The American Epilepsy Society (AES) is one of the oldest neurological professional organizations in the nation, with roots dating to 1898. The Society was founded in 1946 as the American Branch of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) and formally adopted its current name in 1954.

Its 3,000 members are clinicians, researchers investigating basic and clinical aspects of epilepsy, and other healthcare professionals interested in seizure disorders. Members represent both pediatric and adult aspects of epilepsy.

The Society is based in West Hartford, Connecticut, and holds an Annual Meeting that offers symposia, lectures, poster presentations and exhibitions. The Meeting attracts close to 4,000 professionals from throughout the U.S. and abroad and offers excellent opportunities for networking and sharing of ideas.

GOALS OF THE SOCIETY

- To be its members’ indispensable resource for scientific and clinical education, programs and services
- To be a recognized advocate and resource for scientific research in the prevention, treatment and cure of epilepsy
- To be a leader in developing strategic partnerships and collaborative relationships worldwide to increase resources to advance the treatment, prevention and cure of epilepsy
- To be the recognized and credible voice of professionals concerning the cause, consequences, care and cure of epilepsy

Our Mission

The American Epilepsy Society strives to promote research and education for professionals dedicated to the prevention, treatment and cure of epilepsy.
The American Epilepsy Society is proud to recognize the following supporters during the 2005 Annual Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPONSORSHIPS</th>
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<td>($500,000+)</td>
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<td>Medtronic, Inc.</td>
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Pfizer Inc.
- Contribution to Research Fund
- Merritt-Putnam Symposium
- AET Symposium
- Scientific Exhibit

UCB Pharma, Inc.
- Lunch – Exhibit Hall
- Press Room
- Lunch Tote
- Professionals in Epilepsy Care Symposium
- Pediatric State of the Art Symposium Fellowship
- Pediatric Highlights
- Scientific Exhibit
- AET Symposium
- Contribution to Research Fund
- New Member Reception
- Nurse Awards
- Exhibit Hall Banner
- Joint Symposium Reception

Ortho-McNeil Neurologics, Inc.
- Relaxation Station
- Annual Course
- AET Symposium
- Abstracts on www.AESNET.org
- Itinerary Planner
- Break in Exhibit Hall
- Exhibit Hall Banner
- Scientific Exhibit
- AES Meeting News
- Nurse Awards
- Cyber Café (Registration Area and Exhibit Hall)

Eisai Inc.
- Evening Symposium
- Scientific Exhibit
- AET Symposium
- Contribution to Research Fund

Abbott Laboratories
- Annual Meeting Conference Bags
- Annual Course

Cyberonics
- Neurobehavioral Fellows Awards

Valeant Pharmaceuticals International
- Abstracts on CD
- Scientific Exhibit

GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals
- Evening Symposium
- AET Symposium
- Scientific Exhibit
- Contribution to Research Fund

Medtronic
- Young Investigators’ Awards
THE AMERICAN CHAPTER
Charles D. Aspin, M.D., President

Because of the restrictions of war-time, the last previous annual meeting was that of May 16, 1944. With the scientific holiday behind us, the joint meeting with the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease set for December 13 and 14, 1944 will release a store of information about epilepsy, much of it new. The program of this meeting is appended. A digest of the papers presented will appear in the next issue of Epilepsia. The papers will be printed in full in a volume, one of the serial issues by the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease. E. Houston Merritt, a former president of the League, is chairman for 1947 of the Section on Convulsive Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association.

The International League, which has had no business meeting since 1939, will hold such a session at the time of the gathering in New York City.

In the interim between the 1944 and 1946 meetings, the program of public education in epilepsy sparked by Mrs. Bockis Potter served as a stimulus for all who observed it in action, or who were affected by its far-reaching results. Due mainly to the efforts of the American Epilepsy League, the proper handling of the individual epileptic is penetrating gradually to the distant reaches of the country, and the great need for the support of research in epilepsy is being brought to the attention of physicians, laymen, and legislators.

The masterful presentation of the argument for the League, both lay and medical, before the Subcommittee on Aid to Physically Handicapped of the House of Representatives of the 79th Congress[1] on May 24, 1945 has been printed and distributed as a public document. Literature for distribution to patients and physicians, such as the pamphlets "Epilepsy — The Ghost in Our House of the Century," and the booklet "Science and Seizures," [2] have given


American League Against Epilepsy

STANDARDS
OCTOBER 26, 1946

Balance May 1, 1946 — The First National Bank of Philadelphia $72,718.56

Receipts

Dues

8 members—1 year subscriptions $1.25 each 100

20 members—2 year subscriptions $3.75 each 750

Sales

Sale of "Epilepsy" 500

Sale of "Science and Seizures" 100

Disbursements

Secretarial Salaries—6 months $600

Pamphlets 140

To E. Welbers for Epilepsy 100

Contributions from League for traveling expenses for Dr. W. Gray Walter 125.00

$1,898.40 1,932.00

Balance as of October 26, 1946 $613.36

The **ANNUAL MEETING** of the **American Epilepsy Society**

is designed as a forum for the exchange of professional concepts and brings together those engaged in the research on and treatment of epilepsy. The Annual Meeting's Exhibit Hall continues to be one of the more popular attractions at the Annual Meeting. AES members welcome the opportunity to meet with exhibitors and learn how their products and services can aid their research or treatment of epilepsy.

4-D Neuroimaging  
Abbott Laboratories  
Ad-Tech Medical Instrument Corporation  
AED (Antiepileptic Drug) Pregnancy Registry  
American Board of Clinical Neurophysiology, Inc. (ABCN)  
American Board of Registration of Electroencephalographic and Evoked Potential Technologists, Inc. (ABRET)  
American Society of Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists, Inc.  
ANT - Advanced Neuro Technology  
Bio-logic Systems Corp.  
Blackwell Publishing, Inc.  
Cadwell Laboratories, Inc.  
Cambridge University Press  
CNS News  
Compumedics USA, Ltd.  
Cyberonics  
Data Sciences International  
Demos Medical Publishing, Inc.  
Eisai Inc.  
Eisai Pharmaceuticals  
eidith GmbH  
Electrical Geodesics, Inc. (EGI)  
Elekta  
Elsevier, Inc.  
Encyclopedia Britannica  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Epilepsy Therapy Development Project  
EpiSafe  
GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals  
Grass-Telefactor, An Astro-Med, Inc. Product Group  
HRA Research  
Hygeia Marketing Associates, Inc.  
Institute of Physics Publishing  
John Libbey Eurotext Ltd.  
Jordan NeuroScience, Inc.  
Lamont Medical, Inc.  
Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins  
MedPointe Pharmaceuticals  
Medtronic, Inc.  
MINCEP Epilepsy Care  
Minnesota Epilepsy Group, P.A.  
National Association of Epilepsy Centers (NAEC)  
Nihon Kohden America, Inc.  
NINDS  
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation  
Ortho-McNeil Neurologics, Inc.  
Ovation Pharmaceuticals  
Pfizer Inc.  
PMT Corporation  
Questcor Pharmaceuticals  
Rochester Electro-Medical, Inc.  
Rhythmlink International, LLC  
Schwarz Pharma AG  
Seradyne, Inc.  
Shire Pharmaceuticals  
SHS North America  
Sigma-Tau Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
SleepMed  
Stellate Systems  
The Charlie Foundation  
UCB Pharma, Inc.  
Valeant Pharmaceuticals International  
VIASYS Healthcare  
VSM MedTech  
XLTEK
Looking Forward

In case you haven’t heard or didn’t see the cover of our Annual Report, we are celebrating our Diamond Anniversary in 2006. AES has a long history of great work and progress made in finding a cure for epilepsy and improving treatments and care of epilepsy patients not only in the United States, but around the world.

