

## **ILAE-Africa**

### **Annual Report 2023**

#### **MEMBERS**

Jo M. Wilmshurst (South Africa), chair  
Angelina Kakooza-Mwesige (Uganda), past chair  
Faith Mosha (Tanzania), YES representative - incoming  
Naluca Mimi Mwendaweli (Zambia), YES representative - outgoing  
Augustina Charway-Felli (Ghana)  
Adjien Kodjo Constant (Benin)  
Dominique Enyama (Cameroon)  
Samson Awili Gwer (Kenya)  
Edward Nkingwa Kija (Tanzania)  
Zeinab Kone (France)  
Youssoufa Maiga (Mali)  
Moustapha Ndiaye (Senegal)  
Vivian Namale Ssonko (Uganda)

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ILAE-Africa and ILAE-Eastern Mediterranean webinars and the EpiSkills webinars
- Regional support of local educational courses
- Collaborative workshop with IBRO for neuroscience and early career neurologists

#### **MEETINGS**

The ILAE-Africa Regional Board met online five times in 2023 and once in person at the 35<sup>th</sup> International Epilepsy Congress in Dublin, Ireland.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

##### Webinars

- The monthly webinars continued throughout 2023 in collaboration with the Eastern Mediterranean region. These are very popular, well attended and later downloaded with good membership engagement.
- Episkills: The 'IGAP in Action: Demonstration Projects Across the Continent' session was held on 6 June. The session addressing 'Stigma', on 28 November, featured key speakers on the medical perspective, the caregiver/person with epilepsy perspective and the relevance of the oral history

##### Paediatric Epilepsy Training Courses and Adult Adaptation

- Faculties established in Zambia for Zambia and Zimbabwe to run stand-alone courses
- Further course completed in Tanzania
- During this course pilot of the adult adaptation rolled out

- MV Gule (South Africa) recruited as part of the team and supported by ILAE Africa to participate
- ETAM: Epilepsy training in adult medicine

#### Regional Teaching Course

- ILAE-Africa representation at the Regional Teaching Course with AFAN in Tanzania
- Dr Fikile Ngqotso (South Africa) presented on NORSE

#### IGAP: WHO and IBE Collaboration

Dr Kone (Mali) presented on behalf of ILAE-Africa at the WHO meeting on the Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders (IGAP) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

#### Educational Courses

Small grants were awarded to support the following events:

- Cameroon: 20-23 October 2022
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint AFAN / CAN meeting with 400 participants from 41 countries
  - ILAE training sessions in French and English on epilepsy and EEG
- Nigeria: June 2023 – 1-day general practitioner teaching course
- Kenya: 21-23 September 2023 – Neurophysiology congress for African bursaries
- Zambia (ILAE Chapter): 1-3 November 2023 – Annual Epilepsy Management workshop
- Rwanda: Workshop for training mental health professionals to treat epilepsy and depression
- Zimbabwe (ILAE Chapter): 22-27 November 2023 – nursing epilepsy education
- Kenya: PET course

#### IBRO / ILAE Epilepsy Workshop

- Focused on training for junior neurologists and neuroscientists
- Themed around the implementation of the IGAP
- In addition to targeted and interactive teaching groups worked on various implementation IGAP models

#### Global Health Project Database

Ongoing development with major contributions to this from the African region

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- The various webinars are very popular and positive way the enable the membership to engage across regions.
- The educational projects, inclusive of the small grant funding towards educational courses, are a powerful way with a small budget to have significant local impact.
- The collaboration with IBE and IBRO has proven an excellent way to extend the reach of ILAE and especially to raise awareness of IGAP.

## RESEARCH & ARTICLES PUBLISHED

These are not specifically under ILAE-Africa but are part of allied activities:

Wilmshurst JM. [ICNA and the Global Regional Initiative Program: Aligning with IGAP towards providing child neurology services where they are most needed](#). *Dev Med Child Neurol*. 2024 Apr;66(4):408-409.

Owolabi MO, Leonardi M, Bassetti C, Jaarsma J, Hawrot T, Makanjuola AI, Dhamija RK, Feng W, Straub V, Camaradou J, Dodick DW, Sunna R, Menon B, Wright C, Lynch C, Chadha AS, Ferretti MT, Dé A, Catsman-Berrevoets CE, Gichu M, Tassorelli C, Oliver D, Paulus W, Mohammed RK, Charway-Felli A, Rostasy K, Feigin V, Craven A, Cunningham E, Galvin O, Perry AH, Fink EL, Baneke P, Helme A, Laurson-Doube J, Medina MT, Roa JD, Hög B, O'Bryan A, Trenkwalder C, Wilmshurst J, Akinyemi RO, Yaria JO, Good DC, Hoemberg V, Boon P, Wiebe S, Cross JH, Haas M, Jabalpurwala I, Mojasevic M, DiLuca M, Barbarino P, Clarke S, Zuberi SM, Olowoyo P, Owolabi A, Oyesiku N, Maly-Sundgren PC, Norrving B, Soekadar SR, van Doorn PA, Lewis R, Solomon T, Servadei F. [Global synergistic actions to improve brain health for human development](#). *Nat Rev Neurol*. 2023 Jun;19(6):371-383.

Wilmshurst JM, Catsman-Berrevoets C, Gilbert DL, Nagarajan L, Samia P, Serdaroglu E, Triki C, Vidaurre J, Hameed B; Pediatric Neurology Training Study Group. [Access to Pediatric Neurology Training and Services Worldwide: A Survey by the International Child Neurology Association](#). *Neurology*. 2023 Oct 31;101(18):798-808.

*Report submitted by Jo Wilmshurst*