



## INAUGURATION

### COMMISSION ON EAST MEDITERRANEAN AFFAIRS ILAE



**T**he East Mediterranean Affairs Commission (CEMA) has been established with the help and support of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE). The objectives are to 1. Finalize the structure of the commission. 2. Increase the number of chapters in the East Mediterranean Region (EMR). 3. Establish education and training programs for the chapters in EMR. 4. Education of the community and patients about epilepsy in EMR. 5. Publish a newsletter or a journal for the Commission. 6. Interactive website for EMR.

**Membership.** The following Epilepsy Chapters and Societies are members of the Commission:

*Egyptian Society Against Epilepsy*  
*Jordanian Epilepsy Chapter*  
*Lebanese League Against Epilepsy*  
*Ligue Marocaine Contre L'Epilepsie*  
*Epilepsy Association of Pakistan*  
*Qatar League Against Epilepsy*  
*Saudi Chapter of Epilepsy*  
*Syrian Chapter of Epilepsy*  
*Tunisian Association Against Epilepsy*

**ILAE Commissions.** The following Commissions are members of the ILAE.

*Commission on European Affairs,*  
*Svein Johannessen, Chairman*  
*Commission on Asian & Oceanic Affairs,*  
*Chong Tin Tan, Chairman*  
*Commission for Latin American Affairs,*  
*Juvenal Gutierrez Monteczuma, Chairman*  
*North American Commission,*  
*Jeffrey Noebels, Chairman*  
*Eastern Mediterranean Commission*  
*Basim Yaqub, Chairman*

Dr. Martin Brodie is the Chairman of the Task Force for Regional Commissions.

**Structure.** The structure of the Commission is shown in Figure 1.

**General Assembly.** The members are the President or his representative from countries with a chapter in the ILAE, ex-officio, Chairman and the Secretary-General of the Commission. The existing

chapters and Presidents are:

*Egyptian Society Against Epilepsy*  
*Dr. Farouk Koura*  
*Iraqi Chapter of International League Against Epilepsy, Prof. Sarmed Al-Fahad*  
*Jordanian Epilepsy Chapter*  
*Dr. Abdel Karim Al-Qudah*  
*Lebanese League Against Epilepsy*  
*Dr. Naji Riachi*  
*Moroccan League Against Epilepsy*  
*Dr. Quazzani Reda*  
*Epilepsy Association of Pakistan*  
*Dr. Hassan Aziz*  
*Qatar League Against Epilepsy*  
*Dr. Ahmed Hamad*  
*Saudi Chapter of Epilepsy*  
*Prof. Saleh Al-Deeb*  
*Syrian Chapter of Epilepsy*  
*Dr. Ahmad Khalifa*  
*Tunisian Society Against Epilepsy*  
*Prof. Amel Mrabet*

**CEMA Commission.** The Commission is formed of 7 members including the Chairman. The Commission will be responsible for executing the plan of the chapters and present an annual report to the General Assembly. Also, it will represent the Commission in the ILAE.

Chairman:

Yaqub, Basim (*Saudi Arabia*)

Members:

Al-Qudah, Abdulkarim (*Jordan*)

Aziz, Hassan (*Pakistan*)

Comair, Yousef (*Lebanon*)

Hamad, Ahmed (*Qatar*)

Hosny, Hassan (*Egypt*)

Mrabet, Amel (*Tunisia*)

**Advisory Council.** Members are selected from the faculty with a distinguished career who promote epilepsy services in their region. The members are:

Al-Deeb, Saleh (*Saudi Arabia*)

Al-Kurdi, Ashraf (*Jordan*)

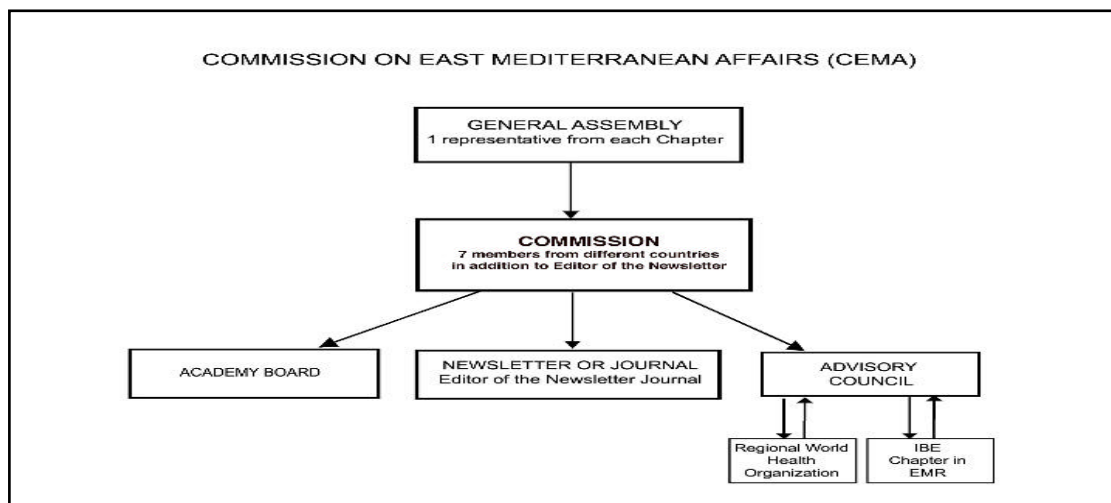
Koura, Farouk (*Egypt*)

