

EpigrapM

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY

ISSUE 2 2001

President's Message

Our Positive Answer

"As members of the international epileptologic community, we are all looking forward to seeing a world in which no person's life is limited by epilepsy; as members of mankind, our dream is to contribute towards building a world in which human relationships are based on mutual respect and solidarity, and where there will be no place for violence - the most depraved and stupid perversion of the human soul."

These words that I originally addressed on behalf of the ILAE to the US ILAE chapter (the AES) under the influence of the emotion generated by the tragic events of September 11th still express my feelings in the face of the harmful chain of consequences that have been inevitably set in motion. Let us in the ILAE be an example of how a strong humanitarian commitment can overcome political divisions and cultural and economic differences. As the ILAE has expanded to reach more than 80 member chapters throughout the world, we have been increasingly confronted with the problem of the treatment gap between developed and developing countries. The present executive committee is firmly committed to pursuing the initiatives undertaken by the previous executive committee in order to spread the benefits of ILAE activities to all parts of the world. One important step towards this objective is the ongoing restructuring of the Regional Commissions with the assistance of the ad hoc task force, chaired by the 2nd Vice-president Martin Brodie, and including Yoshiaki Mayanagi and Peter Wolf, who has been made responsible for ILAE educational programmes. The Regional Commissions will help the ILAE adapt its policy to special Regional requirements.

Impulse

A great impulse has been given to identifying and meeting the needs of different parts of the world by the Global Campaign launched by Ted Reynolds, and developed in collaboration with the IBE and the WHO.

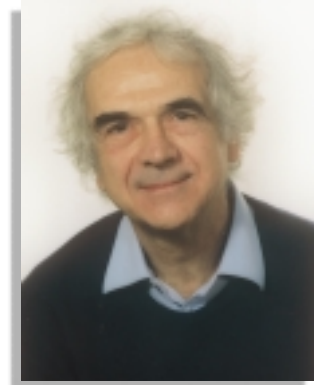
Further achievements are expected thanks to the extraordinary creativity of the ILAE past president Jerome Engel Jr., who took over as

chairman for the ILAE and is collaborating with Hanneke deBoer of the IBE and Leonid Prilipko of the WHO.

Another important turning point will be reached at the end of 2001, when Timothy Pedley will hand over the editorship of *Epilepsia* to Robert Fisher, whose previous experience as the editor of *Epilepsia Supplement* offers the best premise for maintaining the journal's existing high standards. One important editorial development is the launching of national editions of *Epilepsia Digest*, which will make the most important scientific results available to people of different cultures beyond linguistic barriers. This project was made possible thanks to the sensitivity and organisation of the new publisher Blackwell Science, Inc.

Developing world

Another expression of the ILAE's attention towards the developing world is the allocation of the next International Epilepsy Congress (October 2003) - the most important joint ILAE-IBE scientific initiative - to the Tunisian chapter chaired by Amel Mrabet. One of the factors behind this decision was the fact that Tunisia can be considered a gateway to the African continent. An important resource for the original contributions of the ILAE to the advancement of our discipline is provided by the Commission system, the restructuring of which has now been completed with the commitment to produce guidelines that are suitable for economically disadvantaged countries. Furthermore, the ad hoc Task Force chaired by Jerome Engel, Jr. is currently revising the ILAE classification of seizures and epilepsies. The achievements of the ILAE have been greatly enhanced by the effective interaction between the Chapters and the Secretary General's office, which is



Giuliano Avanzini

expected to be further potentiated by the establishment of a new office at ILAE headquarters to support the activities of the new Secretary General Natalio Fejerman and the other ILAE officers. Furthermore, our previous ILAE executives succeeded in improving our communications system by creating the position of an information officer to facilitate the activities of the IBE/ILAE International Resource Centre in Zurich, and design and edit an ILAE newsletter, Epigraph, which was started by Simon Shorvon and is now edited by Ley Sander, has rapidly become a formidable means of information that reaches people in an attractive full-colour print. The ILAE website has been set up and will be further developed under the supervision of an ad hoc Task Force chaired by Simon Shorvon, who has been re-appointed as information officer, and includes Tim Pedley and Philip Lee. It is intended to become a privileged channel for two-way communications with Chapters and individuals throughout the world that will substantially contribute towards orienting ILAE actions. We can be proud of the outstanding scientific and humanitarian achievements attained by our society during its almost one hundred years of history, and confident in our ability to face future challenges.