In 1946 the American League Against Epilepsy (ALAE) held a joint meeting with the Association for the Research in Nervous and Mental Disease (ARNMD). Dr. William Lennox was president of the ILAE and presided over a meeting which included social research as part of its program, and included six papers read by women (including a presentation by Dr. Margaret Lennox concerning febrile seizures). Forty-five epilepsy-related papers were presented at that meeting covering topics that included history, heredity, pathology, experimental studies, electroencephalography, treatment, post-traumatic epilepsy, and comorbidities. This meeting stands in juxtaposition with our Washington, DC, meeting in 2005 in which we had an attendance of 3,900 with over 1,100 people presenting. I am sure Dr. Lennox would be pleased, if not a bit surprised, at the success of our organization.

As the third furlong of 2006 is just underway, plans are underway to celebrate the Society’s 60th Anniversary. Dr. Howard Goodkin is writing the history of the AES and his research has uncovered some surprising findings. By recognizing the history of the AES, I feel the best way to commemorate this anniversary is to add to the legacy. We are introducing some changes with the hopes that they will continue to flourish as AES continues to grow.

One such new activity is a change in our own annual meeting. This December, we will be hosting our 60th Annual Meeting in San Diego. While our meeting continues to be outstanding, we will be taking a slight deviation from our normal operation. Our parent organization, the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) is divided into five regions with each of them holding a regional congress on off years from the International Epilepsy Congress. Until this year, the North American Region was the only region to not have a biennial congress. This year, we are partnering with the Canadian League Against Epilepsy (CLAE) and the Jamaican League Against Epilepsy to host the 1st North American Regional Epilepsy Congress. The Congress will still be our Annual Meeting; it will just be known by a different name on even years.

On the education front, the American Epilepsy Society was proud to introduce our 1st Mid-Year Meeting, which was held in Oak Brook, Illinois this past June. The conference itself is a departure from our usual Annual Meeting as this program was geared toward addressing the needs of healthcare practitioners who deal with epilepsy in their clinical practice. We invited and encouraged disciplines such as neurology, pediatrics, internal medicine, nursing, social work, pharmacy, psychology, psychiatry, and other allied health professionals to attend this program.

I am pleased to say that the meeting was quite the success. Dr. Steven Schachter and the Planning Committee did a fantastic job in designing a program that was informative and effective and will surely impact those who attended and those they treat. While successful, the mid-year meeting is considered a work in progress and the Mid-Year Planning Committee welcomes suggestions from the membership.

Third, I have formed a new AES Committee, the Advocacy Committee. This will be chaired by Dr. David Treiman and we will be asking members to join this committee. The charge to this committee is to assist foundations by identifying volunteers (clinicians, scientists) who can provide expert guidance to their advocacy efforts and to develop long-term strategies in using the resources and expertise of AES in advocating for patient services and epilepsy research.

I write this message following a Board Strategic Planning Meeting we recently had in Chicago. Not only did the Board participate, but we had many of our Past Presidents join us for the session. Some highlights from the session are shared elsewhere in this report and, as always, we welcome member feedback in the direction the Society is taking.

This has been another great year for our organization. I look forward to seeing you all at our 1st North American Regional Epilepsy Congress in December!

Gregory Holmes, M.D.
It was an honor to be the AES President in 2005 and I had the privilege to see our Society continue to evolve under the leadership of our board of directors, committee chairs, and the countless volunteers who give their time and energy to the success of AES. I am proud to be the first nurse to serve as President of the Society.

Many of the initiatives I put into place are still in progress and will continue to take shape. Early in 2005, I charged a task force chaired by Patricia Osborne Shafer and Mimi Callanan to develop programs to meet the educational needs of professionals in epilepsy care. That task force’s hard work led to new program offerings at our Annual Meeting and these offerings will continue in future meetings. A second task force chaired by Tess Sierzant and Bruce Hermann to monitor the progress made toward addressing the recommendations from Living Well with Epilepsy II also continues. We have added members from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the National Association of Epilepsy Centers. A publication is anticipated in 2006.

The American Epilepsy Society continues to grow in every which way, whether it’s our member count, our Annual Meeting or the involvement of our membership in the activities that shape the way we treat epilepsy around the world.

I feel our greatest success in 2005 was our 59th Annual Meeting, which was held in our nation’s capital, Washington, DC. As you will read in the Annual Meeting committee report on page 22, we posted record numbers for attendance (approximately 3,900). This can be directly attributed to the quality of what we offer our colleagues across the nation and around the world. In 2005, we held 18 symposia, 15 investigator workshops, 36 Special Interest Groups, 36 platform presentations, and 904 posters were presented on a wide range of topics.

For the second straight year, we have repurposed our sessions from the Annual Meeting and have them available free of charge on our ever-growing Web site, www.aesnet.org. We have added 13 programs from the 2005 Annual Meeting, all of which offer CME credit. You can visit the site to view these sessions, whether you want CME credits or want to review a presentation of interest from the meeting.

In early 2005, a delegation of AES members visited Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa and participated in “The Neurobiology of Epilepsy Workshop.” The workshop, which was sponsored by the Society for Neuroscience, the International Brain Research Organization, the National Academies of Science, and the American Epilepsy Society, was such a great experience for those who attended. The International Affairs Committee created the AES International Scholars Program as a way to continue this important educational effort.

This past fall, AES sponsored two clinical researchers from Africa, Dr Albert Kwaku Akpalu, Jr. of the UGMS Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra, Ghana and Dr. Angelina Kakooza-Mwesige from Kampala, Uganda. Our two guests were each paired with an AES member for their stay. Dr. Akpalu worked with Dr. Peter Crino of the University of Pennsylvania and Dr. Kakooza-Mwesige worked with Dr. Frances Jensen of The Children’s Hospital/Harvard Medical School. Their visit to the United States started with attending the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting in November. They then spent the next three weeks with their host in their clinical research lab and concluded their visit with our Annual Meeting. This pilot program was seen as a huge success and will be continued in 2006. We hope to continue it in the future.

In closing, I encourage all of you to be involved in some capacity with the Society. Our organization continues to exist because of the countless hours members of our governing board, committees, and volunteers put into its success. Your participation will help bring fresh ideas and new perspectives to our organization.

Joan K. Austin, D.N.S., RN

Looking Back
Report from the Executive Director

Even with time, some things never change. AES is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year, but the importance placed on serving members and planning an Annual Meeting with the best possible program has never faltered over the years. From the very beginning, my predecessors have had that philosophy and the current AES staff has continued to carry on that tradition. I would like to pay tribute to the former AES Executive Directors for without their forward-thinking and leadership, AES would not be what it is today. My humble efforts dwarf what their accomplishments are.