Mikati, Mohamad (*Lebanon*)



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**Figure 1** - Structure of the Commission on East Mediterranean Affairs (CEMA).

#### *East Mediterranean Epilepsy Academy (EMEPA) Executive Board.*

Al-Fahad, Sarmed (*Iraq*)  
Fredj, Mohammed (*Tunisia*)  
Khalifa, Ahmad (*Syria*)  
Reda, Quazzani (*Morocco*)  
Riachi, Naji (*Lebanon*)

**Education and Training programs.** An academy has been established under the responsibility of the Commission and the EMEPA. The academy will support the academic activities of our region. Well known and respected clinicians and academicians in our region were invited to become the faculty members. They include:

Al-Qudah, Abdelkarim (*Jordan*)  
Aziz, Hasan (*Pakistan*)  
Bakhsh, Iman (*Saudi Arabia*)  
Beydoun, Ahmed (*Lebanon*)  
Chahnez, Triki (*Tunisia*)  
Chedrawi, Aziza (*Saudi Arabia*)  
Comair, Yousef (*Lebanon*)  
Fredj, Mohammed (*Tunisia*)  
Hamad, Ahmed (*Qatar*)  
Hassan, Ayman (*Saudi Arabia*)  
Hosny, Hassan (*Egypt*)

Khan, Sonia (*Saudi Arabia*)  
Mikati Mohamad (*Lebanon*)  
Mrabet, Amel (*Tunisia*)  
Najar, Marwan (*Saudi Arabia*)  
Obeid, Tahir (*Saudi Arabia*)  
Reda, Quazzani (*Morocco*)  
Riachi, Naji (*Lebanon*)  
Semari, Abdulaziz (*Saudi Arabia*)  
Shawki, Abdel Hakim (*Saudi Arabia*)  
Yaqub, Basim (*Saudi Arabia*)

There are plans to hold the first conference in Egypt in 2006, also to establish a newsletter, and have an interactive website. The role of CEMA will include education of the community and patients about epilepsy. This will be under the responsibility of the Commission and the Advisory Council. A detailed plan has to be established in cooperation with different Chapters in the International Bureau of Epilepsy (IBE) and Regional World Health Organization (RWHO) in Cairo.

The first business meeting for CEMA was conducted on 15 January 2004, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The minutes have been prepared by Edna Cirera, CEMA Administrator and are enclosed overleaf.



## MINUTES OF MEETING

### COMMISSION ON EAST MEDITERRANEAN AFFAIRS 15 JANUARY 2004

Prepared by: Edna Cirera, CEMA Administrator



- Present:** Avanzini, Giuliano, *President of International League Against Epilepsy*  
Al-Deeb, Saleh, *(Saudi Arabia)*  
Al-Qudah, Abdelkarim, *(Jordan)*  
Aziz, Hasan, *(Pakistan)*  
Hamad, Ahmed, *(Qatar)*  
Hosny, Hassan, *(Egypt)*  
Khalifa, Ahmad, *(Syria)*  
Koura, Farouk, *(Egypt)*  
Mikati, Mohamad, *(Lebanon)*  
Mrabet, Amel, *(Tunisia)*  
Ozkara, Cigdem, *Chairman, Subregional and Interregional Organizations Task Force*
- Guests:** Jishi, Adel, *(Bahrain)*  
Obeid, Taher, *(Sudan)*  
Shawki, Abdelhakim, *Chairman of the Organizing Committee*
- Apologies:** Brodie, Martin, *Chairman of Task Force for Regional Commissions*  
Chafiq, Mohamed, *(Morocco)*  
Al-Fahad, Sarmed, *(Iraq)*