Common efforts

May our common efforts to improve the lives of the millions of people suffering from epilepsy be our positive answer to the current threats looming over the human community.

Giuliano Avanzini, ILAE President

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Editorial

Welcome to the first *Epigraph* under a new management! Giuliano Avanzini and the new Executive Committee have taken hold of the reins of the League and for the next four years will endeavour to keep it thriving. On this page we feature the new elected Executive Committee, the first of the 21st Century and we highlight their aims and aspirations for their 4 year term in office. The *Epigraph* team would like to take this opportunity of wishing them luck in their challenging positions. We feature Giuliano Avanzini's first Presidential address on page 1.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing our heartfelt thanks to Simon Shorvon who originally established *Epigraph* and guided it to its present success as a major channel of communication for the League. Simon was the original Editor of *Epigraph* and for a period we were co-editors- I shall miss his indomitable spirit.

Simon Shorvon's sterling work with the League however continues where he remains as Information Officer; Simon's new remit will be in developing the web facilities of the ILAE which will form the keystone of the League's communication channel with the Chapters and wide membership. Page 5 of this issue shows you just far things have developed in this regard.

Also included in this issue Torbjörn Tomson writes about the development of the European Pregnancy Register. This I hope you will agree is an impressive initiative and a most important one too.

Unfortunately, we have found that almost a third of direct contact details which we hold for the mailing of *Epigraph* are incorrect. This as you can imagine is highly wasteful and onerous on the League. We have therefore taken the decision to temporarily suspend mailing out *Epigraph* to individual members of the ILAE, until this issue has been rectified. There will however be copies of *Epigraph* available at major conferences and in addition we are planning to send a certain number to all Chapter headquarters.

The future of *Epigraph* in its current form is presently under discussion. With the development of the ILAE website, there is now debate as to whether *Epigraph* should be available both as a hard copy and on electronic form, only electronically or remain as a hard copy only. We of course value your input and would gladly like to hear what you think on this issue. In addition, is there anything you would like to see included in *Epigraph* which is not already, or likewise is there anything included which you feel should not be? Can I ask you to direct your comments to Juliet Solomon, Assistant Editor of *Epigraph*, whose contact details you can find on the back cover of this issue. It is vital that you, the reader feed back your views to us. *Epigraph* needs to contain what you want, not what we think you might want.

Ley Sander, Editor, Epigraph

New Executive Committee

Secretary-General

NATALIO FEJERMAN



"Besides the general and logical responsibilities as a member of the Executive Committee of the ILAE I would like to improve communication with all the chapters and with colleagues interested in Epilepsy throughout the world, even in countries where they still do not have a chapter."

Prof. Natalio Fejerman, Servicio de Neurologia, Hospital de Pediatria "Prof. Juan P. Garrahan", Combate de los Pozos 1881, 1245 Buenos Aires / Argentina.

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Treasurer

LEY SANDER



"Having worked with the ILAE for a number of years I would now like to further develop epilepsy services particularly in developing countries. I will also do my best with other members of the Executive Committee to enhance the financial standing of the ILAE, allowing us to be more flexible in the future with the development of the epilepsy agenda globally."

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1st Vice-President

FREDERICK ANDEMANN



Prof Andemann is a renowned epileptologist, with longstanding service to the cause of epilepsy worldwide. He has travelled extensively and is well known within the epilepsy community.

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2nd Vice-President

MARTIN J. BRODIE



"I'm honoured to have been elected onto the Executive Committee of the International League Against Epilepsy. For the last eight years I have been heavily involved in developing the European epilepsy programme. "I'm looking forward now to providing a more international contribution to our burgeoning agenda. Epilepsy is undoubtedly a condition whose time has come!"

