

Course Announcement

Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy – 4th edition

Introductory course

VIREPA - E-Learning Course

Course content

The course will cover the clinical use of currently available antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) in people with epilepsy. The course will address the optimal use of AEDs in relation to seizure type, epilepsy syndrome, and other patient characteristics, both in newly diagnosed epilepsy and in pharmaco-resistant populations. Subject material will illustrate how pharmacokinetic properties, efficacy and adverse effect profiles of individual drugs should be taken into account when individualizing pharmacotherapy in different clinical settings. The course will also address the criteria for a critical assessment of literature data relevant to therapeutics. Practical aspects, such as real-life treatment choices in women of childbearing potential, the elderly and patients requiring multiple drug therapy, will be discussed interactively.

Course units

Efficacy/Spectrum of Activity/Adverse Effects of AEDs; Clinical Pharmacokinetics/Drug Interactions of AEDs; Use of AEDs in newly diagnosed patients; Intractable Epilepsy: Evaluation & Therapeutic approaches; Gender Issues in AED Use; Discontinuing AEDs.

Target group & entry criteria

The program will include practice-oriented information aimed at the general neurologist / dealing with - but not exclusively involved in - epilepsy care. However, each of the topic areas will be explored in depth, and individuals working in epilepsy areas may therefore also benefit. 3 years of training in neurology, neuropsychiatry, clinical neurophysiology, psychiatry or neurosurgery, or combinations of these are required as entry criteria.

Learning objectives

The course, on completion, will enable the participants to improve their ability to use AEDs rationally. It will help them to make logical decisions on when to start and to stop treatment, which drugs to choose in specific clinical setting, and how best to assess response to treatment and tailor dosage to individual needs. It will also improve their competence in assessing critically the methodology and results of AED trials.

Course format

The course itself is divided into 7 units, beginning with an introduction to the VIREPA e-learning platform, followed by 6 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 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. Jacqueline French and Prof. William Theodore

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