

Career Development Commission

2022 Annual Report

MEMBERS

Marian Galovic (Switzerland), chair
Christos Lisgaras (USA)
Yamile Calle Lopez (Colombia)
Chong Tin Tan (Malaysia)
Sakadi Foksouna (Chad)
Jennifer Hopp (USA)
Sherly Haut (USA)
Katja Kobow (Germany)
Mirja Steinbrenn (UK)
Sebastian Ortiz (Colombia)
Premysl Jiruska (Czech Republic)
Reeta Kälviäinen (Finland)
Cristina Reschke (Ireland)
Pablo Casillas (Australia)
Helen Cross (UK), MC liaison

ACTIVITIES

Several commission activities took place at the 2022 European Epilepsy Congress in Geneva. These included a Leadership Development Course, the Mentor-Mentee Program, Peer2Peer Mentoring, and a YES Networking Event. The Young Epilepsy Section (YES) offered a full and diverse program at the congress with a focus on younger participants. This program involved career development session on scientific writing and grant writing.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The ILAE Career Development Commission was established at an inaugural meeting in December 2021 and became fully functional in 2022. The commission includes four task forces: Fellowships, Leadership Development, Mentoring, and Networking. The Young Epilepsy Section (YES) is also formally part of the Career Development Commission. The commission aims to support the professional development of ILAE members at all career stages. It also aims to foster and raise the next generation of epilepsy professionals worldwide. A need assessment revealed that the ILAE already offers several activities on mentoring and leadership development. A first goal for the commission was to identify such activities, involve relevant stakeholders and provide a common framework to support these activities. As a next step, commission members determined areas that need future development.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

Sheryl Haut (USA), co-chair
Reeta Kälviäinen (Finland), co-chair
Julie Hall (UK)

MENTORING TASK FORCE

Katja Kobow (Germany), chair
Helen Cross (UK)
Jennifer Hopp (USA)
Naoto Kuroda (USA)

Premysl Jiruska (Czech Republic)
Caroline Neuray (Austria)
Ludivine Rohrer (France)
Christos Lisgaras (USA)

FELLOWSHIPS TASK FORCE

Mirja Steinbrenn (UK), chair
Marian Galovic (Switzerland)
Helen Cross (UK)
Paula Rocktäschel (UK)
Jennifer Hopp (USA)
Premysl Jiruska (Czech Republic)

Sakadi Jirusa (Chad)
Matthew Walker (UK)
Eugene Trinka (Austria)
Patricia Braga (Uruguay)
Nirmeen Kishk (Egypt)

NETWORKING TASK FORCE

Sebastian Ortiz (Colombia), chair
Marian Galovic (Switzerland)
Laura Abaira (Spain)
Michael McKinney (Northern Ireland)

Genevieve Rayner (Australia)
Carolina Ferreira (USA)
Ingmar Blümcke (Germany)
Jo Wilmhurst (South Africa)

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Fellowship Task Force launched a Visiting Scholarship program in 2022 with the aim to reduce the epilepsy treatment gap. The program offers support for visiting an external department or laboratory with the aim to acquire new clinical or scientific skills. As a pilot the program was restricted to Europe but will be expanded in future. From a large number of applicants, a committee selected 5 candidates that underwent 3-month scholarships at a partner department. The first feedback following the scholarships was very positive.
- The Leadership Task Force organized another edition of the Leadership Development Course at the European Epilepsy Congress in Geneva. Thirty participants were selected for the two-day course aimed at raising a new generation of future leaders in epilepsy.
- The newly established Networking Task Force aimed to improve networking at conferences. A small space at the conference center in Geneva was reserved for ad-hoc and prearranged networking meetings. This space was used for scheduled networking

meetings that allowed participants to meet their peers with similar special interests. Speakers from the scientific program were invited as facilitators. Networking sessions were arranged for pediatric epileptology, neurophysiology, neuroimaging, genetics, status epilepticus, and surgery/neurostimulation.

MEETINGS

The commission members met six times virtually. One in-person meeting took place at the European Epilepsy Congress in Geneva.

Report submitted by Marian Galovic