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EURAP

An International Antiepileptic Drugs and Pregnancy Registry

Reproductive health is one of the most important issues for women with epilepsy. The major concern is that while treatment in most cases is necessary during pregnancy in order to reduce foetal and maternal risks caused by uncontrolled seizures, antiepileptic drugs are known to be teratogenic. The crucial question is of all available antiepileptic drugs, which is the safest and most appropriate for an individual woman with epilepsy, and how should this drug best be used. These are questions that are addressed by EURAP, an International Antiepileptic Drugs and Pregnancy Registry.

Numerous previous studies have demonstrated that the use of antiepileptic drugs during pregnancy is associated with a two to three fold increase in the risk of major malformations in the offspring. However, although there may be drug specificity with respect to different types of malformations, the available information is insufficient for a comparison of overall teratogenic potential of different antiepileptic drugs. The teratogenic potential of new generation drugs is even less known. The major reason is inadequate sample sizes and other methodological shortcomings. Hence at present, we lack the necessary data for a rational approach to antiepileptic drug treatment in women of childbearing potential.

Initiatives

These important issues are best addressed in prospective studies of large cohorts with thousands of exposed, and this requires extensive collaboration. Initiatives to establish such antiepileptic drugs and pregnancy registries have been taken by pharmaceutical companies, for their own product, and by independent research groups in different parts of the world. EURAP was set up originally in Europe. Following a workshop at the International Epilepsy Congress in Prague in 1999, similar registries in Australia, India and the UK decided to join EURAP to form an International Antiepileptic Drugs and Pregnancy Registry. At present, representatives from 25 countries in Europe, Asia and Oceania have agreed to participate in this collaboration and EURAP is now open to participants from any country able to comply with the study protocol.

EURAP is a prospective observational study, which does not interfere with the treatment prescribed by the patients' physician. Women

taking antiepileptic drugs for any indication at the time of conception are eligible for inclusion, if they are willing to provide informed consent. To avoid selection bias, only pregnancies registered before foetal outcome is known and always within the 16th week of gestation contribute to the prospective assessment. Retrospective cases are also collected as they may provide signals, but are not included in the evaluation of comparative risk. Information on patients' demographics, underlying disease, seizure frequency, family history of epilepsy and malformations, drug therapy and several other risk factors is obtained. Follow up data are collected once each trimester, at birth and at one year after delivery.

The data entered in the registry are part of the information that should be available during good medical care, and the study does not entail any special evaluation procedure or extra visits.

Feedback

The patients' physician is responsible for inclusion of the patient and for the prospective collection of data and for reporting to the national co-ordinator of the participating country. The national co-ordinators are responsible for checking the accuracy of the reports and thereafter transfer data to EURAP's central database in Milan, Italy. Data may be collected online, which allows a rapid feedback between reporting physicians, national co-ordinators and the central registry. Foetal outcome is recorded descriptively and a central committee makes classification of malformations unaware of the type of drug exposure.

Objective

The primary objective of EURAP is to compare different antiepileptic drugs with respect to their potential to cause major

congenital malformations. However, extension protocols are also being developed for pharmacokinetic evaluation of new antiepileptic drugs and for assessment of long-term postnatal psychomotor development in the exposed children.

EURAP was initiated and is organised by independent researchers in a Central Project Commission. However, the registry receives administrative and scientific support from the European Epilepsy Academy (Eurepa), and is thus linked to the ILAE. Those who are interested in contributing to this effort are welcome to contact Torbjörn Tomson or Dina Battino, the central study co-ordinator, or their national co-ordinator for further information. A list of national co-ordinators and their contact details is available at the Eurepa website (<http://www.eurepa.de>).

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ATTENTION ALL YOUNG
TRAINEE EPILEPTOLOGISTS

European Association of Young Neurologists and Trainees

The European Association of Young Neurologists and Trainees (YNT) was founded in 1999 during the EFNS Congress in Lisbon as an international, non-governmental organisation, independent and non-profit-making, to represent all neurology trainees and neurologists aged under 35.

