



## The European Epilepsy Academy (EUREPA)\*

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### History and Status

The need to improve epileptological knowledge, and to develop a homogeneous level of care and expertise across the whole of Europe was identified as a priority by the first European Advisory Council (EAC) and the first Commission on European Affairs (CEA) of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) when they started to work in 1994. It was agreed that special efforts needed to be made to ensure a high level of epileptological education throughout Europe, and the establishment of a decentralized quality-controlled educational network seemed to be the most adequate solution. The participants of the network's activities should be rewarded with a European certificate in epileptology, and an academy was to be founded to take care of this system. The organisation of transnational research in Europe in otherwise neglected fields was pointed out as an additional possible task for the planned academy.

In consequence of these deliberations EUREPA, the European Epilepsy Academy, was founded on August 30, 1996, in Den Haag, at the occasion of the 2nd European Congress of Epileptology. The Academy was incorporated as a non-profit association in Bielefeld (Germany) on March 3, 1997. On the same day, the Academy Secretariat was opened in Bielefeld. With the ILAE, EUREPA has the status of an affiliated organisation.

According to Article 2.1 of its Statutes, EUREPA "is to draw up and develop a decentralized system to organize training and further education for all people who are involved with epilepsy

and in need of upgrading their qualification (e.g. physicians, social workers, psychologists, health scientists, educationalists, occupational and rehabilitation councillors etc.). It can take on research activities."

### Structure

The Academy is governed by an Executive Board (EB) which is elected by the General Assembly for a period of 4 years. The Chair and Secretary of the CEA are ex officio members of the EB. The present EB consists of Peter Wolf (Germany, Chair), Giuliano Avanzini (Italy) and Péter Halász (Hungary, Vice Chairs), Rolf Engels (Germany, Secretary), Svein Johannessen (Norway, Treasurer), Michel Baldy-Moulinier (France), Martin Brodie (U.K.) and Jerzy Majkowski (Poland).

The Academy Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Academy's business. Verena Hézser-v. Wehrs who works part-time has been Manager of the Secretariat since it was opened.

EUREPA has a Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) whose members are proposed by the CEA and elected by the General Assembly for a period of 4 years. At present, it consists of 18 well-known epileptologists from 13 European countries including, from Turkey, Çiğdem Özkara. The SAB has elected as its Speaker Dr. Günter Krämer (Switzerland).

The General Assembly consists of all members of EUREPA, and meets at least once every year.

A Corporate Partners Committee has been founded to structure the cooperation of the Academy with the industry active in the field of epilepsy in Europe. At the end of 1999, seven companies had become members. They have elected Benny Baeten from Janssen-Cilag as their Chair, and Wolfgang Schütte from Parke-Davis as Co-chair for a period of 2 years.

With the Academy in place, the European structure of the ILAE can be described as a "European Triangle" consisting of the European Advisory Council (i.e. the council of all European ILAE chapters), the Commission on European Affairs (responsible for developing and conducting the European agenda), and the European Epilepsy Academy (ILAE's European agency for education and transnational research). EUREPA reports to the CEA who in turn reports to the ILAE and the EAC.

\* (for Epilepsi - Journal of the Turkish Epilepsy Society)

### Membership and Benefits

Membership in the Academy is open to all individuals, and to all corporations affiliated to the ILAE. Individual membership is a precondition to obtain a European certification in epileptology. The yearly membership fee at present is 20 Euro (regular) and 10 Euro (juniors up to 35 years). The members receive an information bulletin twice yearly, and ad hoc publications such as educational supplements of *EPILEPSIA*, books free or at reduced prices. They have access to restricted information on our WebSite, and participate in many educational courses at reduced fees. At present, the Academy has 218 individual members.

ILAE chapters can become Academy members free of charge. With their membership, their teaching activities can become part of the European network and certification. They are invited to nominate trainees for the Academy's train-the-trainers courses. At present, 20 of the 37 European ILAE chapters including the Turkish Chapter have become Academy members.

Seven European Epilepsy Centres have become members, and their specific role in EUREPA's educational network is one of the matters which will next be taken up for discussion.

