

## **Finnish Epilepsy Society**

### 2021-2022 Report

#### **CHAPTER OFFICERS**

Jukka Peltola, President  
Tiina Alapirtti, Secretary  
Henna Jonsson, Treasurer  
Salla Lamusuo  
Leena Jutila  
Jonna Komulainen-Ebrahim



*Officer Election Date: 16 May 2022*

Members of the Society also hold international positions: Professor Reetta Kälviäinen is past chair of the Epilepsy Scientific Panel of European Academy of Neurology management group.

#### **ILAE-YES FINLAND LEADERS**

Sampsa Lohi, Chairman  
Päivi Nevalainen, Secretary  
Katri Silvennoinen  
Anni Saarela, Vice Chair (until 2022)  
Erika Ignatius, Vice Chair (elected in 2022)

#### **ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

In 2021, the Finnish Epilepsy Society did not organize its own national teaching course since and the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic.

On 16 May 2022, the Finnish Epilepsy Society organized a one-day teaching course on epilepsy in Helsinki. MD Henna Jonsson gave a lecture about new classification of epilepsy syndromes, docent Eija Gaily gave a lecture about Dravet syndrome, and Ph.D. Kirsi Mikkonen about Lennox- Gastaut syndrome. Professor Reetta Kälviäinen lectured about Finnish national care pathway. Docent Liisa Metsä-Honkala delt with newer antiseizure medications cannabidiol and fenflur amine, and Professor Jukka Peltola with cenobamate and new indications of lacosamide. Visiting lecturer professor Oliver Henning from Norway gave a lecture entitled “What do we talk about when we talk about epilepsy and sexuality –and what do we not talk about?” Docent Salla Lamusuo lectured on epilepsy and contraception. MD Katariina Klintrup represented Kela, the Social Insurance Institution of Finland, and lectured about Finnish insurance system concerning antiseizure medications. Ph.D. Leena Jutila and Ph.D. Jonna Ebrahim-Komulainen gave a lecture on everyday challenges treating children and adults with epilepsy. The annual meeting of Finnish Epilepsy Society was also held alongside. The course had 106 participants including lecturers, of them 56 were participating with remote access. In 2022, one local course was held in Turku.

ILAE-YES Finland organized a teaching course on 17 March 2022 on genetics of epileptic seizures, and on 9 November 2022 on status epilepticus.

### **CHALLENGES FACED IN 2021 AND 2022**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the courses were organized also virtually.

### **FUTURE PLANS FOR 2023**

In 2023 local educational courses will be continued, due to prevailing COVID-19 pandemic the meetings will be organized also via virtual connections. The Finnish Epilepsy Society continues to collaborate with Finnish Epilepsy Association to promote the knowledge of epilepsy and equal access to high-quality care in Finland.

### **MEETINGS**

The board organized meetings six to nine times annually.

*Report submitted by Tiina Alapirtti*