The aims of the YNT are:

- To promote clinical exchange
- To improve education and access to research
- To provide an information service
- To encourage contacts between young neurologists
- To represent young neurologists on an international level and articulate their interests

In order to meet the above objectives the YNT has organized special sessions during major neurological congresses in Europe.

Increasing interest in YNT activities among young neurologists from countries extending across European borders has been observed.

The YNT is establishing a workgroup to bring together neurology trainees and young neurologists interested in the subspecialty of epilepsy.

The aims of this workgroup are:

- To facilitate meeting each other at large international conferences
- To discuss clinical training in epilepsy
- To discuss research methods in epilepsy
- To facilitate arranging visits to other centres for research or clinical training
- To invite respected experts in this field to support the scientific activity of the workgroup as honorary patrons.

The sub-group intends to contact the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) as an important and influential international epilepsy organisation who may well be interested in patronising our activities.

The YNT functions both by email/internet and by submeetings at conferences.

If you are interested, please reply to Dr. Konrad Rejdak at krejdak@yahoo.com or Dr. Jan Claassen (jaclaassen@aol.com) with any ideas or suggestions you may have for developing the workgroup.

For other details of YNT and for a free, on-line membership see the YNT website: www.ynt-europe.com

YNT Officers: Konrad Rejdak (Poland),
Axel Petzold (Germany),
Robert Hadden (UK)

Famous People with Epilepsy

Fyodor Dostoyevsky



From acclaimed novelist to a radical, Dostoyevsky was sentenced yet reprieved from execution. A prisoner in Siberia for four years, he probably did more for promoting the understanding of epilepsy than any other individual of his time.

"He faltered for a moment, as if he was searching for words, opened his mouth . . . suddenly there came a long, strange, meaningless cry from his open mouth, and he fell to the ground unconscious . . . His body twisted and jerked in convulsions and he foamed at the mouth." This is how he described his character Prince Myshkin (*The Idiot*), clearly an autobiographical figure. These seizures were likely to be that of **secondary generalised grand-mal seizures, triggered by focal activity, as they were generally preceded by an aura.** Dostoyevsky described his aura as a feeling of happiness, and explained this euphoric feeling as a 'terrible gift of mercy from his epilepsy'.

The Russian novelist stands at the very summit of Russian literature and is considered by many to have brought the Western novel to the peak of its possibilities.

Dostoyevsky's own perception of epilepsy left a deep impression on his life. It had a great influence on many aspects of his work and enabled him to understand and feel things in such depth, which would not have been possible without his experience of epileptic fits.

Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoyevsky was born in Moscow in 1821. His father, a military surgeon and an alcoholic of harsh, despotic temperament, was brutally slain (1839) by his own serfs. Fyodor attended military engineering school in St. Petersburg and upon graduation entered government service as a draftsman. He soon abandoned this career for writing. His first novel, *Poor Folk* appeared in 1846, and gained a great success with the critics. In the same year he joined a group of utopian socialists, and was arrested in 1849

during a reading of a radical's letter (Vissarion Belinsky), and sentenced to death. With mock execution the sentence was commuted to imprisonment in Siberia. During this harrowing period he suffered great physical and mental pain, including repeated attacks of epilepsy.

Dostoyesky states that he had his first seizure one Easter night, in Siberia. He was aged 30. They were dramatic grand mal seizures and he once said in conversation: *"You are all healthy people, but you have no idea what joy that joy is which we epileptics experience the second before a seizure. I do not know if this joy lasts for seconds or hours or months, but believe me, I would not exchange it for all the delights in the world."*

Dostoyesky's prison experience worked a profound change of heart in him. He abandoned his belief in the liberal, atheistic ideologies of Western Europe and turned wholeheartedly to religion.

Dostoyesky returned to St. Petersburg in 1859, with his wife he had married in Siberia and her son. As a writer with a religious mission he published three works that derive in different ways from his Siberia experiences. His marriage was unhappy, and he was haunted by both his recent past and the death of his father. In 1844 his unhappy marriage ended with the death of his wife. In 1867 he was remarried to his young secretary of 22.