Who are the past Executive Directors of AES? For many of you, you might think that I have been the Chief Staff Officer forever. I became the Executive Director in 1990 when Priscilla Bourgeois Scheiner retired after 10 years as Executive Director. Priscilla lives in Connecticut, still receives our mailings and last attended an AES Annual Meeting as my guest to help us celebrate the AES 50th Anniversary in San Francisco in 1996. Priscilla’s files were impeccable, and to this day I am still using much of the information she carefully collected and maintained.

Preceding Priscilla was Margaret “Peggy” Henry. I only met Peggy once and it was at the AES Annual Meeting in Washington, DC in 2005. She is married to Dr. Charles Henry. They live in Virginia and when they saw that the AES and the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society were having a joint meeting in Washington, DC in December, she called me up to introduce herself and ask if they could come to the meeting. What a thrill! I knew the name of course because AES has wonderful archives and her signature is on many important documents. Peggy’s firm, Medical Association Management located in Willoughby, Ohio, was hired in 1977 to relieve the volunteers of all the work they were doing. Prior to Peggy, there was no AES staff. For example, the volunteers sent out the newsletters, worked on the entire Annual Meeting and volunteered countless hours for many committees. Interestingly, up until then there was not even an office for Epilepsia. The office for the journal was established in 1976. Peggy was involved as AES transitioned its meetings out of NYC, planning to return to NYC every other year. Until 1980, AES held its meetings in conjunction with other associations.

For those of you who like statistics and numbers, when Peggy Henry began as the Secretariat in 1977 (in the old days this is what they called my position), AES numbered 922. AES continued to grow as Priscilla Bourgeois Scheiner became Executive Director and in 1990 when I began, our members totaled 1,471. Today, we number just over 3,000.

Below are a few excerpts taken from recent interviews with the other two Executive Directors, who look back fondly on their time with AES and their efforts to help the Society evolve into the organization it is today.

1. How did you become Executive Director of the American Epilepsy Society?

HENRY: This question would best be answered by those who selected me, but I suspect that my success in managing the American EEG Society a group of similar size, with similar needs and much cross-membership played an important part in their deliberations. Additionally, I had served as Chair of the Cleveland Committee on Epilepsy and had compiled the prototype of An International Glossary of Anticonvulsants, so I was obviously familiar with the field.

BOURGEOIS SCHEINER: I was fortunate to become the first full-time Executive Director of the American Epilepsy Society in July, 1980, when our management company won the contract to provide services for this group.
2. What was the biggest challenge that you faced during your tenure as Executive Director?

HENRY: Persuading physicians that their time and energy should be directed towards their patients, not towards micro-managing routine Society activities or in trying to arrange Annual Meetings.

BOURGEOIS SCHEINER: The most difficult challenge for me was to try to anticipate the amount of increased attendance at meetings, as it was necessary to sign a contract with a hotel 4-5 years in advance. How many would attend? How many meeting rooms would we need? Is the exhibit hall large enough? I needed a hotel that the members could afford in a city that they approved of, and at a specific date. Mostly, I needed a crystal ball!

3. What was the activity or event that you were most proud of accomplishing?

HENRY: Since I was the very first person to hold that position, I was proud of being recognized as someone who could advance the goals of the Society. In the process of doing this, I did help increase association membership and attendance at Annual Meetings. We also acquired more exhibitors at meetings thereby increasing our budget. One of the best memories was demonstrating to the staff at the Waldorf that they were dealing with professionals and we were able to negotiate some good bargains and basically gave the organization some respect.

During the conversation, Peggy shared another memorable event which was the formation of the Epilepsy Foundation of America. Through the tireless patience and diplomacy of her dear friend, Ellen Grass, and Dr. Jerome Merlis of Baltimore, the three competing “lay” groups devoted to epilepsy were persuaded to unite and form the Epilepsy Foundation of America. This eliminated duplication of effort and funding and paved the way in her opinion for many more advances in the field.

BOURGEOIS SCHEINER: The year 1980 was a big leap for AES, moving their Annual Meeting from NY City for the first time to San Diego, CA, for a two day stand alone meeting. Previous meetings were held in conjunction with another medical group. We did some good advertising, the program committee worked hard, and a record 255 persons attended an outstanding meeting. When we returned to San Diego in 1990, the Annual Meeting was attended by over 1,000 persons representing 20 countries where 446 free communications were presented in multiple sessions. In addition, five satellite programs were added, plus a full day course, four investigators workshops, four special interest groups, and 42 exhibit booths.

There was a worse hotel “horror story” at our 1984 meeting in San Francisco. I carried the prestigious William G. Lennox award certificate with me by air from our office in Hartford to the Annual Meeting for safe keeping. It was hand-printed in golf leaf and very elegant. Stored safely in my hotel room, I went to retrieve it at the time of the presentation. Low and behold, it was gone!!! Mortified at this disaster, the hotel manager found that the maid had thrown out the mailing tube, assuming that it was empty. What to do? Well, the awardee was presented a rolled up blank piece of paper and the audience was none the wiser. Of course, a duplicate was later prepared and sent. This is one of many behind the scenes activities that cause meeting planners to turn old and grey, at least in my case.

4. What made the job fun for you?

HENRY: Working with wonderful people like Barbara Westmoreland, Fritz Dreifuss, Andy Gabor, and Barry Tharp. One funny story that I have is from one of the meetings in NYC, when the Board made me invite Henri Gasteau, who was the biggest name in epilepsy in France at that time. They told me to do whatever I needed to get him to come here….and he ended up coming and gave a good speech. Afterwards, he handed us the travel bill, which with him taking the Concord and staying at the Waldorf, added up to far more than the Board had intended to spend and ended up taking a giant chunk out their budget. They had told me to do anything to get him here, but were they surprised at the expense!

BOURGEOIS SCHEINER: The dedication of the leadership and volunteers who have turned the organization into a vibrant and prestigious professional society. It was a privilege to help the Society with their growth, and I enjoy watching their continued progress. I have many fond memories of the devoted members with whom I worked.

MY VIEW

As I reflect back on what is most different about the present time compared to the time of my predecessors, it is the collaborations that we have forged with many organizations. Our relationship with the Epilepsy Foundation and the International League Against Epilepsy has never been stronger. In fact, when I began in 1990, I did not know any of the EF staff and this was not a priority at the time. I did not attend an international congress until 1995. Today, AES is an important participant in the international congresses.

Furthermore, there are many additional organizations raising money for epilepsy research and we all gather for a meeting twice a year to discuss what everyone is doing in terms of funding, what they see in the future, and special advocacy efforts. The group is called “Vision 2020”. Our first work product was to produce a section on the AES Web site called Resources in Epilepsy Research. All organizations update the information themselves and the site will be promoted to researchers. AES is also a member of the American Brain Coalition (ABC), which is a group of neurology-related organizations. We meet twice a year to discuss common advocacy issues and to determine how we leverage all of our efforts.
Although strategic planning may not have been as deliberate a process in the past as it is today, the fact of the matter is that the past leadership was very forward thinking. We have just had our fourth strategic planning retreat and it is thrilling to see the progress that AES has made and will continue to make as an organization. The commitment that AES leadership has made to advance the organization is really quite impressive and deserves special mention.

This is an exciting time for AES. I am proud of our Board and to all of you for working hard to increase our partnerships and relationships.

