

Publication Council

2022 Annual Report

MEMBERS

Jean Gotman (Canada), chair
Alexis Arzimanoglou (France), *Epileptic Disorders*
Sándor Beniczky (Denmark), *Epileptic Disorders*
Ed Bertram (USA), Epigraph
Ingmar Blümcke (Germany), Education Council
Birinus Ezeala-Adikaibe (Nigeria), ILAE-Africa
Aristea Galanopoulou (USA), *Epilepsia Open*
Boulénouar Mesraoua (Qatar), ILAE-Eastern Mediterranean
Astrid Nehlig (France), *Epilepsia*
Juan Carlos Perez Poveda (Colombia), ILAE-Latin America
Michael Sperling (USA), *Epilepsia*
Nandan Yardi (India), ILAE Wikipedia Project
Dong Zhou (China), *Epilepsia Open*
Sam Wiebe (Canada), MC liaison
Priscilla Shisler (USA), ILAE staff support



Photo: Jean Gotman

The Council has a representation covering all ILAE regions. Members have various terms, such that some will end their term in 2023 and others in 2025. The chair is a non-voting member of the Executive Council.

ACTIVITIES

ILAE Reports

New procedures for the publication of ILAE reports were adopted by the Executive Committee in 2021 following an extensive revision by the Publication Council. The old procedures required that ILAE working groups send their reports to the Publication Council for the Council to decide if these papers were acceptable as ILAE reports and to recommend to which ILAE journal the report should be submitted. The new procedures require that ILAE working groups send a draft of their report when it is being planned so that the Council can give proactive advice and help the working groups improve the quality of their reports. The procedures were further updated in 2022 to consider report types (guidelines and recommendations) defined by the Standards and Best Practice Council. As many working groups were finishing their work from the previous term in 2022, the Council received a mixture of reports following the old procedures and proposals following the new procedures.

The Council reviewed 21 submissions from ILAE working groups (a few were repeat submissions of the same report) in 2022. This is the same number as in 2021.

- Eight submissions followed the old procedure (full report), and all were considered acceptable, and a journal was recommended for submission.
- 14 submissions followed the new procedure. Council members provided comments to the authors, sometimes quite extensive, regarding the methodology to be followed or the groups to be targeted. A common recommendation was that reports had to be representative of all ILAE regions if possible.
- As the Standards and best Practice Council was putting its procedures in place, there was some confusion regarding where proposals should go, and this delayed the processing of some papers. The procedures are now clear.
- From the time a report was submitted in an acceptable format, the Council took an average of 23 days to inform the authors of its decision or recommendation.

Publisher Contracts

The contract with JLE for the publication of *Epileptic Disorders* had been extended by one year to end in 2022. There were difficult discussions with JLE, and the decision was made to move *Epileptic Disorders* to be published by Wiley, thus having the three ILAE journals with the same publisher. The final contract with Wiley was still being discussed at the end of 2022 but the transition to the new publisher is in full swing and we expect that transition to be completed early in 2023. The general context of academic publishing is changing rapidly, with a strong movement for free open-access publishing from large research funding organizations and a consequent decrease in subscriptions, with uncertainty regarding the increase in revenue from open access publishing.

Epilepsia Open received its first impact factor in July 2022 and we were very pleased that it was 4.026, a remarkable feat for a first impact factor.

College of Translators

Following on last year's decision to establish College of Translators for the most used languages outside English (Spanish, French, Chinese, Arabic, Portuguese, Japanese, German, Russian) the following Colleges were created and became operational: Spanish, French, Chinese, Arabic, Portuguese, German and Greek. We plan to put in place a College for Japanese, although the Japanese Epilepsy Society has often dealt effectively with translations, and for Russian. The Colleges have been at work translating the recently published ILAE position papers regarding epilepsy syndromes. The Ukrainian chapter, although not formally organized as a college, has been very effectively translating ILAE documents.

Identity of the Journals

Several discussions took place regarding the identity of the three ILAE journals. *Epileptic Disorders* has clearly built the image of the educational journal of ILAE, *Epilepsia* is clearly the flagship of the ILAE journals and *Epilepsia Open* is its open access journal, but it is likely that the separation between *Epilepsia* and *Epilepsia Open* will become less clear in the future because now *Epilepsia Open* has a good impact factor and because it is likely that *Epilepsia* will become fully open access in a few years, following the increasing number of open access articles

published and the general trend in this direction. What will *Epilepsia Open* mean when *Epilepsia* is open access? It was felt that the name is not so important - that all journals will soon be open access and that the “open” of *Epilepsia Open* will soon be considered independently of the “open” in “open access”, more like “open to the world”.

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Epilepsia*
 - The Impact factor remains highest in the epilepsy category at 6.740 and *Epilepsia* ranks 27th of 212 journals within the Clinical Neurology category.
 - The editors’ main objective remains to continue to improve journal quality with excellent original research and review articles.
 - The journal received 1079 submissions in 2022.
 - The journal’s reputation continues to improve and approximately 25% of submitted manuscripts are accepted.
 - The ratio of clinical to basic/translational research remains stable with approximately 85% clinical research articles and 15% basic/translational research articles.
 - The number of article downloads remains high, at 2.60 million for the year (down 13% from last year’s record high).
- *Epilepsia Open*
 - *Epilepsia Open* is now fully indexed. The first impact factor was received in 2022: 4.026 and ranked it 90/212 journals in Clinical Neurology.
 - In 2022, *Epilepsia Open* received a total of 183 original submissions and a total of 343 original plus revised submissions.
 - The submission rate has significantly increased by 61.4% in the number of original submissions and is currently averaging at 18.8 new original articles per month, or 33.5 original + revised articles per month.
 - 18% of received articles are transferred from *Epilepsia* and the rest are unsolicited.
 - The majority of submitted articles have clinical focus (77.6%) but there continues to be a steady flow of basic or translational research articles (22.4%).
 - We received submissions from 38 countries, with the top submitting countries being the USA (22.4%), China (12%), Germany (9.8%), Japan (9.3%), Italy (6%), U.K. (4.4%), Australia, Canada, and Saudi Arabia (3.3% each).
 - The acceptance rate is 70% for all articles decided within 2022 and 63% among articles submitted within 2022.
 - We have accepted manuscripts from 27 countries in 2022, with top countries publishing in our journal: USA (19.8%), Japan (9.9%), United Kingdom and China (8.6% each), Italy (6.2%), Canada and Australia (4.9% each), Germany (3.6%).
 - Among accepted articles, original research encompasses the 75.7%, special reports (including ILAE reports) the 4.4%, and reviews the 13.1%.

