño Franky

We estimate that a high proportion of epilepsy in Colombia is due to neurocysticercosis, although so far there are no reliable published statistics. In developing countries the governments have no clear and effective policies for fighting widespread diseases in the community. We have knocked on many doors in our country and abroad in an effort to start a campaign against neurocysticercosis - without success. We always get the same response - no funds!

The great majority of patients attending a consultation for neurocysticercosis in the Colombian League against Epilepsy come from the lower social strata. We found that since few families have a toilet, faeces are thrown outside where animals swallow them and the proglotids release thousands of eggs, contaminating the water and allowing flies to spread disease further. This sewage runs in front of the houses where children play and the same problem affects both cities and rural areas. Of course, the answer is to teach people to build latrines.

However, this is a very big problem. Patients who have been treated for neurocysticercosis are the best leaders in the fight against the disease in their communities. So all patients, during their medical consultation are gently and tactfully trained in three fundamental aspects: knowledge of the parasite's cycle; how to tell their community about their own problem; and how to persuade their neighbours to build a latrine in a weekend and to adopt basic hygiene. (Tête-à-tête campaign).

In our area, we hope that people now understand the problem and we urge local authorities to help. We believe that in reasonable time and without any expense, we will be able to make a considerable reduction in the incidences of this grave illness. We invite other countries in the developing world to adopt this simple but useful campaign.



Comprehensive care in Hungary

Judit Jerney and Péter Rajna

The ILAE was, in fact, founded on 30th August 1909 in Budapest, the capital of Hungary with the help of the Hungarian Epilepsy League (HEL). However, the two World Wars and the political privations of the 'iron-curtain' however, prevented HEL from maintaining its key 'founding' position. Then, in 1989, HEL renewed its membership of the ILAE. One of our first tasks was to set up the National Organisation of People with Epilepsy (NOPE – led by V. Sitku) and to obtain registration with the IBE. Over the last fourteen years, we have made great strides forward in the organisation of an institutional network accredited for the high-quality care of epileptic patients and there are now eight epilepsy centres and 76 epilepsy out-patient clinics that meet with HEL standards. As you will read, we are making real progress with our comprehensive Epilepsy Centre.

In the last two years we have also set up the criteria for a two-step personal accreditation scheme, currently used only as an internal qualification suitable for special tasks like medical evaluation, but we want to develop our system into an official medical qualification.

HEL has assumed responsibility for the education of the physicians and staff dealing with epileptic patients. We organise working conferences every year which provide a regular informal meeting of Hungarian experts. Last year our conference was accepted as a course of EUREPA. In the last four years new courses like Epilepsy Academy and Good Epilepsy Practice have been started, involving larger numbers of physicians in discussion about the routine care of epilepsy. These events are also accredited as part of postgraduate education obligatory for neurologists and psychiatrists (CME).

We recognised that the Board of HEL would not be able to deal with all strategic problems. Therefore, we divided the work between seven commissions: Accrediting, Child, Educational, Event/Publication, Financial, Inter-professional, Scientific and Social/Rehabilitation, each with a one year working plan, reporting and evaluating annually.

In 2002 we had our 6th National Epilepsy Congress and this event now takes place every two years.

The first comprehensive epilepsy centre in Hungary

Since the eighties, the development of a comprehensive epilepsy centre has gradually taken shape within the National Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology (OPNI). The centre has the support of the Bethel Epilepsy Centre (Bielefeld, Germany) within the framework of the Budapest-Bethel Epilepsy Centre Foundation.

Currently we have an inpatient department of up to 20 beds used for either diagnostic work or for analysis/assessment and treatment of crisis/critical situations and an outpatient department where chronic care is provided for patients referred from neurologists throughout the country. The outpatient department works as a gate for the inpatient department and vice versa.

The most recent development of the centre is Valentine House - the epilepsy rehabilitation unit. It has a special standing: it is a part of the centre, but its functions are partly covered through co-operation with the Budapest-Bethel Epilepsy Centre Foundation, many of its projects are sponsored and some activities are led or organised by volunteers. We make use of a wide and varied range of rehabilitation methods and we like to call it an independent living centre, because that is our main aim – to help people living with epilepsy reach an independent, fulfilling life.

The centre has an increasingly wide ranging educational and research role. Pre-specialisation courses are offered for neurologists at postgraduate level, and the centre also offers special courses in epilepsy management; an "epilepsy nursing" program is due to start soon. It is fair to say that the centre has made, and is making, an important contribution to establishing the international high standard of epileptology in Hungary.



