

# PRESS RELEASE

## Malta National Epilepsy Day 14<sup>th</sup> February 2004



### ***Epilepsy & Society – ‘Focusing on Change’***

Doriette Soler

The Malta Caritas Epilepsy Association will be celebrating the National Epilepsy Day on 14<sup>th</sup> February in conjunction with other national epilepsy associations worldwide. St Valentine has been the patron saint of persons with epilepsy since medieval times having had this condition in life.

Epilepsy is the commonest chronic neurological condition and is known to affect 1% of the worldwide population. In Malta, an estimated 2000 persons have this condition. In the past, when little was understood about this condition, people with epilepsy often faced considerable prejudice. Thankfully these attitudes are changing both worldwide and locally. However, there are still circumstances which limit opportunities in life for persons with epilepsy through fear or lack of knowledge. This is a great pity because today epilepsy can usually be controlled with the correct medical treatment and those affected can lead active, healthy and satisfying lives.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2004, Malta will be hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Epilepsy and Society at the New Dolmen Hotel, Bugibba.

This conference is organised by the International Bureau for Epilepsy in conjunction with the Caritas Malta Epilepsy Association which is the local Chapter of the Bureau. The main theme of the congress will be ‘*Focusing on Change*’ and will be of interest

to persons with epilepsy, parents and relatives of persons with epilepsy, lay organisations, interested professionals and general public. During the congress one will have the opportunity to review how services are provided in Europe and how they might be extended or changed in future. The first day will concentrate on sharing the experiences of persons with epilepsy and the second day will highlight developments in care and how to work for change. Attendance will give the opportunity for delegates to interact with each other, share personal experiences and draw on the knowledge from prominent medical experts in the field of epilepsy treatment. For more information contact Mr Godwin Cachia, [godcac@global.net.mt](mailto:godcac@global.net.mt) tel 21370381 or Dr. Janet Mifsud, tel 23402845 [janet.mifsud@um.edu.mt](mailto:janet.mifsud@um.edu.mt). or one can visit the website [www.epilepsyandsociety.org](http://www.epilepsyandsociety.org).

Dr Soler is from the Maltese Chapter of the International League Against Epilepsy.