



Angelina Kakooza-Mwesige

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ILAE Chapters in Africa

Benin
 Cote d'Ivoire
 Cameroon
 Democratic Republic of Congo
 Ghana
 Guinea
 Kenya
 Mali
 Nigeria
 Rwanda
 Senegal
 South Africa
 Tanzania
 Uganda
 Zambia
 Zimbabwe

ILAE-Africa Goals for Term 2017-2021

1. Promote Epilepsy Awareness
2. Improve Access to Epilepsy Care
3. Conduct training in epilepsy and strengthen the education activities of ILAE-Africa
4. Foster epilepsy research in the region
5. Multiply ILAE membership in the region

Task Forces for ILAE Africa

Raising Epilepsy Awareness

Angelina Kakooza M (Uganda)
 Richard Idro (Uganda)
 Augustina Charway-Felli (Ghana)

Education/Training Expansion

Jo Wilmsurst (South Africa)
 Ansuya Naidoo (South Africa)
 Charles Hammond (Ghana)
 Pierre Luabeya (DRC)

Seeking Extra Funding Through Collaborations with Other Funders

Pierre Mesu'a-Kabwa Luabeya (DRC)
 Desire Tshala (USA/DRC)
 Athanase Millogo (Burkina Faso)

Increasing ILAE Membership

Edward Kija (Tanzania)
 Victor Sini (Cameroon)
 Dr Mecky (Sudan)
 Birinus Adekaibe (Nigeria)

Communication/Foster Research Agenda

Emmanuel Sanya (Nigeria)
 Birinus Adekaibe (Nigeria)
 Lukman Owolabi (Nigeria)
 Ndeye Fatou (Senegal)

Improving Access to Care

Ndeye Fatou Ndoeye (Senegal)
 Athanase Millogo (Burkina Faso)

Achievements of ILAE-Africa in past term (2019)

1. Conducted a number of Paediatric Epilepsy Training (PET) Courses across the continent in Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, Namibia, Angola, South Africa, and Uganda.
2. Published two versions of CAA E-newsletter "Epilepsy News Africa."

3. In conjunction with local partners, conducted a series of street and video campaigns to raise epilepsy awareness.
4. Successfully held the 4th African Epilepsy Congress (AEC) in Entebbe, Uganda, August 2019.
5. Conducted a joint IBRO/ ILAE-Africa Anglophone teaching course at the 4th AEC pre-congress meeting in Entebbe, Uganda- August 2019.
6. Supported participation of African trainees in Epilepsy distance learning courses (e.g. VIREPA, San Servolo) by provision of bursaries.

Details of some of the specific activities

The 4th African Epilepsy Congress held from 22nd-24th August 2019 at the Imperial Resort Beach Hotel, Entebbe, Uganda.

The three-day congress was a joint International League Against Epilepsy and International Bureau for Epilepsy meeting that attracted a rich blend of multi-professional groups and individuals with an interest in epilepsy. The meeting was well attended with 244 participants representing 37 countries. There were 16 scientific and social sessions over three days and innovative research was presented by 50

authors of scientific/educational posters. The discussions during the congress also paved a way for opportunities to advocate for the needs of people living with epilepsy and the support groups necessary to support their care in all parts of the African region. The congress was a great success, with lively debate both in and outside the sessions, and it encouraged networking and engendered new alliances.

The Education and Training task force for ILAE-Africa organised many epilepsy related activities which are ongoing across Africa.

To highlight a few, the 2nd Annual Enugu Nigeria International Collaborative Course on Epilepsy and EEG in clinical practice was held in January. The topics covered areas ranging from the current classification and application in Nigeria to epilepsy syndrome, non-epileptic seizures, and EEG related training. Over 100 delegates attended and the full report was included in the ILAE-Africa Newsletter (Figure 1).

In February, the Ivorian Association Against Epilepsy also held a meeting with the theme of “Epilepsy of the Child: Diagnostic difficulties and care,” attended by 77 clinicians. In March, the Malian League Against Epilepsy in collaboration with the Societies of Neurology, Obstetrics and



Conference participants of the 4th AEC



Dr. Kakooza with Prof. Sam Weibe (L), President of the ILAE and Mr. Jacob Mugumbate (R), Co-Chair of the 4th African Epilepsy Congress, Entebbe Uganda.