In 1868 using his own experiences of epilepsy, he wrote 'The Idiot'. It concerns a Christ figure, a meek, human epileptic whose effect on those around him is tragic.

In 1880, he wrote The Brothers Karamazov, generally thought to be the finest novel ever written. Dostoyesky's remarkable insight into the depth and complexity of the human soul was a precursor for Freudian psychological analysis.

His young wife, bestowed upon him profound affection and understanding and greatly enriched his later years. Dostoyesky died in St. Petersburg on February 1881 of a lung hemorrhage, complicated by an attack of epilepsy.

The aetiology of his epilepsy remains unknown. The severe psychological effects of imprisonment and threat of execution, allied with the brutal death of his father, may well have affected his overall condition. His ability to use his understanding of the human mind coupled with his epilepsy helped make him a literary giant, and resulted in works that gave vivid personal accounts of the understanding of epilepsy through his characters.

Dr Nicholas I. Krasner

Information is just a click away...

www.ilae-epilepsy.org



The ILAE website is still under development with plans to add more content and new features. The coming attractions include:

A Whole Site Search Engine

This feature, available from every page, will make navigating the site very easy. Type in your keyword and a list of links will be returned. It's that easy.

A Membership Database

The membership database will have several levels of access. Each chapter determines if their member database will be open to the public, available just to the individual chapter or to all ILAE chapters, or available only to the ILAE board.

A Gateway to Epilepsy Information

ILAE will partner with IBE to create a site for those seeking epilepsy-related information. This site will service both the lay public and professionals in the field of epilepsy.

www.ibe-epilepsy.org

The International Bureau for Epilepsy launched its website:

www.ibe-epilepsy.org during the 24th International Epilepsy Congress in Buenos Aires last May. Although still continuing to grow and develop, already the site contains a substantial amount of information on

the work of IBE, its commissions and chapters, as well as information on the Global Campaign against Epilepsy and other initiatives in which IBE is currently involved. In the near future we will be in the position to accept online payments and this will facilitate receipt of subscriptions, including subscription to the IBE News.

Help us spread the word, and include a mention of the IBE site, together with the address - www.ibe-epilepsy.org in your own chapter newsletter.





6-10 OCTOBER 2002

MADRID 2002

5TH EUROPEAN CONGRESS ON EPILEPTOLOGY

Invitation address

Dear Friends,

It gives us great pleasure to invite you to Madrid in October 2002 to attend the 5th European Congress on Epileptology.

We have spent almost five hundred years preparing the city for you, since King Felipe declared it the capital of his empire in 1561. Over the centuries many famous squares, museums, monasteries and palaces have been created - Plaza Mayor, Museo del Prado and the Palacio Real, to name but three. This historic city now represents the perfect backdrop for our congress and the programme promises to be both stimulating and comprehensive. We have invited leading epileptologists and prominent scholars in every field of epilepsy to share their experience and knowledge with us. After the congress, for those of you who can stay a little longer, there lies a feast for the eyes and mind all within a short distance of Madrid - with Toledo, Avila, Escorial, Aranjuez and Segovia each lying within one hours journey of the capital.

We hope you will join us at our congress, so that we can bid you **Bienvenido**.

Martin J Brodie, *Co-Chair*

Antonio Russi, *Co-Chair*

The Venue

The Congress will take place in Madrid's Palacio de Congresos. This is located in the centre of Madrid only 12 Km from the international airport. It is within easy walking distance of the major hotels and is well connected to the underground system and bus routes.

The city of Madrid is a unique blend of history and modernity. A cosmopolitan city, a business centre, headquarters for the Public Administration, Government, Spanish Parliament and the home of the Spanish Royal Family, Madrid also plays a major role in the cultural and artistic life of Spain. The diversity and contrast that is evident within Spain is reflected in the streets and barrios of the city. A short walk through the centre can include the narrow alleyways of Medieval Madrid, the tree-lined boulevards of the Paseo de la Castellana and the many art galleries and museums that have made the city a byword in the arts. Whether the purpose of a visit is for business or pleasure, all visitors and newcomers are certain of a warm welcome when they arrive in Madrid.

