

ILAE INTERNATIONAL EPILEPSY CONGRESS IN PARIS 2005

The IEC in Paris in 2005 was a great success, with over 5000 attendees for the first, and thus far only time in ILAE history. The weather was perfect, and Paris shimmered (notwithstanding the depressing concrete jungle which was the Palais des Congrès). A wonderful gala evening was held in the magnificent setting of the Musée d'Orsay. Alexis Arzimanoglou, one of the co-chairs of the conference, lost his voice during the opening ceremony but for his work and enterprise in convening the conference was subsequently awarded a silver medal by the City of Paris. Seventy-six travel bursaries were awarded, with special attention to delegates from developing regions. Despite the lure of Paris, so many people attended the final presentation that a room twice the size had to be found, a measure of the meeting's success. The programme opened with the presidential symposium, 'Epilepsy Due to Transmissible Diseases'. The main programme, lasting 4 days, consisted of 28 parallel sessions, 21 platform sessions and 14 breakfast sessions. The end of the congress featured an innovation, a 'chairs' symposium in which the chairs of seven main topics summarised the data from the sessions. Other novelties were the Eucare symposium, an interactive session for EEG technicians and nurses, the first ILAE chapter convention, and an Eilat VIII session in honour of Pierre Loiseau. All in all, the congress counted 1,372 posters and about 250 speakers who gave a total of some 350 talks. The General Assembly voted on a major revision of the constitution and amongst new chapters that were accepted for ILAE membership was China. Its accession marked the success of years of intricate diplomacy.