Enjoy the rest of the Annual Report. As usual, you will find it “chocked full” of information about the many activities and programs that our volunteer leaders are involved in. There are over 300 members involved in committees and task forces. We are committed to finding a spot for everyone who wants to be involved. If you have the interest, check out our Web site at www.aesnet.org. You will find a sign-up form there.

On behalf of all the staff, we thank you for your support. You truly make our jobs interesting and enjoyable.

M. Suzanne C. Berry, MBA, CAE
Executive Director

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Executive Director
M. Suzanne C. Berry, MBA, CAE

Leadership Liaison
Jean Fazzino

Associate Director
Martin Rotblatt, CAE, IDM

Program Director
Cheryl-Ann Tubby, IOM

Membership Services
Tasheena Lee

Director of Communications
Christer E. Osterling

Annual Meeting Group
Carol Ewing
Elizabeth Kunsey

Registration
Cathy Sluboski

Financial Accounting
Jessica Palumbo

Education Group
Jolynn Amsden
Cindy Johansson
Jeffrey Melin, M.Ed., CMP
Sandy Pizzoferrato
Helene Weston
The American Epilepsy Society closed the books on fiscal year 2005-2006 as of June 30, 2006. The information you see in this report is unaudited, but in the interest of providing our membership with up to date information, we decided to report our preliminary results now. An audited statement will be ready in November 2006 and will be noted on the AES Web site at www.aesnet.org.

My report for 2005 is a direct comparison of where we stood at the end of FY 2005-2006 to where stood at the end of FY 2004-2005 and a look forward to FY 2006-2007. This will give you an indication of the robustness of our Society.

### Overview of FY 2005-2006 Budget Accomplishments

The vision for the FY 2005-2006 budget reflected our commitment to education and research. In the area of research, we want to do so much and must generate a surplus from our Annual Meeting to provide funds to support AES-initiated projects and programs.

#### Membership/Operations
- Held the line on a dues increase.
- No increase in *Epilepsia* subscription rates.
- Strategic Planning Retreat held in June 2006.
- Membership/Operations revenue is up (partly due to improved investment income), while expenses stayed about the same.

#### Technology
- Added Zoomerang survey capability to the Web site.
- Added Virtual Meeting Site to the Web to facilitate year-long discussion forum and committee communication.
- Continued improving educational content to the Web site. Most Annual Meeting programs “repurposed” to Web.
- A new funding resource was developed and launched with the assistance of the Vision 2020 Committee, which is made up of all the epilepsy research funders. *The Resources in Epilepsy Research site* lists all identified epilepsy funding mechanisms.

### Report from the Treasurer

John M. Pellock, M.D.

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**Net Surplus** $554,999
Communications/Public Relations
- Continued our Public Relations/External Communications planning efforts.
- Produced six issues of Epilepsy Currents and added more content pages.
- Updated “AES News You Can Use” member e-blasts into an E-newsletter.

Professional Development
- Ran a successful Mid-Year Meeting focused on clinicians working on the front lines of epilepsy care and treatment.
- Enhanced TeleConsult in Epilepsy program for Professionals in Epilepsy Care by turning it into a Webinar instead of just an audio program.

Annual Meeting
- Poster sessions were expanded to three days and platform sessions were held for a longer period.
- The new Investigators’ Workshop poster session was available for two days instead of one.
- Hosted two international scholars from Africa.
- All CME documentation, including certificates, was moved online.
- 2005 Annual Meeting was successfully held in conjunction with the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS).
- Support for educational symposia was down a little from last year. This appears to be a trend we will be dealing with in the coming years.

Research and Awards Program
- AES assumed complete support of the Research Recognition Awards after departure of a long-term supporter.
- New Early Career Physician-Scientist Award program, supported by the Milken Family Foundation, was launched with seven awards at the Annual Meeting.
- AES funded two post-doctoral fellowships in addition to three pre-doctoral fellowships.
- The Young Investigator Travel Award and Nurses Travel Award programs continued.
- The Lennox Trust Fund provided funding for one pre-doctoral and one post-doctoral fellowship.
- AES continues to support other programs including the Research Initiative Program, Research Infrastructure Program, Research and Training Workshops and the Targeted Pediatric Research Partnership.

Future Outlook
As we enter our new budget year (July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007), we will continue much of the good work that was started this past year. As always, AES will continue to listen to the feedback from our members in developing new programs and services.

We are concerned about support of our research and educational programs going forward. Historically our research and educational programs have been funded with our Annual Meeting surplus, much of which came from sponsorship money. Research funding from NIH, pharmaceuticals and benefactors is getting tighter. Pharmaceutical support of our Annual Meeting is showing a decline. Some of this is due to AEDs going off patent and changes in industry granting processes. The need for funding is growing while our surplus is leveling off. A task force will be formed in 2006/2007 to explore alternate funding sources for our research and educational programs.

John M. Pellock, M.D.
The Council on Education oversees the Annual Meeting Committee and Year Round Education Committees. The Council concerns itself with strategic planning of all AES educational programs, ensuring the CME mission statement is carried through, and oversees and implements new initiatives. The Council develops and implements policies to keep up with the expanding educational environment. During the 2005-2006 fiscal year, the Council oversaw many changes and ongoing initiatives for the Society. Many of these new initiatives were driven by members’ needs and interests and the changing environment of CME. These initiatives will be implemented during the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

The Council oversees the development of all directly sponsored, co-sponsored and jointly sponsored CME activities available to AES members and non-members; ensures that all programs reach out to all of our constituencies, for example, epileptologists (pediatric and adult), basic scientists, professionals in epilepsy care, academic and practicing neurologists and neurosurgeons.

As a result of the Council’s Strategic Planning Meeting in April 2005, several topics were discussed and projects were initiated such as:

- **Task Force on Communication Companies / Needs Assessment Project**
  The Council authorized an RFP to be issued to a selected number of vendors. Vendors were then selected based on specific criteria. The AES also embarked upon a formal, research-based needs analysis. Previous evaluation results were synthesized, questions were developed for live focus groups conducted at the December 2005 Annual Meeting. A formal survey was developed from the focus groups and research was conducted with the membership in 2006. The end result will be an analysis report that will help to make AES education more proactive, interesting to funders and serve the needs of all the AES member constituencies.

- **Task Force on Professionals in Epilepsy Care**
  Formerly known as Allied Health Care, this group was renamed Professionals in Epilepsy Care (PECs) so as to be more inclusive of all professions. It was determined that this group needed increased programming at the Annual Meeting and to offer year-round education programs.

- **Task Force on Reformatting Content of the Meeting**
  This task force was charged to monitor attendees of the meeting and the portions that they actually attend, look at the possibility of a parallel path structure for different constituencies, review CME offerings and reconsider platform sessions and oversight for Special Interest Groups.

- **Task Force on Year-Round Education**
  The Year-Round Education Committee receives and reviews applications for CME programs requesting AES joint sponsorship. Several journals were produced with AES as the accredited provider. This committee continues to look for opportunities to develop regional programs, Internet activities and journal supplements.

- **Task Force on COI/CME Issues**
  The task force oversaw the development of a conflict of interest (COI) grid for resolving COI and provided feedback on COI policies.