Madrid is located in the centre of the Castilian Plain and is the highest capital city in Europe. Due to the altitude and central location, the climate consists of warm dry summers and cool winters. Temperatures in October range between 10°C and 19°C. Madrid enjoys a large number of sunny days.

For further details please see contact information in **Diary section on page 8**.

Programme at a glance

| | Sunday 6 October | Monday 7 October | Tuesday 8 October | Wedn. 9 October | Thursday 10 October |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 7.30 - 9.00 | | Breakfast Seminars | Breakfast Seminars | Breakfast Seminars | Breakfast Seminars |
| 9.00 - 11.00 | | Chairman's Symposium | Main Sessions 1 and 2 | EEA Conference and Symposium | Main Sessions 3 and 4 |
| 11.00 - 11.30 | Registration opens | Coffee | Coffee | Coffee | Coffee |
| 11.30 - 13.30 | | Satellite 3 | Satellite 3 | Satellite 3 | Bursaries Symposium |
| 13.30 - 15.00 | | Posters and Lunch | Posters and Lunch | Posters and Lunch | Posters and Lunch |
| 15.00 - 16.30 | Satellite 1 (14.30) | Platforms | Platforms | Platforms | Discussion Groups on Specific Topics |
| 16.30 - 17.00 | Coffee | Coffee | Coffee | Coffee | |
| 17.00 - 19.00 | Satellite 2 | Discussion Groups on Specific Topics | Discussion Groups on Specific Topics | Discussion Groups on Specific Topics | |
| 19.30 - 21.00 | Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception | Satellite 6 | Tapes Seminars | Tapes Seminars | |
| 22.00 - 24.00 | | Traditional Night | | Gala Dinner | |

AWARDS

ILAE BRITISH BRANCH YOUNG SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATORS PRIZE (£1,000)

The council of the British Branch of the International League against Epilepsy announce the Young Scientific Investigators prize. This award is open to any health professional or basic scientist working in the field of epilepsy around the world. Entrants must be 35 years or under on December 31st 2001 (proof of age will be expected).

Entries, which must be in English and not more than 5,000 words will be judged by a panel of experts whose decision will be final. We will accept unpublished papers on any aspect of basic science related to epilepsy or reviews of any basic science aspect of epilepsy.

The submitted manuscript should not be identified by name or address but by a motto or device only: accompanying the entry should be a sealed envelope with the motto or device displayed on the outside of the envelope, which should contain the candidates full name and address, with the motto or device. This is to ensure that the entry is marked anonymously. Please use the official entry form.

If submitting by email or fax, please still use a motto on the manuscript and email or fax the entry form separately.

ENTRIES CLOSE FEBRUARY 1st 2002

PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE
BRITISH BRANCH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING, EXETER,
APRIL 3rd - 6th 2002

(The council will meet the travelling and accommodation costs for the winners)

ENQUIRIES AND ENTRIES (please enclose 3 copies)

TO: Dr. Tim Betts, Reader in Psychiatry, Birmingham University Seizure Clinic,
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EMAIL t.a.betts@bham.ac.uk

MICHAEL PRIZE 1999/2000

The Michael Prize 1999/2000 has been awarded to two scientists who have applied advanced neuroimaging methods to clinical epilepsy research in an outstanding manner.

Matthias Koepp, who is based at the Epilepsy Research Group at the Institute of Neurology, and whose award-winning research was based there, focused on positron emission tomography (PET) in temporal lobe epilepsy and in other epileptogenic structures. The PET method allows for measuring the tissue concentrations of radioactively labelled substances in topographically distinct cerebral structures. Investigations are possible at rest, as well as during functional activation and seizure activity.

Friedrich Woermann, who is based at the Bethel Center in Bielefeld, Germany, and whose award-winning research was carried out at the Epilepsy Research Group at the Institute of Neurology, London, focused on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and spectroscopy (MRS) in temporal lobe epilepsy and juvenile myoclonic epilepsy. The approach of MRI complemented by techniques measuring metabolism, blood flow and chemistry of neuronal function of the brain constitutes a great advance in the in-vivo diagnostics of people with epilepsy.

