
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME:

CURRENT POSITION TITLE:

Jo Wilmshurst

1. Professor, Head of Paediatric Neurology, Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, University of Cape Town, South Africa

2. Director of the African Paediatric Fellowship Program, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, UCT

EDUCATION/TRAINING

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	YEAR	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Cape Town	Doctor of Medicine	2009	Paediatrics (Peripheral Neuropathies)
Health Professions Council of South Africa	Sub-specialty accreditation	2002	Paediatric Neurology
College of Medicine of South Africa	Fellowship of College of Paediatricians	2000	Paediatrics
The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney	Novartis Epilepsy Fellowship	1999-2000	Neurophysiology
The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney	Peel Trust Travelling Fellowship	1999-2000	Peripheral neuropathy
Guy's Hospital, King's College Hospital	CCST subspecialist (UK)	1996-1999	Paediatric Neurology
Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, Guy's Hospital	Certificate of Completion Specialist Training (UK)	1994-1996	Paediatrics
Royal College of Physicians, London, Guy's Hospital, London	MRCP (UK)	1994	Paediatrics
	MB BS	1984-1989	Medicine

A. Personal Statement

I am head of the Paediatric Neurology service for Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital. This is a University teaching hospital, it is the largest children's hospital in sub-Saharan Africa which cares for children from across the region. Child neurologists are scarce in Africa and as a result I care for children with diverse neurological conditions. However about 60% of the workload relates to children with epilepsy. Africa carries the highest burden for epilepsy worldwide. My centre is unique since we have capacity to care for children with epilepsy from a primary to a quaternary level of care inclusive of epilepsy surgery. Above all I am a clinician but as part of my post I have roles in training, education, research and advocacy. I am Secretary of the International Child Neurology Association, on the executive board of the Paediatric Neurology and Development Association of Southern Africa (PANDA-SA) and the African Child Neurology Association (ACNA). Chair of the Commission on Pediatrics for the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) and Education officer for the Commission on African Affairs. I am director of the African Paediatric Fellowship Program – a training program under the auspices of the University of Cape which develops skills in paediatric disciplines of doctors from across Africa. As a busy full-time clinician my priorities are with the patients directly under my care but I also support education to raise awareness and optimal care for people with epilepsy, training of specialists to increase the capacity of child neurologists in Africa, research to identify clinically relevant data to improve on practice and advocacy to ensure the rights of children with epilepsy are met.

B. Positions and Honors

Sept 2009-present Director of the African Paediatric Fellowship Program
Feb 2000 – present Head of Paediatric Neurology and Neurophysiology Departments, Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, University of Cape Town, South Africa
1999- 2000 Senior Registrar Paediatric Neurology, (Epilepsy Fellow), The New Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney, Australia
1996 –1998 Senior Registrar Paediatric Neurology, United Medical and Dental School King's, Guy's, King's and St. Thomas's Hospitals, London

Offices held

2004-present Executive Committee Member, Paediatric Neurology and Neurodevelopmental Association of South Africa (PANDA).
2004-2005 Treasurer, South African branch of International League Against Epilepsy
2006-present Executive Member of the Board, International Child Neurology Association
2010-2014, re-elected 2014-2018; Secretary, International Child Neurology Association
2010-present Executive Member of the Board, African Child Neurology Association
2010-present Committee Member of Pediatric Commission, ILAE
2010-2014 Chair of the Infantile seizures guidelines task force, ILAE
2011-present Education officer for the Commission on African Affairs, ILAE
2012-2014 Co-chair of the Guidelines committee, ILAE

2012-2015	WFN, member of the Education committee
2013-2016	Chair of the Pediatric Commission, ILAE
2013-2016	Secretary, SA chapter ILAE
2018-2022	President of International Child Neurology Association