Attendees at the 2nd Annual Enugu Nigeria International Collaborative Course on Epilepsy and EEG in Clinical Practice.

Gynaecology and Paediatrics ran a course which focused on “women and epilepsy” and “teratogeny of antiepileptics.” The need for training and expanding expertise in Africa is ongoing. Archana Patel is leading an innovative training program which has started in-country specialist training of two child neurologists in Zambia. In addition, she is supporting the training of first-line providers in the Copper Belt region, Lusaka, and Livingstone. She has also rolled out a community health worker initiative. Despite being based in the US (Boston Children’s Hospital), she has allocated significant time to upskilling the local clinicians, with the intent that the training will permit standalone expertise to become established in the country.

In April, training in EEG recording was initiated in Kumasi, Ghana, facilitated by the Child Neurology Society of America, through the motivations of Jorge Vidaurre (education outreach expert). The visiting experts focused training on two EEG technicians and six nurses.

Allied to the 4th African Epilepsy Congress in August, Pierre Luabeya coordinated a joint workshop in collaboration with IBRO. Topics included epilepsy classification, neurocysticercosis and epilepsy, as well as basic science themes of relevance for Africa. This was a superb opportunity for clinicians to mingle with basic scientists and identify areas of common interest for future projects.

Continuing the theme for training, the “Get Smarter” program is an online course promoting adult



Charles Hammond with one of his EEG technicians based in Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi, Ghana.

electrophysiology skills. The coordinators are located at Groote Schur Hospital, in the adult neurology department in Cape Town, South Africa and fall under the University of Cape Town. This course has been extremely popular both for its accessibility and quality, regularly filling its 60 allocated places each year. In addition to this, the African Paediatric Fellowship Program, also originating at UCT in the department of Paediatrics and Child Health, has continued to train child neurologists. The most recent graduate (Robert Sebunya) returned to Uganda and the program itself expanded to two other universities in South Africa, which should further increase the training capacity for child neurology. The most recent innovation for the UCT arm of the APFP has been the training of technologists. In 2019, Shem Ochieng from the University of Nairobi was attached to the neurophysiology service at Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital; he has returned to assist establishment of an EEG service in his centre in Nairobi. Parallel to this, UCT has established a post-graduate diploma on “Basic EEG and Epilepsy Management in Children.”

The ILAE-Africa requested \$5000 to be transferred to the VIREPA courses to expand the number of clinicians from Africa who could access these online courses.

The year 2019 was great for expanding the Paediatric Epilepsy Training (PET) courses at an international level. The course was translated into Portuguese. In September, this Brazilian faculty (faculty leads Marilisa M. Guerreiro and Ana Carolina Coan) travelled to Angola, and with the coordination of local host Dr Manuel Leite Cruzeiro, taught



Brazilian faculty running PET course in Luanda, Angola (Kette Valente, Magda Lahorgue Nunes, Leticia Brito Sampaio, Laura Guilhoto, Maria Luiza Manreza, Ana Carolina Coan, and Marilisa Guerreiro).

the course for 34 local clinicians (32 pediatricians and two neurologists) as well as to two colleagues from Mozambique.

Overall, the Brazilian faculty reported that the PET course was able to fill some of the gaps regarding the knowledge of diagnosis and care of children with epileptic seizures and epilepsy. The delegates evaluated the course as good or excellent and they agreed that it fulfilled or exceeded their expectations. The exposure of the course was viewed to be so useful, especially with the content in the home language, that the Brazilian faculty have been invited to run the course in Mozambique in 2020. This extension of the PET course to Angola was supported by joint funding from ILAE and the International Child Neurology Association. The same collaboration is planned for the 2020 project.

In addition to supporting the Brazil and Angola courses, PET courses were also undertaken across Kenya (faculty leads Pauline Samia and Sam Gwer), Ghana (faculty lead Charles Hammond), Tanzania (faculty lead Edward Kija), Namibia (faculty lead Jo Wilmshurst), South Africa (faculty leads Gail Scher, Jo Wilmshurst, Elmarie van Rensburg) and Uganda (faculty leads Angelina Kakooza, Richard Idro). The course in Uganda, which was organised by Martin Chebet, occurred immediately prior to the African



Delegates from the Angola PET course, September 2019



Dr. Robert Sebunya teaching the Uganda PET course at Grand Global Hotel Kampala.



