

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY (ILAE) Commission on European Affairs (CEA)

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May 5, 2010

Dear Executives of the ILAE-European Chapters,

Following the formal dissolution of EUREPA as a separate legal entity in Germany, some have expressed concerns about ongoing initiatives currently under the auspices of EUREPA, as well as future educational activities of the ILAE, in particular in Europe. These concerns, partly based on misconceptions, have prompted our decision to clarify the educational agenda of the ILAE-Commission on European Affairs (CEA).

First, the dissolution of EUREPA does not mean that former EUREPA-sponsored educational activities will cease. The ILAE is committed to the continuation of VIREPA, the distance educational programme, so much of which is the result of hard work and participation from ILAE members. The CEA remains firmly committed to education and has already approved continued funding of many previous EUREPA related courses. This is, for example, the case for the Fourth Baltic Sea Summer School of Epilepsy (Oslo- 6-11/6/2010), The San Servolo Course on Epilepsy & Therapy (Italy, 19-30/7/2010) the Fourth and Fifth Migrating courses (Poland, 15-22/8/2010) and (Italy, April 2011), and the Fourth Eilat International Educational Course on the Pharmacological Treatment of Epilepsy (Israel, 18-23/9/2011).

The CEA is presently reviewing other EUREPA activities to see what should and could be continued. However, the CEA also feels strongly that the educational agenda must be developed in close collaboration with the European ILAE Chapters. As a start to this, all Chapters were invited in December 2009 to submit proposals for educational programmes/courses (see CEA at the ILAE website: www.ilae-epilpsy.org). Proposals were subsequently reviewed and decisions made as above. We have subsequently dedicated time for a separate discussion on the CEA educational agenda at the upcoming Chapter Convention in Rhodes (26/6/2010). We look forward to active contributions from all Chapter representatives so that we can establish an agenda based on needs assessments from our chapters

Therefore, there is a strong commitment to the continuation of an educational agenda within Europe and beyond. The main change however following dissolution of EUREPA is that European educational activities will be managed and coordinated within the ILAE by the CEA Subcommittee on Education rather than a legally separate organisation. This is in concordance with organisation in other ILAE regions such as Asia and Latin America.

We feel inspired by the many mails from members of European Chapters as well as of EUREPA. These testify to the dedication to training and education within the ILAE. We welcome your input and suggestions at the Chapter convention or in the interim by mail or phone to any of us.

Meir Bialer, Chair,
CEA

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