

COMMUNICATION WITHIN THE ILAE – EPIGRAPH AND THE ILAE WEBSITE

Communication with the members was a pressing issue for the new executive in 1993. The concept of an ILAE newsletter had been mooted several times previously, not least with formal proposals to create such a newsletter in 1956 and in 1989. Furthermore, in the 1980s, the IBE had gone ahead and produced its own newsletter International Epilepsy News. In 1993, the ILAE executive resolved again to launch a newsletter – and it was then that EPIGRAPH was conceived. EPIGRAPH had a number of objectives – to act as a mechanism for the centrifugal dissemination of information from the ILAE centre, to provide a platform and a forum for notifying members about its activities of ILAE and to encourage a sense of belonging amongst ILAE members. The first issue appeared in 1994 and it has continued to be published several times a year since then. Within 2 years it was being sent to 16,000 persons and in 2004 assumed an on-line presence. The second major initiative to improve communication was the establishment of an ILAE website (www.epilepsy.org). Work began on this in 1996 and several models were proposed and investigated. Eventually the website was launched in 1995, and by 2005 the first phase – the posting of ILAE information – was largely complete and the second phase – the accession of professional information about epilepsy – begun.