Malta: Children, Epilepsy and Education

Janet Mifsud

In the last few years many advances in the medical treatment of epilepsy in children have allowed them to become functioning and integrated members of the community. Yet stigma and discrimination still lead to social and educational exclusion. As a result, this year, the Epilepsy Society of Malta, affiliated to the ILAE, in conjunction with the Caritas Malta Epilepsy Association, associated to the IBE, decided to focus their joint national conference in February 2003 on various aspects of childhood epilepsy: educational and interdisciplinary issues, medical and psychological perspectives, and the lobbying of policy makers.

This Conference, our contribution to the Malta National Commission for Persons with a Disability (KNPD) program for the European Year for Persons with Disabilities 2003, consisted of a number of talks by guest (foreign and local) speakers, and interactive workshops. It was also part of the ongoing WHO/ILAE/IBE global campaign (Epilepsy Out Of The Shadows) and

EUCARE (European White Paper on Epilepsy) both of which aim to increase social awareness of, and education on, epilepsy.

The event was held under the patronage of the The President of Malta, Prof. Guido de Marco and Mons. Dun Victor Grech, Director of Caritas Malta, and over 300 people with a variety of backgrounds attended from all over the island, including medical and health care professionals, students, educational, social service agency and local council employees. Mr. John Bowis M.E.P and ex British Health Minister gave the keynote speech - "From government to global campaign".

The University of Malta, UNESCO Maltese National Commission, National Commission for Persons with Disability, Caritas Malta, Air Malta, Maltacom, British Council, EUCARE, Vivian Healthcare, UCB, Janseen Cilag, ProHealth and Pharmacia kindly sponsored the event. The full text of the talks may be downloaded from www.caritasmalta.org.



Pakistan celebrates first Epilepsy Day

Hasan Aziz

Epilepsy Day was celebrated in Karachi on 2nd March, 2003, for the first time in Pakistan, two years after the Comprehensive Epilepsy Control Programme of Pakistan (CECP) was launched. A group of about 750 people - public opinion leaders, school teachers, school children and people with epilepsy - gathered to celebrate and Epilepsy Day received excellent media coverage.

A ground-breaking ceremony heralding the construction of the National Epilepsy Centre of Pakistan added to the historical significance of this first Epilepsy Day. The National Epilepsy Centre, the first in the country, is to be built and equipped by an NGO. A noted philanthropic family of Karachi has already pledged total funding for a state-of-the-art facility in a purpose-built three-storey building. It will house outpatients' clinics, routine EEGs, specialised services (video-monitoring, sleep-laboratory), medical-electronics workshop, seminar halls, central secretariat for CECP and provisions for an MRI machine (to be installed later).

The event was publicised through the media, posters and the distribution of handbills and by banners on public buses, which run throughout the city. CECP volunteers (medical and otherwise) wore red T-shirt bearing a logo of the Global

Campaign Against Epilepsy and a message 'Epilepsy is treatable'.

At the ceremony and inaugural session eminent speakers from all walks of life spoke about the importance of public education and mass awareness of epilepsy. They all appreciated the efforts of the CECP. Speakers included Prof C T Tan, Chairman ILAE Commission on Asia and Oceania, Prof. Hasan Aziz, Director CECP and Mr Abdul Sattar Edhi, internationally renowned for his social work, who declared that he himself suffered from epilepsy; his declaration will indeed be a boost to the campaign to bring 'epilepsy - out of the shadows' in Pakistan.

About 400 people with epilepsy were given medical advice and counselling at free epilepsy clinics. An epilepsy awareness workshop was held for eighty school teachers who enthusiastically participated in question and answer sessions and there was a drawing contest for school children with the theme 'Healthy brain, Successful life'.

Celebrating Epilepsy Day of Pakistan has been extremely valuable. It has helped in spreading information about epilepsy all over Pakistan and especially in Karachi, which accounts for 10% of the country's population.



Surgery Outreach - pilot project in Uruguay

Peter D. Williamson

During the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) meeting in Buenos Aires in April 2001, I met Dr. Alejandro Scaramelli, President of the Uruguayan chapter of the ILAE, to discuss help for an epilepsy surgery program in Montevideo. After the ILAE meeting, I went to Montevideo to meet neurologists and their team, including the interested neurosurgeons.

They presented several potential surgical candidates to me and were clearly both knowledgeable and had selected good candidates for epilepsy surgery.

In September 2001, Mark Natola, the chief EEG technician from the Dartmouth Epilepsy Program, and I went to Montevideo to establish a video/EEG monitoring program. We helped to assemble the equipment and taught the EEG technicians to use the Colodion electrode application. By the end of the second day, the first two patients were being monitored. We were ultimately able to identify twelve good surgical candidates and in the ten days of monitoring, we were able to evaluate nine of them. At the same time, the technicians and physicians were taught to use the equipment and the techniques for data review and archiving at the workstation.

