

**Chahnez CHARFI TRIKI**

**CURRENT POSITION:** Professor of Neurology, Sfax Medical School, Tunisia  
Head of child neurology department, Hedi Chaker hospital, Sfax, Tunisia  
Director of Research unit in Sfax University  
Director of master degree of epilepsy (e-learning), Sfax medical school  
Chair of the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Committee (IBE)  
President of Tunisian Association Against Epilepsy

My interest in epilepsy started in 1989 when I was in training in child neurology department in *université catholique de Louvain* in Brussels. Since that time, my interest in epilepsy (which was pathology little studied in Tunisia in comparison with neurodegenerative diseases) was progressed. In 1995, I was elected member of the Tunisian association against epilepsy then general secretary, then president and since I work to improve the care of the patients with epilepsy.

My ascertainment that doctors who can care for patients with epilepsy have very weak training, led me to set up a master degree of epilepsy at the Sfax Medical School in 2000. Since then, about 500 doctors of different specialties (neurologists, psychiatrists and pediatricians) had an academic training of two years. Since 2005, this training is at e-learning allowing neurologists from other countries such as Senegal, Morocco and Algeria to be able to follow this training. This degree has allowed us to spread knowledge about epilepsy and have a well trained epileptologist group.

My election in the CEMA office allowed me to work with the other members of the leagues of our region and to exchange our experiences. They also allowed me to become aware of the enormous work that is waiting us to improve the care of our patients.

Also, I worked as a tutor with the European Academy of Epileptology (2002-2009), for the training of trainers in epileptology. Several training sessions have been held in France, Tunisia, Senegal, Morocco and Cameroon. These trainings have increased the number of trainers in epileptology in these several regions.

I also organized several national and international workshops, seminars and congresses on epilepsy.

In addition to academic training, I have worked extensively to disseminate knowledge for the general population, patients and schoolteachers. Thus, leaflets on various aspects of epilepsy have been developed as well as training sessions and several national epilepsy days. I participated in the founding of several associations that are interested in epilepsy such as research association for child neurological disease and Ahmed association for care of children with epilepsy.

**Publications and Editorial activities:**

Publication of approximately 67 articles, the majority on childhood epilepsy. Editorial Board of Journal of pediatric epilepsy and African and Middle East Epilepsy Journal.