- **Task Force for Council on Education**
  The Council on Education implemented a vice-chair for each position for all annual meetings and year-round education committees. This will ensure a smooth transition for the incoming chair and that initiatives and projects continue. Task force also evaluated the liaison review system.
History of the
American Epilepsy Society

AES TIME CAPSULE

1993

1987

1986

1946
AES TIME CAPSULE

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

American League Against Epilepsy
Membership Directory

Epilepsy - Today's Encouraging Outlook

By Harry Sands, Ph.D.
and Jacqueline Seaver

Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 387
Presidential Gallery
of the
AMERICAN EPILEPSY SOCIETY

1946 Charles Aring
1947 Francis McNaughton
1948 Francis McNaughton
1949 Frederic Gibbs
1950 Ephraim Roseman
1951 Francis Forster
1952 Francis Forster
1953 Pearce Bailey
1954 Richard Masland
1955 Russell DeJong
1956 James O'Leary
1957 Jerome Merlis
1958 Roland McKay
1959 Robert Aird
1960 Peter Kellaway
1961 William Caveness
1962 Theodore Rasmussen
1963 Gilbert Glaser
1964 Robert Dow
1965 Richard Schmidt
1966 J. Preston Robb
1967 David Daly
1968 Eli Blumenthal
1969 Philip White
1970 Richard Walter
1971 Gian-Emilio Chatnian
1972 Arthur Ward
1973 Cosimo Ajmone-Marsan
1974 David Prince
1975 J. Kiften Penry
1976 Pierre Gloor
1977 Dominick Purpura
1978 Fritz Dreifus
1979 Paul Crandall
1980 Robert Gumnit
1981 Barry Tharp
1982 Robert Grossman
1983 Harold Booker
1984 James Cervino
1985 Jerome Engel
1986 Richard Mattson
1987 Cesare Lombroso
1988 Barbara Westmoreland
1989 John Wada
1990 Roger Porter
1991 Braxton Wannamaker
1992 Timothy Pedley
1993 James McNamara
1994 Ilo Leppik
1995 James Ferrendelli
1996 Philip Schwartzkroin
1997 Marc Dichter
1998 Robert Macdonald
1999 Robert Fisher
2000 Susan Spencer
2001 Solomon Moshé
2002 Thomas Sutula
2003 Jeffrey Noebels
2004 Daniel Lowenstein
2005 Joan Austin
2006 Gregory Holmes
“Opportunity” 1) a favorable combination of circumstances, 2) a chance for advancement. The greatest opportunity for AES has been, is, and will continue to be its members. A favorable combination of circumstances in 1946 resulted in the AES. As part of the world epilepsy community our diverse members have the fortitude to daily challenge beliefs, push boundaries of current knowledge and seek a different future. We constantly strive for innovations in research, treatment development and health care. In 1881, Gowers said about bromide, “And the current generation has witnessed an advance in treatment...equaled in perhaps no other branch of therapeutics.” And since then each “current generation” has continued and will continue to make tremendous advances.


With advancing knowledge about basic mechanisms of epilepsy, there will also be new approaches to diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and cure. These will involve not only pharmacology, but nanotechnology, stem cells, genetic engineering, devices, and other not-yet-even-conceived methodologies. If the current economic climate continues, many of these new technologies will be the property of researchers, in collaboration with small business entrepreneurs, rather than large international corporations. AES members will have an unprecedented opportunity to become involved in startups that could bring important new products to market and generate funds for future research. The sooner AES adapts to a flatter world, the more it will be able to facilitate and influence this process for the benefit of people with epilepsy.

—Jerome Engel, M.D., Ph.D. (1985)

Today is the future! and, therefore, is the greatest opportunity for AES.


In addition to being a past-president of AES, I am honored to have enjoyed a varied and fascinating career. I started with 20 years at the NINDS, NIH, where I worked on epilepsy from the academic view. I then spent 10 years at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, where I carried retigabine all the way through Phase IIB. From these experiences, I gained a multifaceted perspective of how one creates new therapeutic agents for the treatment of epilepsy. My anniversary message is that we need to work toward a sense of equality for all those who are engaged in the difficult task of finding new drugs or other treatments. Whether we work in academia or industry or government or an advocacy group, we are all pulling toward the same goal. Let us not place any one of these groups on a special pedestal, or worse, denigrate the actions of another. There are no special ethical immunities for any of these groups, and no group has any right to be overly proud. What we need in the 21st century is a pragmatic and collegial working relationship among all of us who work to combat epilepsy, the disorder about which we still know so little.

—Roger Porter, M.D. (1990)

AES supports education, research and advocacy for epilepsy professionals. But professionals have access to many more resources for on-demand, tailored education and research than in years past. Therefore, AES will have to provide unique added value, not obtainable from libraries and search engines. One possible way would be to supply highlighting, validation, context and critique of the massive amounts of potentially relevant information. A start has been made with Epilepsy Currents, but much more could be done. AES will be successful in this when the AES and ILAE Web sites are the first entry portal for most epilepsy professionals.

The greatest opportunity for AES, past, present, and future, is to provide members a primary source of information on epilepsy in all respects. This should include new knowledge, trends and directions in the field as well as educational and personal opportunities and contact with other individuals specializing in epilepsy and related fields. It could and should be a single source for continuing progress for its members in all directions. There are many indications that AES has begun to fulfill this role, but it needs to be more vigorous, more determined, and more multifaceted in providing such services to its members.

— Susan Spencer, M.D. (2000)

The opportunities for the AES in the future are endless and ours for the making. Given the collective talent, resources, and scope of experience of our organization, I believe the single, most important opportunity is for us to be discoverers of the cures for the epilepsies. We should set our sights on nothing less.


AES has recently made great strides in diversifying its membership and now includes members from all of the key disciplines who provide care to persons with epilepsy. AES has the opportunity to build on this momentum by strategically positioning itself to become the primary organization for these professionals who have recently joined our ranks. We can build our community by broadening our existing offerings and developing new educational programs and resources.

— Joan Austin, D.N.S., RN (2005)
2005 Annual Meeting Report

Attendance
Washington, DC was our host city for a joint meeting with the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS) and our highest attendance ever. With one- and two-day registrations now becoming popular we saw close to 3,900 attendees. Over 1,100 of them were not current members of the AES or ACNS and 1,063 were from outside the United States. Based on the voluntary demographics provided by registrants, 23 percent were adult epileptologists and 14 percent were pediatric. Basic scientists made up another 11 percent.

Popular Topics
The most popular symposium was the Presidential Symposium with over 1,500 registrations. This year’s topic was “Behavioral and Cognitive Comorbidities in Pediatric Epilepsy: Recognition, Mechanisms, Assessment and Treatment.” This program was closely followed in popularity by the annual Merritt Putnam Symposium, “Pharmacoresistance: From Clinic to Mechanism” and the Annual Course, “Evidence Used to Diagnose and Treat Patients.”

Other topics covered diverse areas of interest, including:
- EEG: The Basics
- Spanish Symposium on New Antiepileptic Drugs: What Have We Learned?
- Controversies and Challenges of EEG Monitoring
- Hot Topics
- Impaired Consciousness in Epilepsy: Mechanisms and Consequences
- AED Pharmacology: Application to Practice
- Pediatric Epilepsy Highlights
- Pediatric State of the Art Symposium: Seizures and Epilepsy Complicating Medical Conditions in Childhood
- Resective Epilepsy Surgery: Patient Selection and Outcomes
- Neurophysiological Monitoring of the Critically Ill
- Maladaptive Neuroplasticity in Stress and Epilepsy
- Practice Management Course
- AET Symposium: Seizure Aggravation During Antiepileptic Therapy

Special Interest Groups
This year hosted a record number of SIGs (38), including two ACNS groups. The most popular were Children’s Hour, Pediatric Roundtable and EEG with more than 250 pre-registered for each. New topics this year were Pregnancy Registry Outcomes, Herbs and Botanicals, and Tuberous Sclerosis.

