



Letter from the President

International Bureau for Epilepsy

February 2006

Dear Friends

I hope you are all well and that the New Year got a good start. Time really flies and it's amazing that already we are in the middle of February! Some of our friends and colleagues in Asia have recently celebrated the Chinese New Year and may I take the opportunity to wish them and all of you, even a little late, a Happy New Year!

Executive Committee

I am delighted to welcome the newly elected Vice President for North America, Mrs Denise Crépin from Canada into the work of the IBE IEC.

The International Executive Committee has not yet had the possibility to meet since the Paris congress, so there are plenty of issues to raise and to discuss when it meets in March. We are concerned to develop the regions and each IBE region has been asked to present their plans and a preliminary budget for this year. Some part of the elections still remains outstanding and will be finalised shortly. Your comments and ideas are always welcome on all IBE activities, including the new constitution, the IE News, the website as well as other subjects.

IBE office moving!

Administration Manager Ann Little is more busy than ever as we are moving the IBE office during springtime to much better premises in a more convenient location. The new contact details will be circulated as soon as these are finalised.

Solidarity Fund

Membership Forms will soon be circulated to all IBE members. I welcome and would like to encourage contributions to the Solidarity Fund. It would be most valuable and appreciated. In putting in place the Solidarity Fund, it was planned that it would provide financial support to those IBE members that could demonstrate financial hardship and would be used to subsidize their involvement in IBE activities. Now, one year after its

introduction, IBE has sufficient monies received to allow it to make beneficial use of the fund. The first purpose to which the fund will be put will be to underwrite annual dues for IBE Full Members in countries considered by World Bank classification to be 'low income'. IBE is aware that members from low income countries find it extremely difficult to meet their annual dues payments. But to keep the Solidarity Fund active we will need regular donations and the more funds donated, the more new projects we will be able to introduce!

Remember that even the smallest contribution is important! Many thanks in advance!

IE News

The new Editor of IE News, Carlos Acevedo, has produced his first issue which is the fourth issue for 2005! It is being printed at the moment and will reach you in a few weeks. I can assure you this is a very nice issue with a lot of reports from different regions which shows the great variety of activities going on in IBE. The Editor is looking for Sub-Editors from the regions to facilitate a global reflection. If you think you can help, then please contact the office and your details will be forwarded to the Editor.

Regional Congresses

Finally, may I inform you that the dates for the Regional Congress in Kuala Lumpur have changed to 16-19 November. I am sure this will be a very successful congress and I hope to see many of you there! But before that, there will also be conferences in Copenhagen and Guatemala! Please look at the website:

www.epilepsycongress.org for information on all our congresses.

Best wishes to you all!

Susanne Lund
President

