

***Epileptic Disorders* anniversary: time for new developments**

Epileptic Disorders was born on Tuesday, February 17th 1998 at a meeting organized by Edouard Hirsch, Philippe Kahane, Philippe Ryvlin and myself at the Robert Debré Hospital in Paris. Were also present at the meeting, Jean Aicardi – unanimously elected Editor-in-Chief of the journal –, Michelle Bureau, David Fish, Renzo Guerrini, Hans Holthausen, François Mauguière, the late Claudio Munari and Pierre Thomas. Mr Gilles Cahn and the John Libbey Eurotext editions accepted the challenge and Volume 1, Issue N°1 was published only a year later (March 1999), accompanied by a video cassette.

The aim of the journal, clearly defined in Aicardi's first message (Aicardi 1999), was both to promote publication of good articles on all aspects of the epilepsies and to introduce a new feature, the use of audiovisual material, "a powerful mean of conveying to our audience, better than any description, the essence of what constitutes an epileptic phenomenon".

The International League Against Epilepsy, with a message from its President (Engel 1999), welcomed the journal and underscored the fact that the newcomer should not be seen as a competitor to existing epilepsy journals but as a partner ensuring that excellent manuscripts on epilepsy are published in journals regularly read by the epilepsy community. We scrupulously respected such an attitude and this will remain our policy for the years to come.

Volume 8 (March 2006) demonstrates that the journal was well accepted by the scientific community. In the meantime, CD-ROMs replaced videocassettes (Volume 3, 2001), the journal was indexed and its impact factor is steadily increasing. The number of videos published in Volume 7 (2005) obliged us to use for the first time a DVD for the end-of-the-year compilation. The online manuscript processing system for authors and reviewers became available (www.epilepticdisorders.com) in January 2006.

The **DVD** that accompanies **each issue** can now accommodate not only videos but all kinds of supplemental data (MRI sequences, neuropathology colour plates, Power-Point presentations, etc.), free of charge. A number of teaching papers have been published, always accompanied by video sequences to be used for diagnostic and didactic purposes.

Epileptic Disorders, together with John Libbey Eurotext editions, was also at the origin of a number of scientific workshops, organized in collaboration with the industry, published as thematic supplements. A new series of indexed books, *Progress in Epileptic Disorders*, closely related to the journal's scope and aims, started in 2005 (Arzimanoglou *et al.* 2005, Guzetta *et al.* 2006, Hirsch *et al.* 2006).

When this exciting adventure started, the hardest part of the job was to assure a regular edition while refusing to publish papers of a mediocre quality. We acknowledge all our reviewers who not only provide the Editor with invaluable advice to support sometimes-difficult decisions but also make manuscripts better with constructive suggestions to authors. It is our policy to ask reviewers not to judge the views of an author (this can always be done following publication *via* Letters to the Editor) but to make sure that the conclusions are supported by the data provided and that methodological principles are scrupulously respected.

The practice of medicine is the same worldwide. That is why, although the journal was born in a European country, we created from the very first moment an international editorial and advisory board. The strength of our community derives from the acceptance of the fact that close collaboration and constructive exchange of views and critics are indispensable for a better understanding of the mechanisms of seizures, the etiologies of the epilepsies, the large spectrum of treatment possibilities. To deal with a non-specific symptom like seizures, common to different diseases, demands a profound knowledge of all aspects of neurology. Input from other disciplines is invaluable in the process of elucidating "the hidden part of the iceberg" (Aicardi 1999).

The Editorial and Advisory Boards play a vital role and I wish to personally thank all members for their continuous effort during the last seven years. I am particularly grateful to my mentor and friend, Jean Aicardi, for his wise council and constant help. A very special acknowledgement goes to my Associate Editors and particularly to Edouard Hirsch, who during all these years meticulously helped the journal by evaluating and editing all the video material. This is one of the most time consuming positions of the

Board that Pierre Thomas kindly accepted to occupy for the coming three years. All other members of the Boards also did an excellent work. The newcomers will have the challenging task to continue their predecessor's work and to bring in new ideas for the development of *Epileptic Disorders*. Miss Brigitte Tricot for the Editorial Office and all the staff of the JLE editions will, as usual, be there to help.

Last but not least, allow me to thank all authors. With their work and their confidence to the journal they offered a steady manuscript flow. Together with the Boards and the reviewers, we will make sure that the journal will keep being at the level of their expertise and to contribute to the diffusion of good science. □

Alexis Arzimanoglou
Editor-in-Chief

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