The events of 11th September 2001 delayed our return in November. I ultimately returned in April 2002 with Dr. David Roberts, the chair of neurosurgery at Dartmouth and the surgical director of the Dartmouth Epilepsy Program, to help the neurosurgeons operating on previously identified patients. Some additional patients were presented to me with their

MRIs and EEGs and this group of patients included both straightforward cases and some potentially very difficult surgical cases. In the twelve months following surgery, these five patients have all been seizure free. More patients have subsequently undergone surgery.

In August of 2002, Dr. Daniel Ciblis, clinical neurophysiologist from Montevideo and director of their EEG lab, came to Grass-Telefactor in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, where he helped to assemble and checkout a new Millennium video monitoring unit. He returned to Montevideo with this monitoring unit, which, coupled with the work review station donated by Grass-Telefactor, form the nucleus of a state-of-the-art video monitoring system. This constitutes the beginning of what promises to be a successful epilepsy surgery program with both diagnostic and surgical capabilities.

Any parties interested in pursuing a similar course of collaboration should contact:

Peter D. Williamson, M.D, Director of the Dartmouth Epilepsy Program, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Centre, Lebanon, New Hampshire.

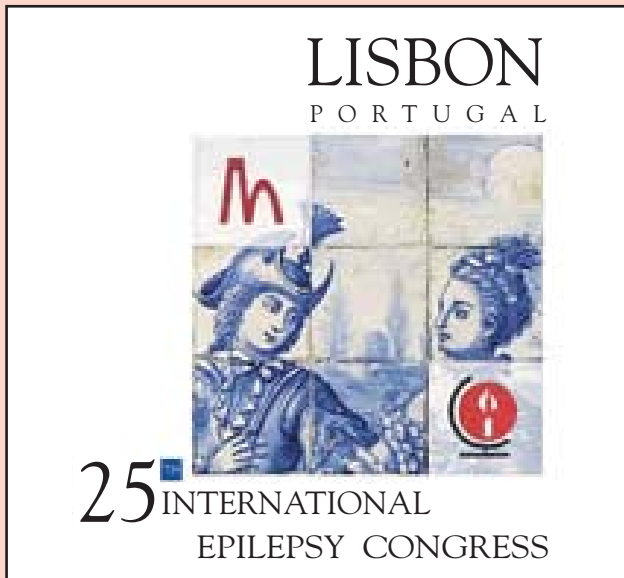
Tel: 603-653-1878 Fax: 603-653-1883.

Email: Peter.D.Williamson@Hitchcock.org

Williamson PD and Jobst BC. Epilepsy surgery in developing countries. *Epilepsia* 41 (Suppl. 4):S45-S50, 2000.

25th International Epilepsy Congress

Lisbon, Portugal
12th – 16th October 2003



Lisbon, the capital city of Portugal played host to the 2nd International Epilepsy Congress back in 1953. 2003 will see the International Epilepsy community return to the city for the upcoming meeting in October. Plans are now progressing rapidly for the Congress. The scientific programme is now in place and registration numbers indicate that this will be a very well attended meeting in a popular and culturally fascinating destination. Delegates from over 80 countries are expected to attend the congress, and speakers from more than 30 countries will be represented in the main scientific programme.

Congress Programme

Topics discussed, debated and presented at the congress will encompass a broad range of schools of thinking related to epileptology, and will focus on both medical and social aspects. The main scientific program will comprise seven Main Topics focusing on both medical and social subject areas:

- Epilepsy Surgery in Children
- Status Epilepticus and its Consequences
- Epilepsy Research in the Post-Genomic Era
- The Treatment Gap
- Epilepsy Problems in Learning and Behaviour
- Transmissible Diseases
- Quality of Life for Children with Epilepsy

The Scientific Advisory Committee has tried to ensure a varied and international programme for the 25th International Epilepsy Congress. Along with the main scientific programme, there will be **Workshops** on specialist subjects on certain days, as well as **Educational Breakfast Sessions**.

Three skills workshops organised by the ILAE Diagnostic Methods Commission will be conducted on Saturday, October 11th on Neurophysiology in Epilepsy, Neuroimaging in Epilepsy and Neuropsychology in Epilepsy. Two Europa Breakfast Sessions will take place on Monday 13th, Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th October. These sessions can be booked via the congress website.

