



# **EPICURE e-newsletter**

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## LATEST NEWS

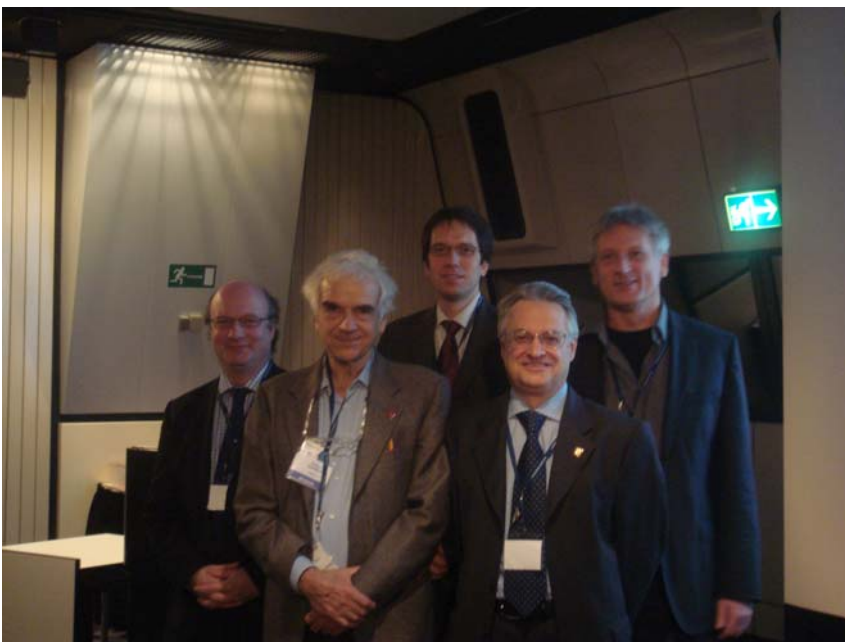
### EPICURE WORKSHOP

On 23rd September 2008, in Berlin, **EPICURE** Workshop held during the **8th European Congress on Epileptology** was organized. It provided a unique opportunity for the latest developments and research results from the **EPICURE** project to be presented to other researchers. This workshop was included in the official scientific programme following the initiative of **Prof Giuliano Avanzini**, project coordinator and **Dr Janet Mifsud**, member of the Dissemination Board of EPICURE.

The main aims of this workshop were to promote and explain the EPICURE initiative to the European scientific epilepsy community. **Prof Giuliano Avanzini**, explained how **EPICURE** is bringing together a critical mass of EU researchers across Europe (over 30 partners), in order to co-ordinate efforts in the identification of the disease-causing genes of epilepsy and their functional role in the pathophysiology of neuronal excitability and

network synchronization, using complementary advanced methods.

The various speakers during this workshop explained the various work packages being undertaken, and how **EPICURE** brings together expertise under five main subprojects, which are both clinical and laboratory-based, with the common goal of advancing European epilepsy research, in order to bring about novel therapeutic benefits to patients.



*Prof. Giuliano Avanzini (Project Coordinator), together with Dr. Matthew Walker, Dr. Ingmar Bluemcke, Prof. Emilio Perucca and Dr. Thomas Sander*

The workshop clearly showed how excellent results can be achieved if there is a central coordination which will promote cross-fertilization and synergistic effects in epilepsy research in Europe. Innovation aspects of the project, in fact, include interactions and synergies between industrial and academic laboratories, by the inclusion of SME participation in the development of improved diagnostic use of contrast agents for MRI investigations, the use of high resolution imaging techniques, and identification of new therapeutic targets and proof of principles for innovative therapy.



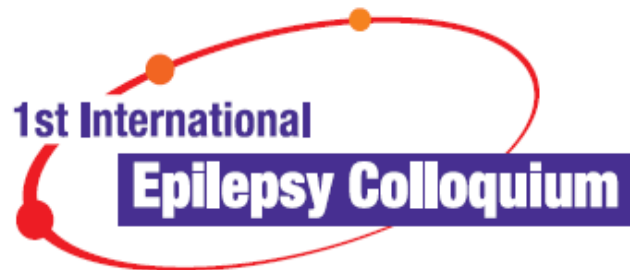
## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### 1ST INTERNATIONAL EPILEPSY COLLOQUIUM

The group from Marburg (CR17 UNIMAR) has organised the **1st International Epilepsy Colloquium (IEC)** on “The Mesial Temporal Lobe Epilepsies” from June 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> 2008 in Marburg, Germany.

The colloquium, which was organized in cooperation with **EPICURE** Partners, considered all aspects of the disease including

pathophysiology, treatment options and mechanisms of pharmacoresistance. Speakers from different EPICURE partners participated. The EPICURE logo was therefore printed in the programme. The 2nd IEC will be organized in Lyon in May 2009.



### EPICURE MEETINGS 2009

From 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at Charité Universitätsmedizin in Berlin, **THIRD ANNUAL PROJECT MEETING** will take place. It will gather all 30 partners from 13 European countries.

A one-week **HAND-ON COURSE** on the use of new technologies on animal models will be also organized after the yearly **EPICURE** meeting. The Course will be organized by **Uwe Heinemann** (CR8 Charité) with the collaboration of **Marco de Curtis** (CO1 INN CB) and will take place from February 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> 2009, at the Institute of Neurophysiology Charité Universitätsmedizin in Berlin. The Course will be open for max 40 students and young postdocs involved in research for the **EPICURE** projects in Europe. Teachers and tutors of the Course will be selected among the **EPICURE** Partners and from the staff personnel at the Institute of Neurophysiology Charité Universitätsmedizin in Berlin.

After a one-day lecture program the participants of the course get to know in the local labs several aspects of experimental epilepsy research. The students doing their own experiments in a mini-project are supported by an instructor and a tutor. These experiments are done every day after lunch and after dinner, before lunch several other aspects of research are demonstrated. Additionally, each day from 9.00 to 10.00 and from 18.00 to 19.00 one lecture is given. For the experiments 10 tutors from outside will be involved to complete the number of the local tutors and available for the whole week.