

FOREWORD

The first edition of *Epileptic Syndromes in Infancy, Childhood and Adolescence* appeared in 1984 as the proceedings of a workshop of the Commission on Classification and Terminology of the International League against Epilepsy. The workshop took place at the Centre Saint-Paul in Marseille, France, and was initiated and organized by late Joseph Roger, on behalf of the Commission. He, commission chairman Peter Wolf and previous commission chairman Fritz E. Dreifuss had agreed that the coming International Classification of Epileptic Syndromes and Epilepsies (ICESE), like the preceding seizure classification, needed to be based not just on expert opinions but on solid scientific data. For all proposed syndromes, the available data were presented and discussed in detail at the workshop, and the syndromes that passed this critical review were defined and included in the ICESE of 1989. The book which documented this process could be published thanks to the efforts of André Perret, a physician working in the pharmaceutical industry, who provided the necessary sponsorship.

The term “Blue Guide” (“Guide Bleu” in French) was coined by our late friend Pierre Loiseau and bears witness to the widespread use of this volume in clinical practice. Its worldwide distribution was facilitated by the simultaneous publishing of an English and French version.

There were four further editions: in 1992, a major update on the syndromes justified a 2nd edition; in 2002, besides the well-known syndromes, new concepts derived from the major advances in genetics and neuroimaging for aetiology were included in a 3rd edition; in 2005, for the Paris International Epilepsy congress, the 4th edition included a video support illustrating the various seizures and syndromes. The 4th edition was translated into Japanese and into Mandarin Chinese, which furthered its global impact.

Epileptology kept changing, and a 5th edition (in English and French) came out in 2012, and was again translated into Japanese, and, for the first time, into Spanish and a special edition was made for India.

Seven years later, in 2019, this new edition, in English only, includes the most recent advances in our understanding of the epilepsies. The syndromic approach is still its backbone, but has to be adapted in the light of the new (2017) Classification scheme of the International League against Epilepsy. Chapters have been updated, partly rearranged, and still with the video companion. The diversity of editors and authors underlines the objectivity of the modern syndromic approach, which is no longer simply “electroclinical”. A large space is dedicated to the rapid advances in genetics and neuroimaging which play a fundamental role in most syndromes.

We hope that the “Blue Guide” will retain its position as a reference textbook for our epileptologist colleagues, for neurologists, neuroepidemiologists, their pupils and all those with an interest in clinical epileptology or research.

The John Libbey Eurotext staff demonstrated their trademark competence, dedication – and patience.

The Editors

Disclaimer

The editors thank patients and families, who gave their consent for the use of their video recordings associated with this 6th edition. Video sequences should be seen only by the following persons: physicians and other medical staff working in the field of epileptology and scientists involved in clinical or basic epileptological sciences. Video sequences should be played only on personal or institutional computers, as complements and illustrations to the chapters of the hard copy. These sequences are not meant to be copied for public presentations.