The congress will open with a **Presidential Symposium**, a new feature within the International Epilepsy Congress programme format. This Symposium will take place on Sunday, October 12th before the Opening Ceremony and will examine the possibilities presented by recent genetic studies in different epilepsies and propose some visions of future perspectives from the points of view of both science and ethics.

The Programme for the Lisbon congress will be
www.epilepsylisbon2003.org

Lisbon, Portugal – Host Destination

Portugal is situated where the Atlantic meets the European continent and is a small country of astonishing beauty and diversity. Between the sun-drenched beaches of the south and the 2000m high mountain ranges of the north, you will find deep green valleys and vast fields crossed by majestic rivers like the Tagus. Lisbon, our host city promises to make for an excellent venue for this prestigious congress. It is the only European capital with long sandy beaches, the Atlantic Ocean, and international resort and several world-class golf courses, all within 20kms from the city centre.

Ever since Portugal's brave seafarers discovered new worlds, it has been open to influences on its language, culture, gastronomy and people, and the country has a long-standing tradition for welcoming visitors from near and far.

Lisbon, founded by the Phoenicians, largely styled by the Moors and enriched by the spice trade in the golden age of its empire, has always been a veritable Aladdin's cave for those in search of new discoveries. Lisbon is a historic capital, full of unusual character and charm where 800 years of various cultural influences mingle with modern trends and lifestyles, creating surprising and spectacular contrasts.

The city offers a host of fascinating and culturally enthralling attractions and areas of interest. These include: The Alfama Hill, the oldest part of the city, crowned by St. Jorge's Castle with the best view over the city, The Baixa – the very heart of Lisbon, with shopping area, hotels and Avenues and the Bairro Alto Hill with its boutiques, restaurants and night spots

To the west is Belem, home to the Royal Coach Museum, Jeronimus monastery and the Lisbon symbol, the Torre de Belem (Belem Tower).

To the northeast lies the "new" city, Nations Park, which was built for the World EXPO'98. This district comprises an ultra modern residential area and the fantastic Oceanario.

Further Information

All information regarding the congress can be accessed directly at www.epilepsylisbon2003.org or via the congress portal website at www.epilepsycongress.org.

Updates on the scientific programme and details relating to all workshops and breakfast seminars are available on the website. Registration and accommodation reservation for the congress is also available on-line together with all pre and post tour information.

Any other queries can be directed to:

ILAE/IBE Congress Secretariat at:

16 Mountdown Road, Walkinstown, Dublin 12, Ireland

Phone: +353 1 409 7796, Fax: +353 1 429 1290

Web: www.epilepsylisbon2003.org, E-mail: info@epilepsycongress.org

Bulletin Board

News from correspondents ...

NORWAY



There are currently 283 members in the Norwegian Chapter of ILAE. The wide variation of professions among the members reflects the multidisciplinary nature of epileptology. In 2003 Leif Gjerstad at The National Hospital in Oslo was elected as the new President.

The Chapter organises two meetings per year, the next in Molde in September will be a two-day meeting and hopes to attract up to 120 attendees. There will also be a one-day meeting in November in Oslo which will include lectures and plenary discussions.

More attention is likely to be focused on epilepsy in Norway when a book in the Norwegian language, "Focus on Epilepsy" will be published later in the year.

Karl O. Nakken

SENEGAL



Our Senegalese representative reports on the success of two recent Epilepsy awareness initiatives in this important area of West Africa;

The Senegalese League against Epilepsy organised a march in the city of Pikine, a suburb of Dakar in February. The march attracted about 500 people with and without epilepsy, families and medical staff. The Head Medical Officer of the Bureau of the SLAE, and the Director of the Board of the University Hospital of Dakar were among the participants.

In March some 200 people staged a similar event - but on bicycles! The 35km ride - the first event of its kind in Africa took to the streets of Dakar, ending at the Hospital of Fann. The event was overseen by the First Councillor of the Minister of Health and members of his staff.

Gallo Diop

SWITZERLAND



In March 2003, the Swiss chapter of the ILAE released the first issue of its new journal *Epileptologie* which replaces the former *Epilepsie*. *Epileptologie* will be a 48 page publication and will be published three times a year. Articles will inform readers about new developments in epilepsy research and therapy related to a special topic each issue. The Swiss chapter of the ILAE is also offering a prize for the best dissertation of the year in medicine, neuropsychology or other fields related to the subject of epilepsy. A second prize is offered for special efforts in epilepsy research. The annual meeting of the Swiss chapter took place in Berlin in April and was organised together with the German and the Austrian chapters of ILAE.

Margret Becker

TURKEY



On 31st January 2003 the general assembly of the Turkish Epilepsy Society was held and the members of the executive committee were elected.

