



# **EPICURE e-newsletter**

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## LATEST NEWS

### SECOND ANNUAL MEETING IN MALTA – JANUARY 2008

The FP6 EPICURE contract (LSH-CT-2006-037315) started on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2007. In January 2008 more than 100 delegates, representing research laboratories in 13 European countries, as well as the International Bureau for Epilepsy and CF Consulting, came to Malta for the second annual meeting of **EPICURE project**. The meeting was aimed at discussing work performed during the previous twelve months, presenting reports on advances made to date and to setting the programme for the coming year. Welcoming delegates, **Louis Deguara**, Minister of Health and Community Care in Malta gave a speech to the participants of the meeting stressing the significance of the **EPICURE** study as *epilepsy remains the most serious neurological disorder across the globe*.

### EPICURE IN MASS MEDIA

The EPICURE Second Annual meeting in Malta was reported by public media worldwide. A note about the conference appeared in **THE SUNDAY TIMES** (“FIS host major epilepsy conference”, January 13, 2008, p.77). In May, **RICERKA** (Maltese magazine) included a one-page article to the meeting thanks to the inclusion of **Dr. Janet Mifsud** in the **EPICURE** Advisory Board. The article pointed out basic facts about epilepsy: *6 million of*



*Second Annual EPICURE Meeting – January 2008, Malta.  
On the left Prot. Giuliano Avanzini (Project Coordinator)*

*people in Europe, about 3000 of them in Malta, currently have active epilepsy. This has major implications not only for health but also for independent living, education and employment, mobility, and social integration. The resulting economic burden has been estimated at €18 billion per year. Malta Council for Science and Technology circulated around 1300 copies of the Ricerka magazine in Malta. Around half of them were distributed to University lecturers and staff and the other half*

to private institutions and NGOs, and a few to ministries. Moreover, a presentation of **EPICURE** project was published in the major daily newspaper of Bologna – **IL RESTO DEL CARLINO**. The article was dedicated to illustrate objectives of the project like identification of genetic factors causing epilepsy and understanding the contribution of candidate genes to lack of drug efficacy.

## EPICURE PUBLICATIONS

The project results have been published in numerous scientific journals and presented during different conferences, congresses and events dedicated to epilepsy problematic. In details, there were: 37 papers in peer reviewed journals, 19 publications in press, 2 publications submitted, 2 publication in preparation, 1 book chapter, 14 lectures, 13 conference posters, 1 conference workshop.

The project diffusion may be also proved by the following facts: by searching with Google the words **EPICURE and epilepsy**, more than 10,600 hits will be shown. Most of the partners inserted the link to the EPICURE website in their organisations' websites.

## EPICURE EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

**EPICURE** exchange programmes for PHD students, post-docs and senior researchers further strengthened interactions among EPICURE partners by using the web site to advertise training activities and open research positions.

In the second year of the project, two research boursaries (one for a post -doc position and one for a post-graduate position) financed with the **EPICURE** funds have been activated by CR30 AOU MEYER. One of researchers spent one month in the laboratory of Dr. Spreafico (CO1 INNCB) and two months in the laboratory of Cardoso (CR2 INSERM).

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EPILEPSY

From 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2008, **7th Asian & Oceanian Epilepsy Congress** took place in Xiamen, China. The main topics were Diagnostic Issues in Paediatric Epileptology; Surgical Treatment of Symptomatic Epilepsy in Asia; Epilepsy Genetics – Towards Daily Practice; Epilepsy and Co-morbidities and Social Issues. The congress gathered experts from all over the world.

During this event CR28 Brainwave distributed informational material presenting **EPICURE** project.

### Xiamen | China 2008

7th Asian & Oceanian Epilepsy Congress 15th - 18th May 2008



### COMING EVENTS

- **1st International Epilepsy Colloquium (IEC)** – from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in Marburg. This conference will be organized by CR17 UNIMAR in cooperation with **EPICURE** partners.
- **8th European Congress on Epileptology** – from 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September 2008 in Berlin. During the congress an **EPICURE** workshop will take place and latest developments and research results from project will be presented to other researchers.