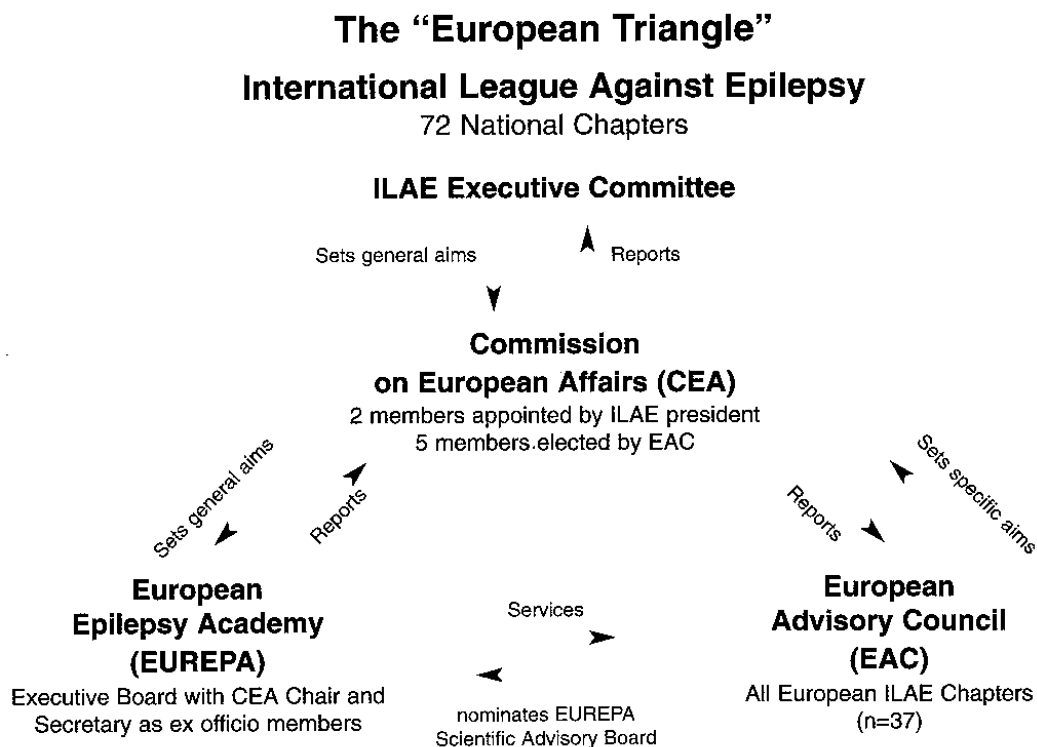
### Educational Programmes and Curriculum

EUREPA has held educational courses at the 3rd European Congress of Epileptology ("Genetics

and Epilepsy," *EPILEPSIA* Vol. 40, Supplement 3, 1999) and at the 23rd International Epilepsy Congress in Prague ("Semiology of Seizures"). Starting with the Congress in Firenze, 2000, the Academy will take full responsibility for the educational activities at the European Congresses of Epileptology. In Firenze, two series of Breakfast Seminars will be offered ("Antiepileptic Drug Therapy Today" and "From Model to Man"). Various other courses have been organised in connection with epileptological meetings. One of them took place at the 6th Mediterranean Epilepsy Conference in Cairo, indicating that EUREPA does not see its activity narrowed down to Europe in a restricted political sense. Two free-standing one-week courses on "Comprehensive Care in Epilepsy" had both physicians and other health professionals as participants.

An increasing number of courses which are organised by League Chapters or Epilepsy Centres are being brought under the banner of EUREPA which entitles the organisers to give credit points for European certification as an epileptologist.

The most significant step in the development of a systematic European epileptological education is perhaps the formation of a group of certified trainers who feel responsible for the quality of epileptology in their countries, and are willing to take care of teaching programmes along the lines of the Academy. The first group of trainers have



finalized their training at the Prague Congress, with extremely encouraging results (for a detailed report see EUREPA Information Bulletin No 5, the spring 2000 issue of EPIGRAPH, the ILAE Newsletter, or our internet homepage which is <http://www.eurepa.de>). A second course for the German-speaking countries will take place in February-May 2000, and the ILAE chapters who have joined the Academy have been invited to nominate participants for the next course in English language. Participation in trainer courses is only by invitation whereas all other courses are open for everybody.

EUREPA is still very young, and its educational programmes are in an early phase of development. Eventually, the Academy is supposed to become the clearing house for a system offering interchangeable educational modules in all European languages which should enable every European professional to obtain certification as an epileptologist. The certified trainers are responsible for the quality of education in their languages. Another precondition is the development and acceptance of a European Curriculum in Epileptology which must be fulfilled to become certified. The details of this curriculum and the connected accreditation system are now under broad discussion and will hopefully be ready for approval at the time of the Firenze congress.

