

## ILAE-Asia and Oceania Annual Report 2023

### MEMBERS

John Dunne (Australia), chair  
Akio Ikeda (Japan), past chair  
Kheng-Seang Lim (Malaysia), secretary  
Seung Bong Hong (South Korea), information officer  
Ajay Asranna (India), YES representative  
Kensuke Kawai (Japan)  
Weiping Liao (China)  
Zarine Migal (Pakistan)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Different countries of our region have very different priorities, depending on local needs and resources. The ILAE-Asia and Oceania and Asian Epilepsy Academy (ASEPA) Task Forces continue to deliver fit-for-purpose regional education initiatives including didactic courses, interactive case-based courses, and small group teaching, providing language specific educational materials, with visiting professors, ongoing online mentoring, and support of local educators. The target audience varies but is primarily health care providers. Secondary audiences include patients and their families, the community, educational institutions, and policy makers.
- Epilepsy and epilepsy surgery fellowships are provided to nurture future epilepsy leaders for the region.
- The EEG certification examinations, commencing in 2005, enhance the standards of EEG recording and interpretation skills and have been increasingly adopted by many countries in our region.

These activities all have direct relevance to achieving the goals of ILAE and the Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders (IGAP).

### MEETINGS

- The ILAE-Asia and Oceania executive board and ASEPA leadership met nine times, including a two-day hybrid strategic planning meeting and retreat on 20-21 July 2023 in Singapore.
- ASEPA met 14 times.
- The 15th Asian and Oceanian Epilepsy Congress Scientific and Organising Committee met nine times.
- The Epilepsy Surgery Task Force met five times.
- The Paediatric Task Force met five times, including one face-to-face meeting.
- The Research Task Force met three times.
- ILAE-Asia and Oceania Young Epilepsy Section met four times.

## ACTIVITIES

### Asian Epilepsy Academy (ASEPA)

Shang Yeong Kwan, chair

Chien Chen, secretary

#### Educational Courses and Activities:

- Epilepsy Society of Australia Clinical Epilepsy Teaching Course - Sydney, Australia, 10 February 2023
- ANZAN EEG Course - Sydney, Australia, 11-12 February 2023
- ASEPA Workshop on Video-EEG Monitoring and Presurgical Evaluation - Bangkok, Thailand, 13-15 July 2023
- ILAE-Asian and Oceania and ASEPA Strategic Planning Meeting and Retreat - Singapore, 20-21 July 2023
- ASEPA Epilepsy Course for Nursing Professionals - Singapore, 22 July 2023.
- 2023 ASEPA Joint SEEG Workshop (conducted by Taiwan and Malaysia) - Taiwan, 28 July 2023
- ASEPA Epilepsy Syndromes Workshop - Shenyang, China, 4-5 August 2023
- ASEPA Vietnam Epilepsy Workshop - Hue City, Vietnam, 8-9 August 2023
- ASEPA Vietnam EEG Workshop - Da Nang, Vietnam, 10 August 2023
- ASEPA-ANZAN EEG Teaching Course, Pontianak, Indonesia, 26-27 October 2023
- ASEPA Neuropsychology Course in Epilepsy 2023 - Hong Kong, 4-5 November 2023
- Malang Integrated Education in Neurology Meeting - XI, 4 November 2023, Indonesia
- Epilepsy half-day teaching, hybrid meeting with ASEPA faculty
- Fourth ASEPA-ANZAN EEG Teaching Course - Karachi, Pakistan (*face-to-face*) and Myanmar (*via zoom*), 25-26 November 2023
- 2023 ILAE ASEPA Paediatric EEG Master Class - Taiwan, 9 December 2023

Educational Materials: ILAE-Asia and Oceania uploaded 23 pre-recorded EEG and Epilepsy teaching video presentations to the ILAE website.

#### EEG Certification Examinations: Director: Shih Hui Lim, ongoing since 2005

- EEG Part One written examination: Nine examinations  
Singapore, 11 February 2023; Sydney, Australia, 15 May 2023; Singapore, 8 July 2023; Brunei, 25 August 2023; Kuching, Malaysia, 1 October 2023; Australia (multicentre), 7 October 2023; Pontianak, Indonesia, 29 October 2023; Taipei, Taiwan, 10 December 2023; Singapore 16 December 2023
- ASEPA Part Two oral EEG exam: Five examinations  
Singapore, 11 February 2023; Kuching, Malaysia, 30 September 2023; Auckland, New Zealand, 31 October 2023; Taipei, Taiwan, 10 December 2023; Singapore, 16 December 2023

The pass rate has been consistent, approximately 64% for Part One (*588 of 914 candidates*) and 74% for Part Two (*374 of 506 candidates*). Since inception in 2005, 374 candidates have successfully obtained certification in EEG.