Prof. Helen Cross giving out certificates to delegates who attended the Uganda PET course at Grand Global Hotel Kampala.



Dr Martin Chebet, the Uganda PET course Director giving one of his lectures at Grand Global Hotel Kampala.



Small group tutorial teaching for the Moshi, Tanzanian PET course.



Delegates and faculty for the Moshi, Tanzania PET course.

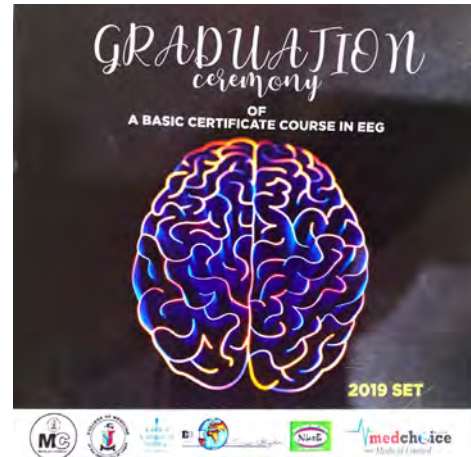
Epilepsy Congress and, as such, was an opportunity for attendees at the AEC to support the Ugandan faculty, namely Helen Cross and Jo Wilmshurst.

It is estimated that the course in 2019 alone reached some 300 health care practitioners across Africa. The need and demand for the course keeps growing with plans in 2020 to establish faculties for Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as translating the course into French to make it accessible to develop faculties in the French speaking countries of Africa. Thanks are extended to the ongoing support and collaboration with BPNA, which developed this innovative course. Members of the BPNA have given their time to support the courses as well. For example, Mike Pike joined the faculty for the course in Windhoek, Namibia and Helen Cross for the course in Cape Town and Kampala.

Activities in other chapters

1. A health talk and street campaign against epilepsy was held in Lagos, the economic capital of Nigeria, on 4th December, and at Queens School for science students.
2. The Epilepsy Society Uganda (EPISOU), in conjunction with Next Media Productions and NBS Television, produced epilepsy raising awareness video clips which were aired on local television in English and Luganda, the local language. The public later called in to the phone lines provided to ask questions in regard to seeking health care and management of epilepsy.
3. The Nigerian League Against Epilepsy (NLAE), in partnership with the University of Lagos Teaching Hospital and the American Academy of Neurodiagnostic Technology, commenced a four-month basic certificate course in EEG. The course is meant for EEG technicians/technologists and nurses for improvement in EEG data recording and acquisition. The pioneer program was held from September to December 2019. A total of 17 students from 18 that registered, graduated from the training. The course content included six weeks of lectures and eight weeks practical on EEG acquisition and recording in any of the teaching hospitals. On-line materials were made available courtesy of the

American Academy of Neurodiagnostic Technology. The graduation ceremony took place on 29 January 2020.



Graduates of the basic EEG course and some members of faculty.

4. The Nigerian League Against Epilepsy (NLAE), in collaboration with Region's Neurosciences Center, held the 3rd annual course and workshop on Epilepsy and EEG Diagnosis between 24 and 25th January. The workshop was for meant for residents, neurologists, psychiatrists and neurosurgeons, with the focus on EEG analysis and reducing over interpretation of EEG. Faculty included Prof Aashit Shah (Virginia Tech University USA, Prof Gholam Motamadi (Comprehensive Epilepsy Center Georgetown University Hospital, WA, USA), and Dr Anyawu (EEG Lab, Carilion Clinic Virginia, USA).



Lecture during the workshop and training on epilepsy for neurologist, residents, psychiatrists, and neurosurgeons in Nigeria,

Planned activities for the ILAE-Africa region in 2020

1. Continue to conduct PET courses, venues and dates TBD. Course materials are planned to be translated into French.
2. Organize regional epilepsy awareness-raising campaigns for English- and French-speaking countries.
3. Establish the epilepsy research needs on the continent.
4. Foster South to South and North to South epilepsy-related research collaborations in the region.
5. Increase the number of countries joining the ILAE on the continent.
6. Continue production of the bi-annual news e-report, "Epilepsy News Africa".

Report by Angelina Kakooza-Mwesige