### Other Activities

In the present stage of development of the Academy, the epileptological education of physicians had a clear priority, but EUREPA is also

expected to develop curricula for other professions and, as mentioned above, some of the Academy's courses already had a multiprofessional outlook.

Another important way of improving the state of epilepsy care is the education of patients and their relatives. EUREPA has taken a role there by administering the patient education programme MOSES for the German-speaking countries.

Also, there was no pressure to develop Academy's role in research. However, it turned out that an independent agency like EUREPA can take a useful role in the organisation and administration of transnational research, and we have indeed started to administer EURAP, the European Registry of Antiepileptic drugs and Pregnancy.

### EUREPA and Turkey

The Turkish League Against Epilepsy was one of the founding members of the Academy, and, at this moment, 7 colleagues from Turkey have become members of EUREPA. This number will no doubt increase when the curriculum and the modalities of certification will have been finalized, whereby the benefits of membership will be clearer to everybody. It is also very much hoped that Turkey will be represented in the next train-the-trainer courses. It would be a logical next step in the active development of the Turkish League to become increasingly involved in matters of epileptological education, perhaps not only for Turkey alone but also for parts of the Mediterranean region, and countries with related Turkish languages who feel close to Europe and where epilepsy still is in a deplorable condition.

## TOPLANTI - KONGRE - SEMPOZYUM

### 2. Ulusal Çocuk Nörolojisi Kongresi

14-16 Mayıs 2000

Başvuru: Meral Topçu, Hacettepe Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi, Çocuk Nörolojisi Bilim Dalı  
Tel: 0312 - 311 37 11  
e-posta: mtopcu@genel.gen.hun.edu.tr

### 17. Ulusal Klinik Nörofizyoloji EEG-EMG Kongresi

24-28 Mayıs 2000

Belek - Antalya  
Başvuru: Sevim Erdem, Hacettepe Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Nöroloji Anabilim Dalı, Tel: 0312 - 305 18 06  
e-posta: sevime@hacettepe.edu.tr

### 2. Ulusal Epilepsi Kongresi

7-10 Haziran 2000

İstanbul - Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Başvuru: Çiğdem Özkara  
İstanbul Üniversitesi Cerrahpaşa Tıp Fakültesi Nöroloji Anabilim Dalı  
Tel: 0212 - 633 01 76  
e-posta: cozkara@sim.net.tr

### 15th Congress of the European Sleep Research Society

12-16 Eylül 2000

İstanbul  
Başvuru: Hakan Kaynak  
İstanbul Üniversitesi Cerrahpaşa Tıp Fakültesi  
Tel: 0212 - 586 15 96  
e-posta: info@tsrs.org.tr

### 36. Ulusal Nöroloji Kongresi

2-5 Kasım 2000

İstanbul  
Başvuru: Baki Gökşan  
İstanbul Üniversitesi Cerrahpaşa Tıp Fakültesi Nöroloji Anabilim Dalı  
Tel: 0212 - 586 15 17

### 10th Meeting of the European Neurological Society

18-22 June 2000, Jerusalem, Israel

Tel: +41 61 686 7711  
Faks: +41 61 686 7788  
e-mail: info@akm.ch  
Başvuru: Administrative Secretariat, ENS 2000, c/o AKM Congress Service, PO Box, CH-4005 Basel, Switzerland

### Fifth Eilat Conference on Antiepileptic Drugs

June 25-29, 2000, Eilat, Israel

Faks: +972 3 517-5155  
e-mail: trgt@nctvision.net.il  
Konferans Sekreterliği: Target Tours Ltd., Eilat V, P.O. Box 29041, Tel Aviv 61290, Israel

### 11th International Cleveland Clinic-Bethel Epilepsy Symposium: Cortical Dysplasia and Epilepsy

June 27-30, 2000, Cleveland, USA

Tel: +216 444-5178 Faks: +216 444-0230  
e-mail: schoepm@ccf.org

### 4th European Congress on Epileptology

October 7-12, 2000

Florence, Italy

Tel: +39 6 808 45 53 Faks: +39 6 808 80 88  
e-mail: ptscongr@tin.it  
Başvuru: PTS Congress Via Filippo Civinini, 69 - 00197 Roma, Italy

