

General Assembly—1st July 2009  
Budapest - Hungary



Dear IBE friends,

A flame was lit for all people with epilepsy in Rome in 1961 when the International Bureau for Epilepsy was born, during the 9<sup>th</sup> ILAE meeting in Rome. The emblem of the candle was also chosen in Rome and it has burned ever brighter in the years since.

In two years time we will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bureau and I hope that many of you will be joining us in Rome in 2011, when this important landmark will be honoured during the 29<sup>th</sup> International Epilepsy Congress.

The last four years have seen many new accomplishments achieved under Susanne Lund's excellent leadership and I hope that I will be able to build on them during the lead up to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and beyond. We have had our second series of elections, seen the establishment and growth of our seven Regional Executive Committees, and the creation of the brilliant Promising Strategies Program, to name just a few.

I hope that my own Presidency will see similar successes, building on the work of Susanne's years, in areas of epilepsy in which I am particularly interested, such as stigma, driving, employment and generic AEDs. As part of this, I will be co-chairing the Global Campaign against Epilepsy personally along with Nico

Moshé, the new President of the International League against Epilepsy. The Global Campaign has been in existence for twelve years but there is still much that it can achieve, I am sure, and this opinion is also shared by Nico.

IBE's joint working with the League is, I believe, one of our great strengths and something we must continue to nurture and build on. The great American epileptologist Dr William Lennox was the first person to suggest the creation of the Bureau way back in 1936. Sadly, Lennox did not live to see the motion, by Dr Abraham Moscovich of Argentina, to create IBE passed at the ILAE general assembly at the University of Rome in 1961 which led to the establishment of the International Bureau for Epilepsy.

I look forward to working with you for the great cause of epilepsy for the next four years.

All the best,

Mike

Mike Glynn  
President