The Michael Prize is a biennial award for scientists under the age of 40. It is one of the highest paid international awards (12 500- Euro) for the best contributions to scientific and clinical research promoting further development in epileptology.

DEADLINE FOR 2000-2001 AWARD IS 30th NOVEMBER 2002.

For more information please contact the Managing Executive Office:

Dr H Reith, Munzcamp 5, 22339 Hamburg, Germany
Phone 0049 40/5 38 85 40 Fax 0049 40/5 38 15 59

ILAE BRITISH BRANCH GOWERS' PRIZES

The Council of the British Branch of the International League Against Epilepsy announce the Gowers' Prizes and invite entries: entries are welcome from all over the world, but must be in English and not more than 5000 words.

1. Gowers' Young Physicians Prize (£1000)

A dissertation on any aspect of epilepsy.

Entrants must be no older than 35 years on December 31st 2001.

2. Gowers' Medical Students Prizes (£500 each)

A dissertation on any aspect of epilepsy, including case histories of a patient personally observed by the student.

Entrants must be bona fide medical students.

3. Gowers' Health Professional Prize (£500)

A dissertation on any aspect of epilepsy, by a member of a recognised health profession related to epilepsy care.

4. Gowers' Nursing Prize (£500).

A dissertation on any aspect of epilepsy by a member of the nursing profession, working in epilepsy care.

The submitted manuscript should not be identified by name or address but by a motto or device only: accompanying the entry should be a sealed envelope with the motto or device displayed on the outside of the envelope, which should contain the candidates full name and address, with the motto or device. This is to ensure that the entry is marked anonymously. Please use the official entry form.

If submitting by email or fax, please still use a motto on the manuscript and email or fax the entry form separately.

ENTRIES CLOSE FEBRUARY 1st 2002

PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE BRITISH
BRANCH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING,
EXETER, APRIL 3rd - 6th 2002

(The council will meet the travelling and
accommodation costs for the winners)

ENQUIRIES AND ENTRIES (please enclose 3 copies)

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PAKISTAN



The Epilepsy Association of Pakistan (EAP) in collaboration with the Neurology Fund (Registered NGO) is pleased to inform the Epilepsy community of the world that we have launched a community based Comprehensive Epilepsy Control Programme (CECP) in the hope that epilepsy-care, the treatment gap, the burden of epilepsy, public health education and other related issues can be addressed at the community level. It is our guesstimate that nearly 70% of people with epilepsy in Pakistan remain undiagnosed and untreated. It is our mission to reduce this huge gap. We are establishing 30 'Satellite Epilepsy Centres' (SEC) in Karachi. The SEC will be run by neurophysicians trained at the Department of Neurology, JPMC, Karachi. We have planned to increase the number of SECs to a total of 40 in the next six months.

Prof. Hasan Aziz

TUNISIA



Amongst the main areas of activity of the Tunisian Association Against Epilepsy during 2000-2001 were in the following:

Epilepsy and the workplace: A pamphlet on epilepsy and work was produced and disseminated

Bulletin Board

News from correspondents...

to those caring for people with epilepsy. A workshop was held whose aim was to enhance awareness and evaluate the attitudes of colleagues who work with people suffering from epilepsy

Epilepsy and children: Progress in education amongst schoolchildren with epilepsy over a three year period was evaluated. A study of quality of life of children with epilepsy is ongoing.

Knowledge and attitudes of teachers towards epilepsy: A multicentred study commenced in 1999 and goes on until 2001 looking at this topic.

The first National Day on Epilepsy: This took place in April 2001 and was a real success, with the participation of patients with epilepsy, their parents and carers and professionals working in the field. It was an ideal opportunity for participants to surf the website of the Tunisian League Against Epilepsy - a permanent link between people suffering from epilepsy and health professionals working in the field. There was wide media coverage of the day.

Development of an epilepsy surgery team: This is being developed. Presurgical assessment of

patients with epilepsy and a selection of candidates for surgery is presently taking place.