Abstracts
A total of 1,006 posters were presented over three days. In addition, we repeated our very successful Investigators’ Poster Session with 26 posters. Thirty-six platforms were also presented in the areas of Neuroimaging and Therapeutics, Clinical Neurophysiology/Clinical Epilepsy and Translational Research.

Exhibit Hall
The Exhibit Hall was again a fascinating place to visit, where you could get your handwriting analyzed, get a massage or a cup of coffee or even get your picture taken with a seizure dog. A total of 65 commercial companies and nine non-profits exhibited for two days.

Press Room
The 1st North American Regional Epilepsy Congress Press Room offers resources to journalists seeking information on epilepsy-related studies, as well as presentations of interest to their audiences. The Press Room provides many resources for journalists, including press releases, reports, fact sheets, biographies and more. The American Epilepsy Society staffs the Press Room at the meeting and works with journalists to develop stories, connect with presenters and research information.

Sessions and information from the 2005 Annual Meeting yielded three wire stories, four consumer print articles, 51 trade stories, 24 Web placements and two broadcast places, which totaled over 45 million media impressions. AES also held its first press briefing with the two International Scholars, which was very popular among those attending. Part of the plan for 2006 is to have more live press briefings to further encourage interest in AES and its membership.

This was the second year that the majority of the above programs were made available on the AES Web site for CME credit after the meeting. These programs are available in audio format with PowerPoint slides free of charge.
The AES Annual Meeting is a huge event that attracts many different constituencies for a variety of reasons. The AES is committed to presenting the foremost in scientific data while merging the interests of basic scientists, clinicians and professionals in epilepsy care. The past several years have seen many programming changes at the Annual Meeting and this continued for 2005. Although the basic components of the meeting did not change, the schedule continues to be refined. In 2005, a joint meeting was held with the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS), which offered programs geared to the AES constituency as well as the neurophysiologist. This proved to be of interest to all groups.

The subcommittees of the Annual Meeting Committee were responsible for organizing their respective programs. Highlights of this committee work are noted as follows:

- **Annual Course Committee**: The Annual Course was jointly held with ACNS and covered Evidence Used to Diagnose and Treat Patients. A concurrent afternoon breakout session was held that gave a detailed overview of EEG. The Annual Course is an all day event beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m. There were 28 faculty members for the course and it was presented in a case/debate format.

- **Investigators’/Clinical Investigators’ Workshop Committee**: The Investigators’ Workshop continues to expand. There are 11 basic science workshops and four clinical workshops held over three days along with one poster session geared toward basic scientists.

- **Pediatric Content Committee**: This is the second year for the Pediatric State of the Art Symposium and Pediatric Highlights Session. The topic for the State of the Art Symposium was “Seizures and Epilepsy Complicating Medical Conditions in Childhood” and the Highlights Session included selected pediatric abstracts. These programs have been very successful and well received by the meeting attendees.

- **Professionals in Epilepsy Care**: Formerly known as Allied Health, the Professionals in Epilepsy Care program continues to gain momentum in the Society and meet the needs of nurses, social workers and other healthcare professionals. This group is in the process of expanding its presence at the Annual Meeting with a second symposium in 2006.

The following are other initiatives that the Annual Meeting Committee developed and improved for 2005:

**Conflict of Interest**

In compliance with the ACCME Standards for Commercial Support, AES mandates that all faculty and planners involved with content development of educational activities must disclose their relationships to commercial supporters and that this disclosure be reviewed for potential bias. The disclosure has a one-year look-back that must be updated for each activity. This resulted in the idea to create a bias potential scale as part of an online survey that could be updated as needed by faculty and planners. A test was conducted in 2005 and the survey is being more fully developed in 2006.

**Medical Education Partners**

AES Council on Education decided in 2004 to fold all the evening educational activities, the Merritt-Putnam Symposium and AET Symposium into the 2005 Annual Meeting as core AES programs. AES began to centralize logistics of these programs and oversee marketing, audiovisual, food and beverage, signage and other logistical arrangements for the 2005 Annual Meeting.

**Handouts**

Evaluations from previous Annual Meetings requested that attendees be able to receive handouts in all sessions. The AES staff took on this challenge for the 2005 Annual Meeting by coordinating the collection of all speaker presentation slides, marrying them with the required CME information and then creating more than 13,000 paper handouts and distributing them to session attendees. Annual Meeting attendees also received an indexed CD of the handouts.

**Liaisons/Content Review Process**

The Annual Meeting Committee has appointed liaison reviewers for all educational activities. This is in compliance with ACCME guidelines and ensures that all faculty conflicts are disclosed to learners. In addition, the content of presentations is reviewed for bias and scientific validity.

**Medical Education Evaluator™**

The Evaluator, developed for the 2004 Annual Meeting, continues to be used to evaluate all educational activities and create CME certificates for both live and repurposed courses. It continues to be used to receive a record number of evaluations and issue a record number of CME certificates. AES members and other attendees are now enjoying the benefit of being able to track all the CME and CE credits and download/print their certificates at will.

**Repurposing**

Nearly all the sessions in the 2004 Annual Meeting were recorded and repurposed to be on the AES Web site, allowing attendees to experience sessions they were unable to attend and giving many others the ability to experience audio and/or video of the sessions, including slides. Through the use of the Medical Education Evaluator™, participants in the online education are able to get CME credit for some of the offerings they were not able to experience at the Annual Meeting. The 2005 sessions were also recorded and appear with enhanced features on the AES Web site.
Dr. Francis M. Foster, President of the U.S. Branch of the International League Against Epilepsy, reported in the November 1953 issue of *Epilepsia* that during meetings in 1951 and 1952, a new constitution was adopted and a number of standing committees were activated. Among these standing committees were the Research Committee and Funds Committee. Dr. Foster described the charges for these committees as follows: “The Research Committee has reviewed the present status of research in the field of epilepsy and the Funds Committee indicates where the young investigator stimulated by the report of the Research Committee can turn for funds to solve problems suggested.” The Research and Training Committee today carries the charges of the Research Committee and the Funds Committee so succinctly described by Dr. Foster.

Fortunately there are many significant sources of funds to support epilepsy research. The federal government supports epilepsy research by giving grants through the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) and other institutes within the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control, Department of Defense, etc. The NIH funded approximately 450 epilepsy-related research projects or programs in 2005. Interestingly, the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, which was a precursor of the current NINDS, was founded by an act of Congress in 1950, about the time the American Branch of the International League Against Epilepsy was activating its Research and Funds Committees.

A large number of private foundations generously support epilepsy research. The first of currently active private sources of support for epilepsy research was the Grass Foundation, started in 1955 by Ellen and Albert Grass, two scientists who had built and improved EEG machines and founded the Grass Instrument Company. Albert Grass built his first three-channel EEG machine in 1935 for Erna and Frederic Gibbs, who wanted to test whether EEG was a useful tool for diagnosing epilepsy. The funding for this patient-oriented translational research project was provided by the Macy Foundation.

