



Letter from the President

International Bureau for Epilepsy

September 2006



Dear Friends

I hope you are well and I am sure you are all very busy with your important daily duties. There are many regional congresses this year and in my last message I mentioned the very successful European Epilepsy Conference in Copenhagen. At this moment I have just returned from another successful congress, this time in Latin America.

Great success in Guatemala City!

The Latin American Epilepsy Congress in Guatemala City was a great success, organised by ILAE and IBE through the ILAE Commission on Latin American Affairs and the IBE Latin American Regional Committee and hosted by the local IBE and ILAE member organisations.

This was a memorable and great congress that involved the hard work and dedication of many people. I would like to thank all those who attended, both from the Latin American Region and from other countries around the world. In particular I would like to thank the Co-Chairs of the International Organising Committee; Dr Henry

Stokes and Prof Martin Brodie who were the key players in creating an innovative and attractive programme.

The members of the Scientific Organising Committee led by its Co-Chairs, Dr Juvenal Gutiérrez Moctezuma and Dr Carlos Acevedo, ensured that the scientific content was both of a high calibre and reflective of issues relative to the Latin American region and also deserve a special word of thanks.

I am also grateful to the IDM staff - Jane, Gus, Vania, Georgina and Belen - who looked after all of the logistics with good humour so that everything ran smoothly.

Finally, I must include a special mention of gratitude to Dr Henry Stokes who was instrumental in guaranteeing that everyone went home with fantastic memories of the wonderful hospitality and spirit of Guatemala City and its people.

Promising Strategies

I am delighted with the fantastic and overwhelming response by members to the newly introduced IBE Promising Strategy Programme!

IBE has received 23 letters of intent with a lot of exciting ideas for projects to improve the quality of life for people with epilepsy in countries with a low gross national income. I will keep you updated of the evaluation process.

Best wishes
Susanne Lund
President



African Elections Completed

I am happy to announce that elections in the African Region are completed and that the following people has been elected.

Regional Executive Committee Africa

Chair: Zenebe Gedlie Damtie, Ethiopia
Vice Chair: Augustine Mugarura, Uganda
Secretary: Anthony Zimba, Zambia

In a separate ballot, Zenebe Gedlie Damtie has been elected as Vice President Africa on the International Executive Committee.

I am delighted to welcome the new Regional Executive Committee into the family of IBE.