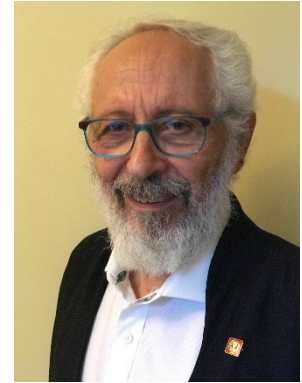


Publications Council

2021 Annual Report

Members

Jean Gotman (Canada), chair
Alexis Arzimanoglou (France), *Epileptic Disorders*
Sándor Beniczky (Denmark), *Epileptic Disorders*
Ed Bertram (USA), *Epilepsia*
Ingmar Blümcke (Germany), Education Council
Diptanshu Das (India), *Wikipedia* Project
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
Mike Sperling (USA), *Epilepsia*
Sam Wiebe (Canada), Management Committee liaison
Dong Zhou (China), *Epilepsia Open*



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 of the Publication Council

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. As many Working Groups were finishing their term in 2021, most of the reports reviewed by the Council followed the old procedure. The Council reviewed 21 submissions from ILAE Working Groups (some submissions included several papers) in 2021.

- 1 submission followed the new procedure and advice was given regarding its future content by the Council
- 2 submissions were deemed not to be ILAE reports (they had some connections with ILAE but were not a report from an ILAE working group)
- 17 of the remaining 18 submissions were considered acceptable ILAE reports
- Of these 17, eight were recommended for submission to *Epilepsia*, three for *Epileptic Disorders*, and six for *Epilepsia Open*
- From the time a report was submitted in an acceptable format (including all formal requirements), the Council took an average of 15 days (median 12 days) to inform the authors of its decision. The Council took an average of 10.5 days to review a paper (the other 4.5 days were between reception of a paper and sending to Council members, reflecting the fact that some papers were received during holiday periods or while other submissions were in progress).

Publisher Contracts

A new contract was signed with Wiley Inc for the publication of *Epilepsia* and *Epilepsia Open* for the period 2022-2026 (the previous contract ended in December 2021). Some members of the Council took part in the intensive negotiations. 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. Guaranteed revenue from this contract is significantly lower than it was in the previous contract.

The contract with John Libbey Eurotext for the publication of *Epileptic Disorders* also ended in December 2021. It was renewed for one year and a new contract will be negotiated in 2022.

College of Translators

The Council made the decision that an ILAE College of Translators should be created to translate in a coordinated fashion the most important papers generated by the ILAE. The Council will first target the most commonly used languages outside English, i.e. Spanish, French, Chinese, Arabic, Portuguese, Japanese, German, Russian. For each language, the College of Translators will consist of a Coordinator for the language and a group of six to ten individuals. All members are volunteers. The Council will develop a Translation Procedure, to be followed by each College. The plan is to have College of Translators for the above languages in place by mid-2022.

Epilepsia

- The Impact Factor remains highest in the epilepsy category at 5.866, and *Epilepsia* ranks 32th of 208 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 receives over 1050 submissions per year.
- 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 continues to increase at 3,02M in 2021, an 8% increase from 2020.

Epilepsia Open

- *Epilepsia Open* is now fully indexed. It has received expedited acceptance to SCI-E and is also indexed at MEDLINE/PubMED. The first Impact Factor is anticipated in 2022.
- Scimago lists *Epilepsia Open* at Q2 of neurology journals with a tentative two-year IF of 3.5.
- An increase in annual submissions (23%) and published articles (79%) was noted in 2021. Most are unsolicited.
- Among the articles offered transfer to *Epilepsia Open*, a higher percentage is now transferred to the journal (20.6%) compared to past years (14%). Transferred articles encompass 23.9% of submitted material.
- The majority of submitted articles have clinical focus (69.1%), but there continues to be a steady flow of basic or translational research articles (30.9%).
- Original research encompasses the 78% of published articles.
- More countries are now submitting to *Epilepsia Open* compared to past years (37 vs. 16-32).
- Among published articles, 38.9% originate from the USA; UK, Japan, China, Canada and Italy follow.
- The top 20 articles published in 2021 have received Altmetric attention score between 10-63% (25% to 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric).
- The top 20 highly cited articles published in 2020-21 received between 3-60 citations each.
- The steady increase in article downloads continues (185,200 downloads, increased by 49.6%).
- Production time is 4.7 days to online presence of accepted articles whereas time to early view has improved at 25.4 days.
- Acceptance rate is 72% (original research 63.6%; reviews / reports 81.8%). Reviewer engagement remains a concern with almost half of invited reviewers accepting.
- Three special issues are planned.

Epileptic Disorders

- The impact factor increased from 1.276 to 1.819.
- Submissions increased by 61% compared to 2020.
- The journal is gaining a reputation as an important educational resource.

- The number of downloads and homepage visits increased significantly (almost doubled).
- The percentage of the types of manuscripts has changed: more reviews, fewer case reports.
- A new publication type was initiated: case vignettes (basically to replace case reports, in an abbreviated form not likely to influence the impact factor).
- The visibility of the journal on social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) increased significantly.

Epigraph

- 19 articles and podcasts in 3 languages
- *Epigraph* on ilae.org: 75,296 visits to *Epigraph* pages

Most visited articles:

1. Time is brain – status epilepticus treatment (2018)
2. Traditional healers & epilepsy – African perspective (2015)
3. Post-ictal psychosis (2020)
4. Psychogenic seizures part 2 (2019)
5. Psychogenic seizures part 1 (2019)

Most visited articles published in 2021:

6. Joint task force reassures clinicians, patients after lamotrigine warning
7. Ketogenic diet for super refractory status epilepticus (podcast episode)
8. What to call psychogenic non-epileptic seizures?
9. Joint task force reassures clinicians, patients after lamotrigine warning – Spanish version
10. SANAD II

Sharp Waves Podcast

Meant to spotlight issues in epilepsy for physicians, as well as attract other listeners to stories about epilepsy care, diagnosis, treatment, stigma, barriers, etc. Officially launched November 2021 with first episode.

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 IGAP.

Wikipedia Project

- Top 30 articles identified for editing on a priority basis.
- The creation of the position of a Wikipedian-in-Residence and hiring of Marium Umme Kulsum for the same

- Creation of an internship project to get young contributors involved in improving of epilepsy-related articles on Wikipedia and to familiarize them with the norms of Wikipedia editing
- 30 articles were edited. The most important edits were made to the following articles:
 - Febrile seizures
 - Early myoclonic encephalopathy
 - Childhood absence epilepsy

Submitted by Jean Gotman