

Budget Review Committee 2023 Annual Report

MEMBERS

Amza Ali, chair (Jamaica)
Derrick Chan (Singapore)
Dana Craiu (Romania)
Uma Menon (USA)
Reda Ouazzani (Morocco)

HIGHLIGHTS

The Budget Review Committee traditionally concentrates its activities towards the end of each year when it receives the funding proposals from the ILAE Commissions and Taskforces. This year was no different except that the platform on which the proposals were available for review was the Monday.com platform that is being used cross-functionally for all ILAE activities. As this was a new platform to the Budget Review Committee, ILAE Program Officer Annabelle Sellin took us through it in a Zoom meeting before the datasets were sent out for review and scoring. It indeed proved easy to use and most team members were able to finish their tasks quite promptly and we were, for the most part closely aligned in scoring, making the post-activity alignment meeting fairly straightforward.

Otherwise, 2023 was quite different as the chair, ILAE Executive Director Julie Hall and Annabelle co-developed the idea of using this powerful Monday.com platform as a potential basis for developing an artificial intelligence (AI) tool that we hope may help us to better determine resource allocations, identify cost-saving opportunities from cross collaborations among commissions and hopefully, identify opportunities for funding. This idea had germinated earlier in the year when the potential value of the structured platform was recognized. The approval of the ILAE Executive Committee was greatly appreciated as we move this idea forward in 2024.

Another new initiative this year was that the chair had the privilege of sitting in on most Executive Committee meetings as they discussed their progress and plans for the coming two years the day before the International Epilepsy Congress (IEC 2023) began in Dublin, Ireland. It was extremely insightful; these insights shared with the rest of the team. In addition, the chair had the opportunity to speak to the commission chairs and to give some clarity to the value for a high degree of alignment to the goals and/or aims of the ILAE Strategy 2030 and to the WHO Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders. This potentially may be a useful activity to continue for future Chairs of the BRC.

ACTIVITIES

The Committee held a traditional scoring activity at the end of 2023 using the new Monday.com platform. We also held several meetings to advance the idea of using the Monday.com platform and potentially collected data for analytics supported by AI. We are very grateful to have the

approval of the ILAE Executive Committee to continue our investigation of this possibility in 2024 now that we do have some data in the Monday.com platform to use.

The Budget Review Committee chair also had the opportunity to sit in on the meetings of commissions and other task forces prior to the start of IEC 2023 in Dublin. This was a great opportunity to get to know more about the activities and the people involved.

We are excited about these activities and the potential original work we might do for ILAE. It is a privilege to be able to meet the people doing such important work in all the ILAE commissions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Overall, the main accomplishment was adding more to the activities of the Budget Review Committee, which traditionally only took place at the end of each year. These other activities highlighted above allow for a more visible and engaged function, and through the analytics activity, the potential to add real value to ILAE activities through enhancing efficiency by identifying opportunities for cross-collaborations between commissions, and ultimately ways to increase fundraising support by providing useful data to potential funders.

MEETINGS

Throughout the year, the Budget Review Committee met several times by Zoom and in person once at IEC 2023. The chair additionally met several times with Julie Hall and Annabelle Sellin as we developed the AI idea.

Report submitted by Amza Ali