

Dear Friends

While writing this I am sitting with a view onto the Nile River in warm sunshine happy in the knowledge that we have had a very successful 1<sup>st</sup> Eastern Mediterranean Congress here in Luxor, with almost 500 registered delegates. Much of the success of the congress is due to the hard work of Dr Hassan Hosny, Prof Peter Wolf and Prof Martin Brodie, and other members of the Organising and Scientific Committees. As always Richard Holmes and his team guaranteed that the congress ran smoothly.

The congress programme provided a range of interesting topics, both medical and social, spotlighting current epilepsy treatments and accessibility to epilepsy care in several countries within the region, including Syria, Saudi Arabia and Morocco. There was interesting discussions regarding the terminology used to describe the condition and an international network has been set up to focus on stigma.

The Global Campaign Against Epilepsy session provoked much discussion on a range of issues associated with the campaign's activities and future development in the region.

A highlight for IBE was the Launch of the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Committee which was well attended by delegates from many countries. Speakers included Athanasios Covanis who gave an overview on the history of IBE in the region. Philip Lee



Dr  
Hassan  
Hosny



outlined current and future Global Campaign activities, while Mike Glynn spoke about the development of IBE

Regional Committees and their importance within the Bureau's structure. It was with great pleasure that we were able to introduce Dr Al Semari, who was recently elected as Vice President Eastern Mediterranean. Dr Al Semari addressed the meeting and spoke about his plans for the region.

The congress provided the opportunity for IBE to make many new contacts in the region and I am confident that IBE's membership in the region will continue to grow over the coming months and years.

It is a year since the first President's Message was circulated and I would encourage you to see this communication as a two-way process. With the mid-term of this International Executive Committee now fast approaching, I welcome your comments on any issues relating to the work of the Bureau.

Best wishes

Susanne Lund  
President

