

Commission on Education

Jaime Carrizosa, Chair

The Commission on Education is chaired by Jaime Carrizosa (Colombia). Education has been a cornerstone of League activity from the beginning, with Congresses continuing as the main educational venue. During the 31st International Epilepsy Congress in Istanbul, educational courses had a privileged place in the program. They were organized in five series that covered very current, as well as controversial, topics. The courses were guided by recognized experts on the topics. During the five days, 66 teaching sessions with 39 speakers were held, and they provided a total of 33 educational hours. Several types of courses were especially interesting to the meeting attendees, including the case-oriented series and the sessions that were open to discussion, such as those about the classification system, about diagnosis and about therapeutic approaches. The success of these programs



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came through the tireless efforts in the planning of these exceptional educational courses under the leadership of Walter van Emde Boas and Sandor Beniczky.

A pilot educational project in epilepsy started in October, 2015 in Latin America. The goal is to reach general practitioners working in primary health care in rural and urban places. The National University and the Neurologic Institute of Uruguay gave their logistical experience and support to a program that reached nearly 50 physicians from several countries of Latin America. During eight weeks, the course themes included epidemiology, semiology, diagnosis, pharmacology, referral systems, and social and legal aspects of epilepsy (such as international drafts or local laws about epilepsy). The courses included discussions under the guidance of recognized professors of several universities of Latin and North America. The evaluation of the course is in process at the moment of this writing, but we hope that these comments about the value of the outreach, as well as the quality of the material and instruction, will lead to further development of the project so that it can be repeated during 2016. If successful, we hope that this effort can serve as an example for implementation in other parts of the world with a wide possibility to reach distant areas.

A survey regarding epilepsy-training opportunities was developed and sent out to ILAE Chapters in October and November, 2015. The survey covers issues regarding opportunities for physician training programs in epilepsy and neurophysiology, a number of University Hospitals with an identified epilepsy department or with epilepsy units, training hours, as well as the contents of epilepsy instruction for under and postgraduate medical trainees. In addition, there were questions about continuous medical education opportunities in epilepsy, including the availability of resource training materials. There were also requests for information about the accessibility of research opportunities in basic, clinical social sciences. Finally, we wished to know the nature and extent of ILAE Chapter contact with universities and hospitals. The analysis and final report is planned for September, 2016.

The Commission continues to look for new ways to improve and expand educational opportunities for epilepsy to the members of our community, as well as for professionals who treat epilepsy. The Commission is always looking for new ideas.