Dr. Mohamed Fredj

TURKEY



Preparations are already underway for the Turkish Epilepsy Society Congress in June 2002. The conference is due to be held in one of the most beautiful cities of Northern Turkey, Trabzon. Preliminary information about the speakers, both from Turkey and other countries, is available on the Turkish Epilepsy Society web site at www.turkepilepsi.org.tr

Dr. Candan Gurses

UNITED KINGDOM



The Epilepsy Research Group at the Institute of Neurology, University College London, has recently been awarded departmental status. This is good news for epilepsy, as it is the first academic department of epileptology in the UK.

Dr. Matthew Walker

Diary Dates

If you would like to publicise an event taking place in your part of the world which would be of interest to ILAE members, we would be happy to receive the relevant information. Please provide date, venue, subject and contact details including contact person, address, telephone/fax number, email address and web site. Please forward this information to the Epigraph office (details below).

ILAE British Branch Annual Scientific Meeting, Exeter, United Kingdom, 3-6 April 2002

For details please contact:
Denise Hickman, Conference 2000.
Tel: +44 1691 650290
e-mail: denise@conference2000.co.uk

8th European Congress on Epilepsy and Society, Ireland, May 3-6, 2002

For details please contact: Congress Secretariat:
253 Crumlin Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12
Tel: +353 1 455 7500 Fax: +353 1 455 4648
e-mail: mcarmen@eircom.net
URL: www.epilepsycongress.org

2nd Latin American Congress of Epilepsy Foz Do Iguassu, Brazil, May 29- June 1, 2002

Organized by: Liga Brasileira De Epilepsia
For details please contact:
ILAE & IBE Congress Secretariat,
253 Crumlin Road Crumlin Dublin 12
Tel: +353 1 455 7500 Fax: +353 1 455 4648
e-mail: epimeetings@eircom.net
URL: www.epilepsycongress.org

Consensus Conference on Better Care for Children & Adults with Epilepsy, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK, 4-5 September 2002

During the two day conference, a multidisciplinary panel will use evidence from presentations and discussion to address the following key issues:

- Who should make the diagnosis of epilepsy and what investigations should be done in children and adults?
- Should first line treatment of epilepsy be different between males and females?
- What is the role of polytherapy in the treatment of epilepsy?
- How should serial seizures and status epilepticus be treated?

Abstracts are invited for poster presentation and should be submitted to the conference secretariat by Friday 29th March, 2002

Registration details from Margaret Farquhar
Tel: +44 (0) 131 247 3636
Fax: +44 (0) 131 220 4393
e-mail m.farquhar@rcpe.ac.uk
http://www.rcpe.ac.uk/better_care.html

The Asian and Oceanian Epilepsy Congress - Japan, September 11-14, 2002

The congress will provide current assessment of etiology, pathogenesis and therapeutic strategies for epilepsy. Abstracts must be submitted to the Secretariat by May 31, 2002. For further information, please contact the Congress Secretariat or access the Website. <http://www.saitama-med.ac.jp/aoc4/>
Congress Secretariat:
Co. Event and Convention House,
Sai Tower, Tokyo 101-0023,
Tel: +81-3-3255-0900 Fax: +81-3-3255-7377
e-mail: aocsecret@gp.knt.co.jp
Scientific enquiries:
Dr Toshio Yamauchi (Congress President)
e-mail: aoc4@saitama-med.ac.jp

5th European Congress on Epileptology, Madrid, Spain, October 6-10, 2002

For details please contact: Congress Secretariat,
253 Crumlin Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12
Tel: +353 1 455 7500 Fax: +353 1 455 4648
e-mail: info@epilepsycongress.org
URL: www.epilepsycongress.org

25th International Epilepsy Congress, Tunis, Tunisia, October 12-16, 2003

For details please contact:
ILAE & IBE Congress Secretariat,
253 Crumlin Road Crumlin Dublin 12
Tel: +353 1 455 7500 Fax: +353 1 455 4648
e-mail: epimeetings@eircom.net
URL: www.epilepsycongress.org

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