The work of compiling the database - Epibase has been presented to the 23rd IEC in Prague. Every two months 37 epileptologists and neurologists from 21 centres in 17 cities join the Epibase meeting. The subject of this year's project is classifications. Relying on the data gathered will enable further evaluation to be made, to find out which classifications are appropriate for certain types of epilepsy. It was decided that the classifications to be used in daily practice would be discussed at 'Epilepsy Days' and that the patient/school practice carried out annually at Epilepsy Days, would be repeated with different topics throughout the year.

Candan Gürses

Diary Dates

25th International Epilepsy Congress (ILAE/IBE)
Lisbon, Portugal - 12th - 16th October 2003
www.epilepsylisbon2003.org

9th European Congress on Epilepsy and Society (IBE), Malta - 18th - 20th March 2004
www.epilepsyandsociety.org

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE - PLEASE NOTE
6th European Congress on Epileptology (ILAE)
Vienna, Austria - 30th May - 3rd June 2004
www.epilepsyvienna2004.org

5th Asian & Oceania Epilepsy Congress (IBE/ILAE)
Bangkok, Thailand - 28th - 31st August 2004
WEBSITE TO GO LIVE SOON
for updates see www.epilepsycongress.org

3rd Latin American Epilepsy Congress (ILAE/IBE)
Mexico City - October 2004
www.epilepsiamexico2004.org

All congress details and updates can also be accessed through the general epilepsy web portal at www.epilepsycongress.org. Alternatively, you may also contact the congress secretariat directly with questions relating to any of the above congresses.

We look forward to seeing you!

ILAE/IBE Congress Team

16 Mountdown Road, Walkinstown,
Dublin 12, Ireland.

Phone: +353 1 409 7796 Fax: +353 1 429 1290
Web: www.epilepsylisbon2003.org
email: info@epilepsycongress.org

Please find below information regarding forthcoming major international and regional epilepsy meetings.

Epilepsy Society of Australia 18th Annual Scientific Meeting, Auckland, New Zealand, 12-14th November 2003

International speakers are Prof Warren Blume (Canada) & Prof Olivier Dulac (France). Invited International guests are Prof CT Tan (Chairman ILAE Commission on Asian and Oceania Affairs) and the President of 5th AOEC(2004) Dr. Pongsakdi Visudhiphan.

The meeting will be preceded by a two day trainee course on EEG (10-11 Nov) and followed on 14-15 Nov by the New Zealand Neurological Society meeting.

Contact names are Jeanette Stanton & Sally Bary.
Tel: +64 7838 1098 Fax: +64 7838 1097
email: conference@fmp.co.nz

International Geriatric Epilepsy Symposium
Coral Gables, Florida, USA, 12-14 September 2003

This symposium is aimed at an international audience. Abstracts are being accepted from 1st August 2003 and travel awards will be available for Junior Investigators. (Fellows, instructors, PhD, candidates and assistant professors may apply.)

For more information please visit: www.iges2003.com

2003 International EEG Course
Postgraduate Institute of Medical Educational & Research, Chandigarh, India, 10-11 December 2003.

Course Directors: Hans O. Lüders and Imad Najm, Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, USA.
Course Organisers: Sudesh Prabhakar and Gagandeep Singh. Contact: Sudesh Prabhakar, Department of Neurology, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, 161001, India.
Tel: +91 172 2744568 Fax: +91 172 2744401
email: sudesh@prabhakars.com



57th Annual Meeting of the American Epilepsy Society

December 5-10, 2003

Hynes
Convention Center
Boston, MA



The AES meeting consists of lectures, courses, poster and platform presentations, educational symposia, commercial exhibits and scientific exhibitions. This meeting offers members and non-members a forum for communicating and disseminating current findings in the field of epilepsy, and is an excellent opportunity for networking and sharing of ideas.

The meeting is designed for the academic and practicing neurologist, neurophysiologist, epileptologist, neuroscientist, neurosurgeon, internist, pediatrician, pharmacist, nurse, social worker, and other allied health professionals.

Over 900 poster and platform presentations, lectures, educational symposia, scientific exhibitions and commercial exhibits are offered.

The conference brochure, with comprehensive conference and hotel registration information and a schedule of programs and events will be mailed to AES members in July. Meeting and hotel reservation information will also be available on the AES web site at www.aesnet.org or the AES office:

Phone: +1 860 586-7505
E-mail: info@aesnet.org
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Fax-on-Demand: (860) 586-7575

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Epigraph is sponsored by an uninstructed grant from Janssen-Cilag Ltd. Designed and printed in the United Kingdom by Burleigh, Bristol BS2 0YA.