



Pictured to my left is Dr Tarun Dua. To my right are Dr Ala Alwan, Mrs Hanneke de Boer, Prof Emilio Perucca, Dr Benetto Saraceno and Prof Nico Moshé. A high resolution version of this photo is available from the IBE Office, if you would like to use it in your association's publication.

Dear IBE friends

It has been a very busy few months since the start of my term of office in July and I am quickly learning just how hectic the schedule of the IBE President is!

Visit to the WHO, Geneva

In our roles as Co-Chairs of the Global Campaign Against Epilepsy, Nico Moshé (ILAE President) and I recently travelled to Geneva for a meeting with the Assistant Director General of the WHO (ADG) Dr Ala Alwan. With responsibility for the Global Campaign within IBE and ILAE, it was important for us to meet with those involved in the campaign at the WHO.

We also met with Dr Benedetto Saraceno, head of the department of mental health and substance abuse, who has been a contact on the campaign for several years. Dr Tarun Dua, a technical officer at the WHO working on the Global Campaign and who is sponsored by IBE and ILAE also attended, together with Hanneke de Boer, Coordinator for the Secretariat of the Global Campaign Against Epilepsy.

Both Nico and I were very impressed by the depth of knowledge of the campaign displayed by Dr Alwan and it was clear that the WHO is still very interested in continuing with the campaign and in broadening its activities.

Excellence in Journalism Awards



Aliyah Baruchin (left) and Miguel Ángel Tobías

The winners of the journalism awards have just been announced. These awards are an initiative of IBE and UCB, which aim to increase awareness, improve understanding,

and encourage accurate reporting of epilepsy. Journalists were invited to submit stimulating, informed and compelling stories about knowledge, data and real life experiences of people with epilepsy around the world. The standard of submissions was very high and the judges were extremely impressed by their quality.

Among the winners were Aliyah Baruchin for her article *Epilepsy in the African-American Community: Access Education and Advocacy*, published in *EpilepsyUSA*, Issue 4, 2008 and television journalist and producer Miguel Ángel Tobías in the broadcast category for his program, *Hora de Salud: Epilepsia (Health Hour: Epilepsy)*, broadcast on Spain's Canal 9 TV.

The Excellence in Journalism Awards 2010 have just been launched and you will find further information on the IBE website. It is extremely important the journalists are encouraged to write accurately about epilepsy in order to help us in the drive to stamp out stigma and I would ask you to encourage any journalists you know to consider entering for next year's awards.

A couple of reminders before I sign off:

- The closing date for the submission of Letters of Intent for the next round of the Promising Strategies Program is just around the corner!
- Members in Europe should familiarise themselves with the new Directive on Driving. The text of the directive is available on the IBE website. I will continue to keep you updated on this important issue over the coming months.

All the best,

Mike

Mike Glynn
President