In addition to the Grass Foundation, the Lennox Trust, the Epilepsy Foundation, the Klingenstein Foundation, the Milken Family Foundation, the National Epifellows Foundation, Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy, the Epilepsy Therapy Development Project, Parents Against Childhood Epilepsy and Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance are some of the private organizations that support research into causes, consequences, treatment and cure of epilepsy. The support from private organizations has been critical in identifying and training a whole generation of epilepsy researchers currently working in the United States and the rest of the world. For many of us, support from private foundations has come at a critical moment launching or resuscitating a career devoted to epilepsy research.

The Research and Training Committee recognizes that a large number of sources of funds for epilepsy research represent both an opportunity and a challenge. It is difficult for individual investigators to identify appropriate sources of funds for the research they wish to undertake. In order to address this need, the American Epilepsy Society in collaboration with various organizations has put together a Web site listing available sources of funding for epilepsy research at www.epilepsyresearchresource.org.

The committee hopes that this site will help match eager investigators to appropriate funding sources.
2006/2007 MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION EARLY CAREER PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST AWARDS

Beate Diehl, M.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Mentor: Hans O. Lüders, M.D., Ph.D.
“Diffusion tensor imaging and tractography of the arcuate fascicle in patients with temporal lobe epilepsy and controls”

Paolo Federico, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Calgary/Foothills Medical Center
Mentor: Samuel Wiebe, M.D.
“High frequency oscillations and the pre-ictal state”

Martin Gallagher, M.D., Ph.D.
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Mentor: Robert L. Macdonald, M.D., Ph.D.
“Developing pharmacological interventions to mitigate a specific autosomal dominant form of juvenile myoclonic epilepsy”

Christina Gurnett, M.D., Ph.D.
St. Louis Children’s Hospital/Washington University
Mentor: Edwin Trevathan, M.D.
“Identification of a seizure susceptibility gene common to both mendelian and complex inherited epilepsy”

David Hsu, M.D.
University of Wisconsin Hospital & Clinics
Mentors: John M. Beggs, M.D., Thomas P. Sutula, M.D., Ph.D.
“A dynamic model for firing rate and critical homeostasis: implications for epileptogenesis”

Eric Marsh, M.D., Ph.D.
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Mentor: Amy Brooks-Kayal, M.D.
“Infantile spasms”

Annapurna Poduri, M.D.
Children’s Hospital Boston
Mentor: Christopher A. Walsh, M.D., Ph.D.
“To identify regions of DNA deletion or duplication associated with the development of MCD”

2005/2006 MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIPS

Shashank Dravid, Ph.D.
Emory University
“Structure activity relationship of NR2B selective NMDA antagonists”

Jonas Dyhrfjeld-Johnsen, Ph.D.
University of California, Irvine
“Impact of altered Ih on dendritic integration in hyperexcitability”

Erika E. Fanselow, Ph.D.
Brown University
“Mechanisms of persistent activity induced in cortical inhibitory interneurons by electrical stimulation”

Olena Isaeva, Ph.D.
Dartmouth Medical School
“Effects of isoflurane as an anticonvulsant during early brain development”

Hiroyuki Koizumi, Ph.D.
University of California, San Diego
“Physiological function of DCX family in neuronal migration and cortical development”

Durga Prasanna Mohapatra, Ph.D.
University of California, Davis
“Altered hippocampal excitability in epileptic seizures: role of the voltage-gated potassium channel Kv2.1”

Michael R. Taylor, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
“Identification and characterization of seizure-resistant genes in zebrafish”

Peter J. West, Ph.D.
University of Utah
“Mediation and modulation of synaptic transmission by kainite receptors of the medial entorhinal cortex”
Research Funding (continued)

AES-FUNDED POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Huifang Li, Ph.D.
Stanford University
“GABAergic inhibition in the cholesterol inhibitor model of absence epilepsy”

Milena Menegola, Ph.D.
University of California, Davis
“Hippocampal interneuron ion channel expression in epilepsy”

Squire Matthew Stead, M.D., Ph.D.
Mayo Clinic Rochester, Mayo College of Medicine
“Prevalence and spatial distribution of high-frequency epileptiform oscillations in human neocortical epilepsy and their correlation with surgical outcome”

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP FUNDED BY THE LENNOX TRUST FUND

Jamie Lynn Maguire, Ph.D.
University of California, Los Angeles
“Dynamic neurosteroid-dependent regulation of GABA-A receptors”

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP FUNDED BY UCB PHARMA

Angelika Lampert, M.D.
Yale University
“Control of excitability in rodent spike-wave seizures by voltage-gated sodium channels”

AES AND LENNOX TRUST FUND PRE-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Kristin L. Hillman
University of North Dakota
“Adrenergic modulations of CA1 pyramidal neuron excitability”

Jonathan Elledge Kurz
Virginia Commonwealth University
“Calcineurin-dependent modulation of neuronal excitability in status epilepticus”

Jed A. Meltzer
Yale University
“Task-induced deactivation and the role of rhythmic slow activity in human cognition”

Karen Meunuz
University of California, San Francisco
“Role of stargazin in GABAergic neurons in absence epilepsy”
RESEARCH INITIATIVE PROGRAM

Francine Grodstein, Sc.D. & Edward Bromfield, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
“A prospective study of hormonal factors in epilepsy”

Philip A. Schwartzkroin, Ph.D.
University of California, Davis
“Gene transfer for epilepsy therapy”

AES-SPONSORED WORKSHOPS

Istvan Mody, Ph.D.
UCLA School of Medicine
2005 Gordon Research Conference on Inhibition of the CNS

Gary W. Mathern, M.D.
Reed Neurological Research Center
Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery Workshop

Ivan Soltesz, Ph.D.
University of California, Irvine
2006 Gordon Research Conference on Mechanisms of Epilepsy & Neuronal Synchronization
HHV-6 Foundation, “HHV-6 & 7 Epilepsy Workshop”

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

SECOND YEAR:

Raymond Dingledine, Ph.D.
Emory University School of Medicine
“Consortium for microarray experiments in epilepsy”

FIRST YEAR:

Michael D. Privitera, M.D. & David Ficker, M.D.
University of Cincinnati
“A multicenter consortium to plan and execute a randomized clinical trial exploring medication resistance in newly diagnosed epilepsy”

Steve C. Schachter, M.D.
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
“Evaluation of Asian herbal medicine-derived compounds with in vitro and in vivo assessments relative to epilepsy”

William D. Gaillard, M.D.
Children’s Research Institute
“Multi-site pediatric network for fMRI mapping in childhood epilepsy”
AES Awards

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
Recognizes the professional excellence reflected in a distinguished history of research or important promise for the improved understanding, diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy.

Basic Scientist Award
— Tallie Z. Baram, M.D., Ph.D.

Clinical Investigator Award
— Jean Gotman, Ph.D.

