



**INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY (ILAE)  
Commission on European Affairs (CEA)**

October 10, 2011

**Chair :**

Professor Meir Bialer  
Jerusalem, Israel  
[meirb@ekmd.huji.ac.il](mailto:meirb@ekmd.huji.ac.il)

Folketingets Sundhedsudvalg  
The Standing Committee for Health  
Denmark

**Secretary:**

Professor Alla Guekht  
Moscow, Russia

Your Lady/Sir ,

Professor Alexis  
Arzimanoglou  
Lyon, France

Professor Michel Baulac  
Paris, France

Professor Thnos Covanis  
Athens, Greece

Professor Helen Cross  
London, UK

Professor Reetta  
Kalviainen  
Kuopio, Finland

Professor Salomon Moshe  
New York, USA

Professor Emilio Perucca  
Pavia, Italy

Professor Asla Pitkanen  
Kuopio, Finland

Professor Torbjorn  
Tomson  
Stockholm, Sweden

Professor Eugen Trinko  
Innsbruck, Austria

It is with great concern that the Commission on European Affairs (CEA) of International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) has received the news about the impending closure of Dianalund Epilepsy Hospital, the only Epilepsy Centre in Denmark. We are concerned because epilepsy is such a varied condition that any well-functioning system of epilepsy care needs to be hierarchical and include a highest-level reference centre to take care of the most difficult cases and provide facilities also for selected groups of patients. These include in the diagnostic field prolonged combined video and EEG registrations, specialized neuropsychological investigations and evaluation programmes for the selection for epilepsy surgery, including special imaging approaches such as ictal SPECT. In the therapeutic field, the highest level centres provide care for multiple handicapped persons and for patients with non-epileptic psychogenic and other seizures; they also offer vagus nerve and other brain stimulation therapies as well as ketogenic diet for children with intractable seizures. For several of these, the Dianalund Hospital is the only place in Denmark where they are available.

It is generally assumed that in an adequate health system one highest level epilepsy centre needs to be available for a population of 4 to 5 million inhabitants, about the population of Denmark. We understand that the present situation is due to changes in your health care system where five regions take responsibility for their population. It is, however, unrealistic to assume that expertise and facilities for highest level epilepsy care can be built up in parallel for 5 subpopulations of about 1 million each; in addition, such a system would not be cost-effective.

ILAE Chapter Services Office  
7 Priory Hall, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin, Ireland  
Ph: +353 1 278 4908  
Fax: +353 1 205 6156  
[www.ilae.org](http://www.ilae.org)



**INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY (ILAE)  
Commission on European Affairs (CEA)**

**Chair :**

Professor Meir Bialer  
Jerusalem, Israel  
[meirb@ekmd.huji.ac.il](mailto:meirb@ekmd.huji.ac.il)

**Secretary:**

Professor Alla Guekht  
Moscow, Russia

Professor Alexis  
Arzimanoglou  
Lyon, France

Professor Michel Baulac  
Paris, France

Professor Thnos Covanis  
Athens, Greece

Professor Helen Cross  
London, UK

Professor Reetta  
Kalviainen  
Kuopio, Finland

Professor Salomon Moshe  
New York, USA

Professor Emilio Perucca  
Pavia, Italy

Professor Asla Pitkanen  
Kuopio, Finland

Professor Torbjorn  
Tomson  
Stockholm, Sweden

ILAE Chapter Services Office  
7 Priory Hall, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin, Ireland  
Ph: +353 1 278 4908  
Fax: +353 1 205 6156  
[www.ilae.org](http://www.ilae.org)



**INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY (ILAE)  
Commission on European Affairs (CEA)**

Professor Eugen Trinkla  
Innsbruck, Austria

In addition to its role in the national health care for your country, the Danish Epilepsy Centre has also developed into an active and increasingly prolific research institution of excellent international renown whose contributions to the scientific progress in epileptology would be greatly missed if the Centre disappeared.

For all these reasons, we urgently ask you to ensure the continuous existence and activity of the Danish Epilepsy Centre.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Meir Bialer'.

Meir Bialer, Ph.D., M.B.A., CEA Chair  
David H. Eisenberg Professor of Pharmacy  
School of Pharmacy  
Faculty of Medicine  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Jerusalem 91120, Israel  
Tel: 972-2-6758610 (work)  
Tel: 972-2-6522405 or 972-2-6520902 (home)  
Fax: 972-2-6757246 or 972-26784010

ILAE Chapter Services Office  
7 Priory Hall, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin, Ireland  
Ph: +353 1 278 4908  
Fax: +353 1 205 6156  
[www.ilae.org](http://www.ilae.org)