### **Epilepsy Surgery Task Force**

Sarat P. Chandra, co-chair

Kensuke Kawai, co-chair

- Support for development of epilepsy surgery program in Nepal  
Two-day workshop for comprehensive epilepsy care with Nepal Epilepsy Society, 4-5 May 2023, Godavari Village, Nepal: The whole workshop was guided and supported by Drs Sarat Chandra, Manjari Tripathi and colleagues. Kensuke Kawai and John Dunne gave lectures online.
- Support for development of epilepsy surgery program in Mongolia  
Two-day workshop and symposium for epilepsy surgery with Mongolian Epilepsy Society, 6-7 July 2023, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia: Guided and supported by Kensuke Kawai and Japanese colleagues. Kensuke Kawai gave lectures and demonstrated temporal lobectomy in a patient with temporal lobe epilepsy.
- Epilepsy surgery fellowships  
Two Mongolian neurosurgeons are having epilepsy surgery training in Jichi Medical University and Shizuoka Epilepsy Center, Japan.
- Epilepsy surgery database  
An epilepsy surgery database for Asian and Oceanian countries has been developed based on the EpiNet database. The Registry using the database (ARISE) is being implemented by inviting epilepsy surgeons in Asian and Oceanian countries via AESC (Asian Epilepsy Surgery Congress).

### **Paediatric Task Force**

Jithangi Wanigasinghe, chair

- Established the Task Force with wide regional representation with four members from Australia, India, Thailand, and Sri Lanka
- Invited paediatric participation from other regional ILAE chapters
- Worked on clinical research/educational projects aiming at aligning tasks to IGAP objectives, including prevention of epilepsy in the region, obtaining more accurate information of the regional epilepsy burden in collaboration with the ILAE other regions
- Established a four-member working group on paediatric epilepsy
- Created the research group: "South Asia Working group on Infantile Epileptic Spasm Syndrome"

### **Research Task Force**

Kheng-Seang Lim, chair

ILAE-Asia and Oceania Mentor-Mentee Research Program; ILAE-Asia and Oceania Young Epilepsy Section partnership; ILAE-EpiNet-Eisai collaboration

- Recruiting new task force members, including Young Epilepsy Section representatives: Mohd Farooq Shaikh, Meng-Han Tsai, Anchor Hung, Muhammad Akil Yerilwan Putra (YES representative)
- ILAE RTF-YES Research Meeting on genetic studies

- Mentor-mentee meetings on projects; the new projects include epilepsy, self-perceived stigma, and neuropsychology practice in Asia
- Translational Summer School planning for 2024
- Research collaboration and network promotion on a larger scale, and individual mentoring on a smaller scale
- Asian-Oceanian representation in the IBE GENS Scoping review project and expect to identify essential research gaps, that will guide our future research direction
- ILAE-YES partnership: Regular research meeting, started October 2022
- ILAE-EpiNet collaboration: The first project is on infantile spasm
- Research article published: [Affordability of newer antiseizure medications in Asian resource-limited countries](#), *Epilepsia* (2023)  
Si-Lei Fong, Minh-An Thuy Le, Kheng-Seang Lim, Herlyani Khosama, Ohnmar Ohnmar, Say Savath, Zarine Mogal, Leonor Cabral-Lim, Stefanie Kar-Yan Hung, Ajay Asranna, Mohammad Enayet Hussain, Chiu-Wan Ng, Chong-Tin Tan

### **Fellowship Training Task Force**

Chong Tin Tan, chair

- Development of multiple institutions capable of and willing to host one-year level three epilepsy fellowships
- Deployment of fellowships is now more practical with lessening COVID restrictions, but inevitably a lag exists between awarding of fellowships and their commencements, requiring carry-over of the funding to the following year
- Dr Vo Thi Hanh Vi from HCMC, Vietnam was awarded the fellowship for epilepsy training at the Veteran General Hospital, Taipei (2022-2023)
- Dr Khine Yee Mon from Myanmar, commencing fellowship in February 2024 at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2023-2024)

### **IGAP Awareness Initiative**

Pakistan Epilepsy Awareness Campaign: Telecasts on Pakistan television channels

*Directed by Dr Z Mogal and the Pakistan National Epilepsy Centre*

A short public educational documentary was produced in Urdu, Sindhi, Pushto, Balochi (national/regional/provincial languages) and English; and aired twice daily for multiple cycles of 30 days on popular satellite television channels, some positioned just before prime-time news, then followed by 15-20 minute meet the expert live-transmissions on Saturdays and Sundays.

This is a time, resource, and cost-effective approach to raising awareness, dispelling stigma, and encouraging people to seek treatment, with a greater geographical reach than any other activity undertaken to date. This has resulted in a marked increase in people with epilepsy and their families seeking advice and treatment, in part being delivered via telehealth.