#### Agenda

1. **Welcome Address.**  
Dr. S. Al-Deeb, President of Saudi Chapter of Epilepsy  
Dr. A. Avanzini, President of ILAE
2. **Structure and Constitution.** Dr. Yaqub presented the document of the CEMA structure, few points were discussed:
  - 2.1 Further, it was indicated that Dr. Ahmed Beydoun and Dr. Taher Obeid to be added to the faculty members of EMEPA. The Chairman asked the members if they could suggest more names from the Arab world within a month to establish the faculty for training and educational courses in different countries.
  - 2.2 In the Commission, the term will be for 4 years effective January 2004. It was agreed that the Chairman will serve for one term only and he will become the Past Chairman after his term but he will still be included as member of the Commission for an additional 4 years.
  - 2.3 In the Advisory Council, 3 of the members will be changed after the term of the Chairman.
3. Plan to increase number of chapter in the regions – assignment of the different Commission members were as such:
  - 3.1 Algeria – Dr. Mrabet will invite the Algerian Chapter to join the Commission.
  - 3.2 Libya – Dr. Hosny will communicate to Dr. Zaid El Zunni to join the Commission.
  - 3.3 Sudan, UAE, Bahrain, Yemen – The Chairman wrote to Yemen, UAE and Sudan and they expressed their willingness to establish their epilepsy chapter while Bahrain is in the process of establishing their epilepsy chapter.



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- 3.4 Oman, Kuwait (A. Hamad)
- 3.5 Iran and Afghanistan (H. Aziz)
- 3.6 Palestine (A. Qudah and A. Al-Kurdi)

4. **Regional Commissions.** The following members will be responsible to collaborate with other regional commissions. The objective is to establish and communicate with other commissions regarding the CEMA activities and academic program so they may benefit from the training programs.

- 4.1 America (Y. Comair, M. Mikati/B. Yaqub)
- 4.2 Europe (H. Hosny)
- 4.3 Asian-Oceania (H. Aziz)
- 4.4 Africa (A. Mrabet)

5. **Subregional and Interregional Organizations Task Force (SIROTF).** Dr. Ozkara presented the general idea of SIROTF such as the composition of the task force, searching for collaborative projects, establishing commission for future collaborative projects, education and training.

Further, Dr. Mrabet will be the representative of CEMA to EPIMED. Likewise, the Chairman indicated that the commission should also support and have strong ties with the Pan-Arab Union of Neurological Society (PAUNS) and he will be the representative of CEMA to PAUNS.

6. **Educational Courses.** A guideline for conducting courses under CEMA should be outlined by the Chairman and the General Assembly. At this stage it will require inclusion of faculty from the organizing country and EMEPA. This will include with minimum requirement in addition to international faculty. The forthcoming CEMA Educational Courses will be in:

- Qatar (24-26 February 2004)
- Egypt (6-8 April 2004)
- Lebanon (17-19 November 2004)
- Morocco (18-20 November 2004) - A letter of proposal to conduct CEMA Educational Course will be sent to Dr. Ozkara.

7. **CEMA Symposia.** The General Assembly agreed that Egypt will host the CEMA Symposium in 2006 followed by Syria in 2008 and Jordan in 2010. A motion from Dr. Khalifa that he would like to discuss this matter with the members of the Syrian Chapter of Epilepsy as they have limited resources to host the meeting. Final confirmation will be sent within 3 months.

8. **IBE and WHO.** Dr. Al-Deeb expressed his strong support to the commission to have a good relationship with IBE and WHO Regional Office in Cairo. The Chairman indicated that WHO is very keen to support and give contribution such as logistic services. The Advisory Committee will be responsible for establishing and pursuing this relationship and Dr. Al-Deeb will be the representative of CEMA in relationship to WHO and IBE.

9. **Editor of CEMA Newsletter.** It was decided that Dr. Hosny will be the Editor of the CEMA Newsletter and he will serve for 2 years from 2004 till 2006. Followed by Dr. Mrabet and Dr. Al-Qudah. Neurosciences Journal will continue to be the official voice of CEMA until a Newsletter is established.

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10. **Budget.** The meeting was supported by ILAE and a non-promotional educational grant from Janssen-Cilag, which includes ticket and hotel accommodation. The budget will be presented in detail in the next CEMA meeting.
11. **Conclusion and Advisory Remarks.** Dr. Avanzini expressed his thanks for the exciting time and fruitful discussion during the meeting. He indicated his support and assistance to the future plans of the commission.
12. **Closing Remarks.** The Chairman thanked Dr. Giuliano Avanzini, President of ILAE, Dr. Cigdem Ozkara, Chairman of SIROTF and all the members and indicated the minutes of the meeting will be published in the Neurosciences Journal
13. **Adjournment.** All matters had been discussed and finalized. The Business Meeting was adjourned.