C. Contribution to Science: > 80 peer reviewed publications

Selected publications related to epilepsy

1. Sauro KM, Wiebe S, Dunkley C, Janszky J, Kumlien E, Moshé S, Nakasato N, Pedley TA, Perucca E, Senties H, Thomas SV, Wang Y, Wilmshurst J, Jetté N The current state of epilepsy guidelines: A systematic review. *Epilepsia*. 2016 Jan;57(1):13-23.
2. Wilmshurst JM, Gaillard WD, Vinayan KP, Tsuchida TN, Plouin P, Van Bogaert P, Carrizosa J, Elia M, Craiu D, Jovic NJ, Nordli D, Hirtz D, Wong V, Glauser T, Mizrahi EM, Cross JH. Summary of recommendations for the management of infantile seizures: Task Force Report for the ILAE Commission of Pediatrics. *Epilepsia*. 2015 Aug;56(8):1185-97
3. Williams N, Nefdt WM, Wilmshurst JM. Epilepsy South Africa: Turning obstacles into true potential. *Epilepsia*. 2015 Feb;56(2):184-7.
4. Wilmshurst JM, Burman R, Gaillard WD, Cross JH. Treatment of infants with epilepsy: Common practices around the world. *Epilepsia*. 2015 Jul;56(7):1033-46.
5. Megaw K, Wilmshurst JM. The Keilah Foundation: Making the ketogenic diet viable for children in Africa. *Epilepsia*. 2015 Apr;56(4):514-6.
6. Kander V, Wilmshurst JM. Training doctors in basic EEG: analysis of a learning tool relevant to resource-limited settings. *Epileptic Disord*. 2015 Mar;17(1):58-66; quiz 66.
7. Ackermann S, Wilmshurst JM. Medical management of children with epilepsy. *Minerva Pediatr*. 2015 Mar;67(1):47-74.
8. Wilmshurst JM, Birbeck GL, Newton CR. Epilepsy is ubiquitous, but more devastating in the poorer regions of the world... or is it? *Epilepsia*. 2014 Sep;55(9):1322-5
9. Wilmshurst JM. Child neurology in Africa. *Semin Pediatr Neurol*. 2014 Mar;21(1):1-2
10. Wilmshurst JM, Berg AT, Lagae L, Newton CR, Cross JH. The challenges and innovations for therapy in children with epilepsy. *Nat Rev Neurol*. 2014 May;10(5):249-60.
11. Wilmshurst JM, Kakooza-Mwesige A, Newton CR. The challenges of managing children with epilepsy in Africa. *Semin Pediatr Neurol*. 2014 Mar;21(1):36-41.
12. 1. Samia P, Petersen R, Walker KG, Eley B, Wilmshurst JM. Prevalence of seizures in children infected with human immunodeficiency virus. *J Child Neurol*. 2013 Mar;28(3):297-302.
13. Wilmshurst JM, Cross JH, Newton C, Kakooza AM, Wammanda RD, Mallewa M, Samia P, Venter A, Hirtz D, Chugani H. Children With Epilepsy in Africa: Recommendations From the International Child Neurology Association/African Child Neurology Association Workshop. *J Child Neurol*. 2013;28 633-644
14. Malu CK, Kahamba DM, Walker TD, Mukampungu C, Musalu EM, Kokolomani J, Mayamba RM, Wilmshurst JM, Dubru JM, Misson JP Efficacy of Sublingual Lorazepam Versus Intrarectal Diazepam for Prolonged Convulsions in Sub-Saharan Africa. *J Child Neurol*. 2013 Jul 31. [Epub ahead of print]
15. Kander V, Riordan G, Donald K, Wilmshurst J. The Usefulness of Electroencephalograms in a Survey of Children From the Western Cape of South Africa. *J Child Neurol*. 2012 May;27(5):625-31
16. Wilmshurst JM, van der Walt JS, Ackermann S, Karlsson MO, Blockman M.
17. Rescue therapy with high-dose oral phenobarbitone loading for refractory status epilepticus. *J Paediatr Child Health*. 2010 Jan 46(1-2):17-22.
18. Jo M Wilmshurst, Marc Blockman, Andrew Argent, Eugenie Gordon-Graham, Jenny Thomas, Andrew Whitelaw, Mignon McCulloch, Malitha Ramiah, H. Dyeshana, Joe Ireland. Leaving the party: withdrawal of South African essential medicines. *SAMJ* 2006;95:419
19. Wilmshurst JM, Newton CRJC. Withdrawal of older anticonvulsants for management of status epilepticus: implications for resource-poor countries. *DMCN* 2005;47:219
20. Wilmshurst JM, van Toorn R, Newton CRJC. Withdrawal of parenteral phenobarbitone-implications for resource-poor countries. *SAMJ* 2005;95:422-423
21. Wilmshurst JM, van Toorn R. Use of phenobarbitone for treating childhood epilepsy in resource-poor countries. *SAMJ* 2005;95:392-396