RESEARCH RECOGNITION AWARDS
Research Recognition Awards Committee

2005 AES Service Award
— Jacqueline A. French, M.D.

2005 William G. Lennox Award
— Marc A. Dichter, M.D., Ph.D.

2005 J. Kiffin Penry Award Excellence in Epilepsy Care (awarded posthumously)
— John R. Gates, M.D.
Report from the Membership Committee

Frank Drislane, M.D., Chair

The Membership Committee is charged with promoting and approving membership in the American Epilepsy Society and supervising membership categories. Its primary goal is bringing more people interested in epilepsy into the AES. By continuing to foster a stimulating interaction of basic science and clinical investigators and workers in the field of epilepsy, the AES essentially “sells itself” to people who want to share ideas and projects for understanding epilepsy better and to help people with epilepsy more. The milestone of our 3,000th member was reached just before the Annual Meeting in Washington in December 2005.

This year, the new category of Professionals in Epilepsy Care (PEC) replaced that of Allied Health. Nurses, social workers, psychologists, pharmacists, and others are eligible for membership in this category. For many, membership is more affordable without *Epilepsia* subscription fees.

Discounted fees for joint membership in the AES and affiliated or overlapping societies were considered, but it was felt that no dramatically increased membership would offset the loss of revenue for the Society. The Membership Committee appreciated corporate and other contributions to help underwrite Annual Meeting attendance for epilepsy and EEG Fellows, a major source of future AES members. International membership growth is limited by the fact that the AES is but one of many individual national epilepsy societies that are chapters of the International League Against Epilepsy. Nevertheless, the AES continues to welcome and benefit from a substantial international interest in the Society and participation in its activities.

The year has seen a reasonable resolution of the problem of defining membership categories for members supported primarily by industry, in an attempt to remove any appearance of conflict of interest for the Society. A new corporate membership category was introduced, and mechanisms were developed for individuals to appeal or request a change in membership category, while still maintaining protection from conflicts of interest for the AES as a whole.

The Membership Committee looks forward to welcoming new members at the 60th Annual Meeting in San Diego this December and will be exploring ways to honor longtime members. The committee invites all members to encourage their friends and colleagues to join the AES.

### Membership Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate</td>
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<tr>
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<td>83</td>
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</table>
The Practice Committee is charged with providing support for clinicians who care for people with epilepsy. The Annual Practice Management Course during the AES Annual Meeting focuses on economic issues related to provision of care, especially changes in the Medicare fee schedule. Other issues affecting clinical practice are communicated with the membership through the AES online network, for example, drug availability. The committee maintains contact with the American Academy of Neurology, Epilepsy Foundation and the National Association of Epilepsy Centers, which helps the membership to stay informed regarding regulatory and legislative issues affecting clinical practice.

The Board of Directors has convened a task force to begin developing Practice Standards. Members of the Practice Committee are involved in various aspects of this initiative, including addressing standards being considered by the Joint Committee for the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) for epilepsy programs; use of templates for electronic medical records to establish epilepsy-outcome databases; delineating current practices regarding safety in monitoring units, the latter in conjunction with other organizations representing epilepsy-care providers. The value of guidelines and practice parameters is a major focus of the task force. The committee provides a venue for increased involvement of additional professionals such as EEG technologists and nurse practitioners in AES.

The committee meets at the Annual Meeting, allowing for discussion of issues of clinical concern. In addition, questions relating to clinical practice are addressed from time to time between the annual meetings. Members of the Practice Committee will remain actively involved in the task force on Practice Standards, especially in the ongoing process of development of safety standards and practice guidelines.
Epilepsy Currents hit its stride this year, publishing its sixth volume of commentaries and reviews on the current literature on epilepsy. The journal’s success is measured by the responses we receive from individual readers, our readership survey and our publisher, Blackwell Science. The best testament to the journal’s success is when someone says, “I read in Epilepsy Currents that...” The Epilepsy Currents readership survey conducted this year was overwhelmingly positive. Our members are avid readers of the journal with high regard for the format. There were requests to expand it to a monthly publication. Blackwell Science reported a 30 percent print circulation increase, a 15 percent increase in articles downloaded from their Web site Synergy, and 718 subscribers taking advantage of the Table of Contents e-mail alerts. Epilepsy Currents’ international influence is evidenced by several contributing editors from European countries.

In 2007, our international influence will increase dramatically with a Spanish translation of selected, previously published commentaries and reviews. The Spanish edition will be distributed to 3,000 people three times annually.

The Epilepsy Currents Editorial Board meets each December at the AES Annual Meeting. The goal of these meetings is to bring all of our editors together to discuss the editorial process and to explore ideas for continued improvement. Some discussion of expanding to monthly issues, and of a change in format to include a limited number of highly-selected original articles and other educational formats (after the model of The New England Journal of Medicine) is also ongoing. We welcome your feedback on these ideas, as well as how the journal can better serve your needs.
Report from the
Technology Committee
Jerry Shih, M.D., Chair

The American Epilepsy Society’s Web site continues to expand and provide further resources to its membership and the epilepsy community as a whole. The role of the AES Technology Committee is to define new technologies and resources for the AES Web site to offer. The committee meets yearly at the AES Annual Meeting in December.

The AES Web site is very popular among members of the epilepsy community. As of the end of May 2006, visits to the site have increased by 53 percent over this time last year and have already eclipsed the entire number of visits for 2004. Stats for 2005 saw a 92 percent increase from 2004 site visits. We are currently on pace for 500,000 site visits in 2006. This can be attributed to the constant updating of information and the offering of new and unique resources.

Below is a synopsis of features added to the AES Web site in 2005.

Resources in Epilepsy Research
www.epilepsyresearchresource.org

The AES worked with a group of organizations in the common pursuit of funding research for a cure for epilepsy. The site is designed to help to match researchers with the proper funding opportunities. This online database is a comprehensive listing of all available funding through these organizations with instructions on how to apply for funding consideration as well as links to more information. In addition to matching researchers with funding, this site keeps an inventory of all currently-funded research in order to encourage project collaboration and ensure that there is not duplication in research. The other organizations involved in the development of this resource are CURE, EF, Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance, Epilepsy Therapy Development Project, FACES, Milken Family Foundation, NINDS and PACE.

Repurposed Annual Meeting Sessions
http://www.aesnet.org/visitors/professionaldevelopment/AESOnlineEducation.cfm

Meeting sessions have been repurposed and placed on the AES Web site. Some programs feature audio, video and slides, while others will only be audio and slides. All sessions include a complete transcript and most offer CME credit for those interested. The sessions are linked with the CME evaluator, which allows members to automatically take the test and print up individualized CME certificates.

Epilepsy Education Program
http://www.aesnet.org/visitors/professionaldevelopment/MedEd/epilepsyedu.cfm

The American Epilepsy Society’s Epilepsy Education Program is another new feature on the Web site designed by the Student & Resident Education Subcommittee of the Education Committee. This program, essentially an epilepsy textbook, is designed for use by both students and faculty as either a resource on epilepsy or a stand-alone learning tool.

AES Blog
www.aesnet.org/blog

Blogs are dynamic Web pages that are frequently updated with news and personal insights. Blog entries are generally short and succinct and can be used to discuss almost any type of issue. Our goal was to generate discussion among the epilepsy community.

The AES Web site continues to gain in popularity among the epilepsy community as suggested by the growing number of visits. The Technology Committee continues to strive to enhance our membership’s ability to utilize today’s Web-based informational systems. We will be enhancing the AES Web site in 2007.
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