### Annual Meeting of the American Epilepsy Society

December 1-6, 2000

Los Angeles, USA

Tel: 860-586-7505 Faks: 860-586-7550  
e-mail: info@aesnet.org  
Başvuru: American Epilepsy Society, 638 Prospect Avenue Hartford, CT 06105-4240 USA

### 24th International Epilepsy Congress, 16-22 June 2001

International Bureau for Epilepsy

Şehir: Buenos Aires, Argentina

Tel: 54-11 4384 5376 / 54-11

Faks: 54-11 4382 6703

e-mail: anajuan@anajuan.com



**INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE  
AGAINST EPILEPSY (ILAE)  
COMMISSION ON  
NEUROBIOLOGY**

*Announces a New*

**RESEARCH TRAINING  
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

**Purpose:** ILAE has developed a new program to encourage the research training of young investigators interested in developing careers in epilepsy research, but for whom advanced training is hindered by economic limitations in his/her home country.

**Eligibility:** These fellowships are intended for postdoctoral-level students -- i.e., individuals with some research background, already holding an M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc. or comparable degree. Those eligible for these awards are young investigators from economically "threshold" countries - i.e., countries where resources for research training are limited, but where well-trained scientists will have an opportunity to develop vigorous and high-quality research programs.

**Location of research training:** Fellowship training will take place in established, well-funded epilepsy research laboratories. Each applicant is expected to work with the head of the proposed host laboratory to develop a research program that supports the applicant's interests and is consistent with the expertise of the host laboratory.

**Support:** ILAE will offer two fellowships, each providing \$20,000 for one year. The funds are designed as a stipend, to help support the fellow's time in the host laboratory. The host laboratory is expected to provide support for research expenses (equipment, supplies, etc). At the end of the fellowship year, the fellow should submit a summary report of his/her activities

to the ILAE Commission on Neurobiology. Publications generated as a result of this fellowship activity should acknowledge the support of the International League Against Epilepsy.

**Application process:** For the current year, an application must be submitted by July 1, 2000. Send applications, preferably in the form of an e-mail attachment, to Philip A. Schwartzkroin, Ph.D., Chair, ILAE Commission on Neurobiology (e-mail address: pas@u.washington.edu).

The application should include the following information:

1. Face page with applicant's vital statistics (name, institutional affiliation, mailing and e-mail addresses, etc) and details of proposed host laboratory (director's name, institution, address, phone/fax/e-mail contact numbers).
2. Applicant's educational, employment, and research/publication background (no more than 3 pages).
3. Statement of applicant's career goals (1 page)
4. Outline of proposed research and training program (to be generated in collaboration with director of the host laboratory) (no more than 3 pages).
5. Biographical sketch of director of host laboratory (2 pages).
6. Letter of commitment and support from director of host laboratory; the letter should include a description of facilities available for research training (2 pages).
7. Two additional letters of recommendation from teachers/mentors/advisors who know the applicant and are familiar with his/her work.

**Evaluation:** Applications will be reviewed by a sub-committee (composed of senior epilepsy researchers) of the ILAE Commission on Neurobiology. The Commission will announce its decision by September 1, 2000. Successful applicants will receive stipends beginning January 1, 2001.



**Florence 2000 - Scholarship**

**YOUNG INVESTIGATORS'  
SCHOLARSHIPS SUPPORTED  
BY THE ILAE COMMISSION  
ON NEUROBIOLOGY**

The ILAE Commission on Neurobiology will provide up to 20 scholarships for young investigators (students/postdocs) to assist in defraying the cost of participating at the 4th European Congress on Epileptology which will be held in Florence the 7-12 October 2000. Each scholarship will consist in a travel grant of 300 USD. Applicants should be below 35 years of age, still in training (i.e., not an established faculty) and must present an original contribution at the Congress.

The scholarships will be awarded by a committee consisting of two members appointed by the ILAE Commission on Neurobiology and one member

appointed by the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Congress. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of the following criteria:

1. C.V. documenting the applicant's interest in epilepsy and epilepsy research;
2. Quality of the submitted abstract;
3. Financial needs

Applicants should send a letter of request to the following address:

PTS Congressi Srl  
via Tevere 20- 00198- Rome ITALY  
Ph. +39 06 85355590 Fax: +39 06 85356060  
E-mail: ptscongr@tin.it E-mail eceflo@tin.it

The application should be accompanied by a short C.V., a list of up to 10 publications, a photograph of the passport as proof of age, and a statement of the reason(s) for requesting financial support.