

Publication Council

Annual Report 2023

MEMBERS

Michael Sperling (USA), chair from September 2023

Jean Gotman (Canada), chair until September 2023

Sándor Beniczky (Denmark), *Epileptic Disorders*

Edward Bertram (USA), Epigraph

Birinus Ezeala-Adikaibe (Nigeria), ILAE-Africa

Aristea Galanopoulou (USA), *Epilepsia Open*

Boulenouar Mesraoua (Qatar), ILAE-Eastern Mediterranean

Juan Carlos Perez-Poveda (Colombia), ILAE-Latin America

Gagandeep Singh (India), Education Council from September 2023

Samuel Wiebe (Canada), Management Committee liaison

Nandan Yardi (India), *ILAE Wikipedia Project*

Alexis Arzimanoglou (France), *Epileptic Disorders* until September 2023

Ingmar Blümcke (Germany), Education Council until September 2023

Michael Sperling (USA), *Epilepsia* until September 2023

Dong Zhou (China), *Epilepsia Open* until September 2023

The Council has representation covering all ILAE regions. Members have terms starting at different times, such that some ended their term in 2023 and others will do so in 2025. The Council chair is a non-voting member of the Executive Council.

EPILEPSIA HIGHLIGHTS

- The impact factor remains higher than all other journals in the epilepsy category at 5.6, and *Epilepsia* ranks 35 of 268 journals within the Clinical Neurology category.
- The editors' main objective remains to publish novel, impactful original research, review articles, and to continue to improve quality of submissions.
- The journal received 1303 submissions in 2023, a 20% increase over the prior years (except 2020).
- 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 89% clinical research articles and 15% basic/translational research articles.
- The number of article full-text views remains high, at 3.02 million for the year (increased from prior year).

EPILEPSIA OPEN HIGHLIGHTS

- *Epilepsia Open* is now fully indexed. The first impact factor was received for 2021 - 4.026 - and the impact factor for 2022 was 3.0, which is similar to or higher than most other epilepsy specialty journals.
- The submission rate and number of articles published doubled in 2023 compared with 2022, likely related to the journal having an impact factor with number of views increasing by 50%.
- 92% of articles are now submitted directly rather than transferred from *Epilepsia*.
- The majority of submitted articles have a clinical focus (80%), and there continues to be a steady flow of basic or translational research articles.
- The acceptance rate fell from 70% to 58% for all articles published in 2022, representing further improvement in journal selectivity.
- The editor is implementing a program of editorial interns.

EPILEPTIC DISORDERS HIGHLIGHTS

- The impact factor remained stable from the prior year at 2.3.
- The number of downloads and homepage visits continued to increase significantly.
- The number of submitted papers increased by 10% from 311 to 343 (was 327, 328 in 2021, 2020, 222 in 2019).
- The acceptance rate is 40%, similar to prior years.
- The journal started a YouTube channel for the multimedia teaching material.
- As of 2023, the journal is published by Wiley rather than John Libbey.
- The Editor in Chief has implemented a social media editor and editorial interns as a training program sponsored by the journal.
- There are thousands of social media followers on X, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn, ranging from about 1200 to nearly 4000 in the largest platform (X).

EPIGRAPH AND SHARP WAVES HIGHLIGHTS

Epigraph

- Website views of Epigraph pages: 112K, a 33% increase from 2022
- Email recipients of Epigraph articles: 470K, a 60% increase from 2022
- Newswise views of Epigraph articles: 116K, a 14% increase from 2022
- Newswise reach: 1.28 million wire subscriptions
- 35 articles published in three languages, an increase from 22 in 2022

Sharp waves

- New episodes: 25
- Annual downloads: 24,450
- Total subscribers: 1530, a 112% increase in 2023
- Europe and North America account for 70% of subscribers (35% each)

WIKIPEDIA PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Increase in articles edited to 44 from 34
- Increase to 53 editors from 49
- Replacement of an associate editor
- 1390 references added in 2023, up from 656 in the prior year
- Increase in article views from 2.05 million in 2022 to 4.44 million in 2023
- Wikipedia workshop held
- Wikipedian in residence hired for part-time work to facilitate workflow and improve article quality

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 some working groups were still finishing their work from the previous term, the Council received a mixture of reports following the old procedures and proposals following the new procedures.

The Council reviewed 12 submissions from ILAE working groups in 2023. This is a smaller number than in 2022, when we received 21 submissions.

- Three submissions followed the old procedure (full report), all were considered acceptable, and a journal was recommended for submission.
- Nine 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.
- From the time a report was submitted in an acceptable format, the Council took an average of 18 days to inform the authors of its decision or recommendation. Some reports were reviewed twice by the Council, after suggestions were made on a first submission.

Publisher Contracts

The contract with Wiley for the publication of *Epileptic Disorders* was signed at the end of 2022. The transition between the publishers proved to be longer and more painful than the Council had anticipated. It took almost six months for it to be completed. *Epileptic Disorders* was published with delays during that time, and many articles took a long time before they were available in PubMed. The transfer of the database of videos available with the journal also took

a while to complete. Things worked smoothly starting in June-July 2023, and it has been felt that the transition was a good move. New discussions were initiated in the latter part of the year to increase Wiley support for *Epilepsia Open* associate editors, and this came to fruition in early 2024 with Wiley providing an increase.

College of Translators

The College of Translators is now established for the following languages: Arabic, Armenian, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Urdu. The Ukrainian chapter, although not formally organized as a college, has been very effectively translating ILAE documents. There is no College for Italian and Japanese, but the Italian and Japanese chapters have been diligent in translating ILAE documents. The French chapter has not been active, and a new effort will be made in early 2024 to revitalize this college. It was noted that it would be useful for the Council to establish a dynamic priority list for documents to be translated.

Identity of the Journals

It is clear now that the journals are differentiated, and *Epilepsia Open* can stand alone. It was noted that *Epilepsia* and *Epilepsia Open* potentially could compete in the future, and targeting defined audiences could avoid this. A discussion arose on starting a commentary journal/magazine to reach a new audience. It was planned that a discussion would start with Wiley on this topic, and the Publication Council would define more clearly what this journal could be and what its audience would be. This process requires further Council discussion.

Editors in Chief

Procedures were defined and approved by the Executive Committee for the selection of new Editors in chief and Deputy Editors. The duties of Editors in chief were also defined. A call for new Editors in chief of the journals was made in October 2023. Applications were received and reviewed by the Council, after excluding Michael Sperling and Aristeia Galanopoulou, current Editors in chief of these journals. The Council will send recommendations to the Executive Committee in early 2024.

Journal Prizes

A modified procedure for deciding journal prize winners will be written. Articles in which an Editor in chief is an author should not be considered eligible, because of a real or perceived conflict of interest. The procedure should be available on the ILAE website.

TRANSLATIONS

Position Papers

- [ILAE Classification and Definition of Epilepsy Syndromes](#), position papers by the ILAE Nosology and Definitions Task Force, *Epilepsia* (2022)
 - Some papers already translated into Spanish and Ukrainian in 2022
 - Translations received: Arabic, Japanese
 - Ongoing translations: Greek, Russian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Ukrainian

- [ILAE Classification of the Epilepsies \(2017\): Position paper of the ILAE Commission for Classification and Terminology](#)
Translations received: Armenian

Other Projects

Epigraph articles and case studies for the ILAE Academy are translated into various languages, as well as a survey for the Older People Commission.

Report submitted by Jean Gotman and Michael Sperling