

# Commission on Classification & Terminology

Sameer Zuberi, Chair

The mission of the Commission on Classification and Terminology, chaired by Sameer Zuberi (United Kingdom) is to develop a scientifically-based approach to the classification of seizures and the epilepsies, and to improve diagnosis of epileptic seizures and syndromes. To that end, the Commission oversees the work of four Task Forces.



Sameer Zuberi

The first is the Task Force on Classification, which is chaired by Ingrid Scheffer (Australia). This group is developing a classification framework for the epilepsies, taking into account the epilepsy community's feedback on classification proposals over the previous four years. A paper, *"Classification of the Epilepsies: New concepts for discussion and debate. Special Report of the ILAE Classification Task Force of the Commission for Classification and Terminology,"* was circulated and discussed in Istanbul, and at the AES in 2015. The developing classification emphasizes considering etiology at all stages of classification. It proposes encompassing seizure type, epilepsies classified by seizure types, epilepsy syndromes and etiology. The term "Classification" has been re-instituted, replacing "Organization." The Task Force included etiology to reflect increasing scientific knowledge and the wider aim within medicine to encourage the practice of personalized or precision medicine. There are many areas within the document which will produce debate within the epilepsy community. The paper will be published in 2016 to solicit immediate comment.

The Task Force on Seizure Types is led by Robert Fisher (USA) and is working on updating the classification of

clinical seizure types and the ILAE glossary of terms, and it has written a paper entitled *"Operational Classification of Seizure Types by the International League Against Epilepsy."* There are several reasons for this new classification. Some clinical seizure types can have either a focal or generalized onset, and a failure to determine which would have made a seizure unclassifiable with the 1981 system. There is also a need to move away from preservation or alteration of awareness as the only descriptor of a focal seizure, although it remains an important descriptor. Some important seizure types were not included in previous classifications. The proposed classification will be put on the ILAE website for comment before eventual publication of a revised version.

The third Task Force is on EpilepsyDiagnosis.org & Syndromes and is chaired by Kate Riney (Australia). EpilepsyDiagnosis.Org is a major educational initiative of the ILAE to make available, in an easy to understand form, the latest concepts relating to seizures and the epilepsies. The principal goal is to assist clinicians to diagnose seizure type(s), classify epilepsy, diagnose epilepsy syndromes and define the etiology of the epilepsy. The site is principally designed for clinicians in primary and secondary care settings, and for others caring for people with epilepsy. It is also a useful teaching aid. The site works on a smartphone, a computer or a tablet, and contains useful videos of seizures. Usage has increased to more than 27,000 page views per month. Feedback from users has been uniformly positive. A major new section on epilepsies with a structural etiology went live in the second quarter of 2016. The text can be shared with Wikipedia's epilepsy pages to help ensure Wikipedia's content is current and further promote epilepsy education. The Task Force is working with Translators Without Borders on translations of the content of EpilepsyDiagnosis.Org into other languages. The website will be showcased at the 12th ECE in Prague in September 2016.

The Neonatal Seizures Task Force is under the lead of Ronit Pressler (UK) and has developed a Framework for Classification of Neonatal Seizures. It takes into consideration factors specifically relevant to this age group. The group has undertaken collaborative video — EEG review exercises to facilitate the development of relevant terminology. This effort has guided a seizure type classification which reflects the Task Force on Seizure Types work but does not separate seizures into generalized and focal.

Although the Commission is pleased with the progress that has been made, there is more to do. We will continue the work on the Classification of the Epilepsies and Seizure Type Classification through ongoing engagement with the epilepsy community. We will further develop EpilepsyDiagnosis.org to increase its use by any professional treating epilepsy, as well as to make it a core component of epilepsy education. We will revise the ILAE Glossary of Terms to align it with the evolving scientific understanding of epilepsy. Finally, in the near future, we will develop a glossary of terms to describe and classify clinical and electrographic seizures in the neonate.

INTERNATIONAL  
LEAGUE  
AGAINST  
EPILEPSY



Established 1909

EpilepsyDiagnosis.org  
Diagnostic Manual