- The processing time has improved 2.4 days from acceptance to online “Accepted article” and 22 days to early view.
- The top 10 articles published in 2022 have received altimetric attention score between 10-40%.
- The top 10 highly cited articles published in 2021-22 received between 6-17 citations each.
- The top 10 highly downloaded articles published in 2022 were downloaded 875-1802 times each.
- One special issue on redesigning drug refractory epilepsy was published and two are in progress.
- The number of article downloads increased by 5% compared to last year, at 195,000.
- *Epileptic Disorders*
 - The impact factor increased from 1.819 to 2.333.
 - The number of downloads and homepage visits continued to increase significantly (doubled).
 - The number of submitted papers stayed at similar level as the previous year, after a significant increase.
 - Acceptance rate is 44%
 - The average time from submission to final decision is 27 days.
 - We started a YouTube channel for the multimedia teaching material.
 - Starting 2023, the journal will be published by Wiley.
 - The number of article downloads on the Wiley site increased by 11% compared to last year, at 74,000.
- Epigraph
 - 44 articles and podcasts in 3 languages
 - Epigraph on ILAE.org: 86,138 visits to Epigraph pages

Most visited articles:

1. Post-ictal psychosis (2020)
2. Traditional healers (2015)
3. Time is brain (SE) (2018)
4. PNES part 1 (2019)
5. Medication withdrawal (2020)

Most visited articles published in 2022:

- Anxiety in people with epilepsy
- Autoimmune epilepsy (podcast)
- Anxiety in people with epilepsy – Spanish
- Status epilepticus in low-resource regions
- First-line status epilepticus treatment insufficient

Podcast- Sharp Waves

- Meant to spotlight issues in epilepsy for health care providers, as well as attract other listeners to stories about epilepsy care, diagnosis, treatment, stigma, barriers, etc. Officially launched November 2021 with first episode. The podcast activity really picked up in 2022 with regular releases. Six members of the YES group are actively participating in creating the podcasts.
- 21 episodes released
- 10,864 downloads from 154 countries
- Top 25% of 900k podcasts hosted on Buzzsprout
- Top 15% of globally shared podcasts on Spotify

Most downloaded episodes:

- Autoimmune-associated epilepsy
- Epilepsy syndrome classifications
- NORSE/FIRES – international recommendations
- Status epilepticus in low-resource regions
- First-line status epilepticus treatment insufficient
- Catamenial epilepsy
- Alzheimer's and epilepsy

The creation of an editorial/advisory board for Epigraph was suggested by the Council and approved by the Executive Committee as a valuable method to increase the Epigraph team regionally, to support the goals of Epigraph, to think through who the readership is/should be and to build a coordinated pipeline and timeline of topics, particularly in alignment with the Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders (IGAP).

- Wikipedia Project
 - Top 30 articles identified for editing on a priority basis are being edited continuously for improving the quantum and accuracy of content thanks to the contributions of ILAE experts.
 - The creation of the position of a Wikipedian-in-Residence and hiring of Mariam Umme Kulsum for the same, is useful for editing reviews of existing articles by ILAE subject experts who review them in word document -few have started to directly edit articles to Wikipedia.
 - Creation of a North American Wikipedia expert task force with the help of Dr Jaideep Kapur, Chair, ILAE-North America, consisting of 29 Epilepsy experts, who have started to contribute.
 - A successful ILAE Wikipedia Epilepsy workshop at the European Epilepsy Congress in Geneva in July 2022 attended by 35 persons physically and virtually with an objective of sensitizing the importance of Wikipedia and forming a

community of experts to take the work forward especially from the EU region and UK. This will be extended to Asia pacific and other regions in future.

- Inclusion of Japanese translations and editing of corresponding articles recently curated from the English to Japanese by Dr. Yusuke Takezawa and initiation of Arabic translation is in place.
- More than 30 articles were edited. The most important edits were made to the following articles:
 - Febrile seizures
 - Early myoclonic encephalopathy
 - Childhood absence epilepsy
 - Frontal lobe epilepsy
 - Phacomatosis
 - Generalized tonic clonic seizures
 - Seizure

Epilepsy – a comprehensive article to which Pregnancy and Epilepsy section has been added and edited with input from the ILAE Task Force on Women and Pregnancy. This article is viewed 575322 in 2022 with a daily average of 1577 edits: 109

CERTIFICATIONS OF APPRECIATION FROM THE ILAE LEADERSHIP

Appreciation for the contributions made by ILAE and other experts towards the success of the prestigious project have been sent to them, in the form of a certificate of appreciation, signed by the ILAE President, Chair of Publications Council and the editors of the project.

Report submitted by Jean Gotman