Epilepsia and the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) are pleased to award the 2007 Morris-Coole Prize, for an outstanding paper in Epilepsia that helps advance knowledge in the field of epilepsy, to Nicola Marchi. The award-winning paper, from Volume 48 (2007) is entitled:

“Seizure-promoting effect of blood–brain barrier disruption”

The Prize, which carries a 10,000 Euros award, was established last year through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Morris-Coole, with the intention of stimulating epilepsy research and encouraging young researchers in the field. The winning paper is chosen by the Epilepsia Editors-in-Chief and the ILAE President, from a short-list of nominations submitted by the Epilepsia Associate Editors. This year, that short list, covering full-length research reports from Volume 48 of Epilepsia, included the following papers:

Honorable Mention


The Morris-Coole Prize will be presented to Dr. Marchi at an Awards Symposium at the European Congress on Epileptology (Berlin, September 21–25, 2008), during which Dr. Marchi will present a lecture on his research.

Nicola Marchi is a Research Associate in the Department of Cell Biology in the Lerner Research Institute of the Cleveland Clinic. He received his doctoral degree from the University of Pisa in 2000. Dr. Marchi then worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the Cleveland Clinic (with Damir Janigro) and at the Institute Mario Negri (with Annamaria Vezzani). In 2005, he returned to the Janigro laboratory at the Cleveland Clinic, where his research focused on inflammation and disruption of the blood–brain barrier associated with seizure activity. According to Dr. Janigro, “Nicola was the first to notice focal motor seizures in patients undergoing blood–brain barrier disruption,” an observation that suggested “a novel mechanism for seizure generation” involving changes in vascular integrity. Dr. Marchi subsequently examined this mechanism in a variety of clinical and basic research investigations. The study for which Dr. Marchi has been awarded the Morris-Coole Prize is notably collaborative in its approach, involving a neuroradiologist, a neurologist, a brain tumor expert, and basic and clinical scientists—all working toward “true translation . . . into a cure” for epilepsy.