

Preface

The present document represents a major effort. The work, over almost three years, involved not only the committee members but also the many members of the 12 subcommittees. Despite all effort, mistakes have inevitably been made. They will appear when the classification is being used and will have to be corrected in future editions. It should also be pointed out that many parts of the document are based on the experience of the experts of the committees in the absence of sufficient published evidence. It is expected, however, that the existence of the operational diagnostic criteria published in this book will generate increased nosographic and epidemiologic research activity in the years to come.

We ask all scientists who study headache to take an active part in the testing and further development of the classification. Please send opinions, arguments and reprints to the chairman of the classification committee. Hopefully the revisions will be based on new evidence.

The International Headache Society considers classification and diagnostic criteria for headache disorders to be a very important issue. Although the document needs further testing and modification, it is recommended to put it into immediate use in scientific studies. This pertains not only to drug trials, but also to biochemical and physiological studies.

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Chairman
Headache Classification Committee