

Course Announcement

Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy– 4th edition

Advanced course

VIREPA - E-Learning Course

Course content

The course will cover the advanced topics in pharmacology of currently available antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) and the principles governing their rational use in people with epilepsy. The course will explore basic science underlying AED mechanisms of action, drug development and clinical trials, aspects of therapeutic drug monitoring, and use of AEDs in special populations including children and neonates. The course will also address the criteria for a critical assessment of literature data relevant to therapeutics. These topics will be discussed interactively.

Course units

AED Pharmacology; Development of AEDs; Therapeutic Drug Monitoring & Laboratory Testing; Use of AEDs in Neonates/Infants/Children; Use of AEDs in Special Populations; Patient Issues in AED Selection.

Target group & entry criteria

The program will include advanced information aimed at the neurologist / pediatric neurologist / pediatrician exclusively involved in epilepsy care. Each of the topic areas will be explored in depth. 3 years of training in neurology, neuropsychiatry, clinical neurophysiology, psychiatry or neurosurgery, or combinations of these are required as entry criteria. We suggest completion of the Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy introductory course prior to taking the advanced course, but this requirement may be waived if the applicant has prior experience in the management of epilepsy.

Learning objectives

The course, on completion, will enable the participants to improve their understanding of the advanced aspects of AEDs including underlying mechanisms and treatment of special populations. It will also improve their competence in assessing critically the methodology and results of AED trials.

Course format

The course itself is divided into 8 units, beginning with an introduction to the VIREPA e-learning platform, followed by 7 learning units of 2 weeks each. The learning material (textbooks and references) will be available for download. To earn credits in each learning unit, tasks will be successfully completed within an active online communication process among all participants, guided by the experts in the discussion fora on the e-learning platform.

These tasks help to deepen the theoretically gained knowledge from the learning material and enable the participant to transfer this knowledge to his/her clinical practice. The participants are expected to spend about 8 hours (~4 hours/week) for individual study of the learning material, for reading/writing contributions in the forum and for the completion of the tasks.

All tutors are currently practicing in their respective specialty field, moderating the distance courses in addition to their regular duties. This gives participants the unique opportunity to draw upon their expertise and practical experience even beyond the mere requirements of the course.

Course fee: 700 Euro. A restricted number of bursaries will be available. For participants living in countries with “low” and “lower middle” income, self payment for approved bursaries will be 175 Euro. (See categories according to the statistics of the World Bank: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DATASTATISTICS/Resources/CLASS.XLS>)

Number of participants: up to 30

Course Directors

Prof. Steve White and John Pollard, M.D.

For questions, contact Priscilla Shisler (pshisler@ilae.org) at the ILAE Headquarter Office.