## **ILAE-Asia and Oceania Young Epilepsy Section (YES)**

Ajay Asranna, regional representative

- Journal Club: Commenced in January 2022 and with a country-wide roster, with ILAE-Indonesia YES and ILAE-South Korea YES debuting with active participation
  - ILAE-Hong Kong YES: 28 February 2023 - Transition Care: When patients with childhood epilepsy turn into adults
  - ILAE-Indonesia YES: 20 October 2023 - The Stigma Paradox; speaker: Aska Primardi, moderator: Mohammed Akil
- Webinar: Stereo EEG: A practical Approach series - A three-part webinar series by Dr Aileen McGonigal, Australia, held on 4, 11, and 18 August 2023 with over 500 registrations; moderators: Dr Parthvi Ravat, Dr Silei Fong, Dr Muhammad Akil, Dr Ajay Asranna
- Research collaboration: Formation of ILAE-Asia and Oceania YES Collaborators in Epilepsy Research (ACE) to provide a platform for research collaboration among YES members in the region
  - Five areas/study groups were identified for collaborative research
  - Over 70 young researchers expressed interest
  - Subsections with group leaders in following areas - Basic Sciences, Adult Epilepsy, Pediatric Epilepsy, Genetics, Epilepsy Surgery
- Newsletters: Three issues chronicling the activities, plans and achievements of ILAE-Asia and Oceania YES
- Increased membership: ILAE-Asia and Oceania YES emerged as the leader in terms of YES membership with 625 members accounting for 26.8% of global YES membership
  - ILAE-Asia and Oceania YES currently has liaisons from 14 countries with more than 135 participants on WhatsApp and more than 135 participants on Slack
- Increasing global presence and leadership: ILAE-Asia and Oceania YES members leading YES Task Forces - CS Khoo, Conferences Task Force leader; Priyanka Madan, Climate Change Commission representative; Naoto Kuroda, Research Task Force leader; Parthvi Ravat, Communication Task Force leader

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### Asian Epilepsy Academy (ASEPA)

- Numerous regional face-to-face, hybrid and virtual educational courses continue to be delivered in conjunction with local faculty to match the needs of the local community
- Development of multiple institutions capable of and willing to host one-year level three epilepsy one-year fellowships that provide future epilepsy leaders that will enhance epilepsy care for their counties and for the region
- The EEG certification examinations (written then oral), commenced in 2005, continue to enhance the standard of EEG recording and interpretation skills

### Epilepsy Surgery Task Force

- Support development of epilepsy surgery programs in Mongolia and Nepal, including epilepsy surgery fellowships to bridge the wide epilepsy surgery treatment gap in our region
- Development of epilepsy surgery online database

### Paediatric Task Force

- Establishment of a network for projects aligning with IGAP objectives
- Establishment of partnership with EpiNet with a registry on Infantile Epileptic Spasm Syndrome, now available to be used by any researcher who wishes to participate

### Research Task Force

Mentor-mentee program, partnership with YES, ILAE-EpiNet collaboration, research collaboration and network promotion on a larger scale, and individual mentoring on a smaller scale

### IGAP-Pakistan Epilepsy Awareness Campaign

- Telecasts on Pakistan Television Channels, directed by Dr Mogal and the Pakistan National Epilepsy Centre
- Raising awareness, dispelling stigma, and encouraging people to seek treatment, in part delivered via telehealth

### ILAE-Asia and Oceania YES

Increasing membership and impact: National liaisons from 14 countries, with 625 Asia and Oceania members, many engaged in global YES leadership

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

ILAE-Asia and Oceania and the Asian Epilepsy Academy have had three strategic planning retreats in 2013, 2018 and in July 2023. The same key concerns regarding regional representation and relationships with the central ILAE have remained.

A regional educational approach is essential, accounting for diverse local needs for different languages, cultures, resources, and administrative structures (one size does not fit all).

However, real opportunities to contribute to setting overall ILAE directions, priorities and goals and their resourcing remain limited. Whilst acknowledged, essential regional programs have far less support than central academy initiatives. A balanced partnership is required with complementary central and regional educational roles.

Further support and development of regional communications and education/training programmes will deliver the best outcomes for people with epilepsy.



**ASEPA EEG Course, Pontianak, West Borneo, October 2023**



**ASEPA Vietnam EEG Workshop, Da Nang, Vietnam**



**Fourth ASEPA-ANZAN EEG Teaching Course**



**ASEPA Conducted Course for Nursing Professionals, Singapore, 22 July 2023**



ASEPA Joint SEEG Workshop conducted by Taiwan and Malaysia, Taiwan, 28 July 2023



ASEPA Neuropsychology Course in Epilepsy 2023, Hong Kong, 4-5 November 2023



**ASEPA Vietnam Epilepsy Workshop, HUE City, Vietnam, 8-9 August 2023**



**ASEPA Workshop on Video-EEG Monitoring and Presurgical Evaluation, Bangkok, Thailand, 13-15 July 2023**



The 1<sup>st</sup> formal ATL conducted to a patient w/ Left HS

**Epilepsy Surgery Workshop and Surgery, Mongolia, July 2023**

*Report submitted by John W. Dunne*