

Annual Report 2018 Next Generation Task Force

Co-Chairs

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General

The Next Generation Task Force (NGTF) aligns activities from the ILAE leadership program (led by S. Haut), the ILAE mentor-mentee program (led by H. Cross), the Young Epilepsy section (led by M. Galovic), the young neurobiologist section (led by P. Jiruska), and any other committee or activity aiming at the younger generation of people involved in epilepsy care and research. The activities of the above-named sections are complementary to each other: The leadership program aims to involve next-generation leaders (around 35-45 years), the mentor-mentee program aims to involve young researchers (PhDs) and clinical fellows (30-40), and the young epilepsy section aims to attract people early in their career (20-40). The leadership program consists of talks by speakers from the epilepsy field on typical leadership topics like strategy, setting up groups, and budget planning. The feedback on the 2018 program in Vienna was very positive. The mentor-mentee program matches established clinicians and researchers with PhDs and fellows. While the feedback on the 2018 program in Vienna was positive, it included the suggestion to avoid overlap with other parts of the (YES) program. In the future, we intend that the contact between mentors and mentees remains during the year and this will be communicated in advance for the next program. The YES had a very active and productive year, as described below.

ILAE Young Epilepsy Section (YES)

The Next Generation Task Force identified the need to deepen the involvement of early-career researchers and clinicians within the ILAE, and to increase their participation at conferences. To achieve this, the idea of a grassroots-style organisation of young epileptologists and epilepsy researchers was born. We supported the development of the terms of reference for such an organisation and helped with the setup of the internal framework. We established a link with the ILAE Executive and the Young Epilepsy Section was formally recognised as the representative of young ILAE members.

We supported the first official YES meeting at a Kick-Off Workshop in London, UK, in May 2018. A diverse group of young people attended this event. The first YES General Assembly meeting was staged and YES representatives were elected. YES has since rapidly grown into a global initiative with several hundred active contributors from different backgrounds.

We facilitated the collaboration of, and ongoing exchanges between, YES and other ILAE task forces. Several ILAE task forces embraced the grassroots-style concept of YES and invited their members to successfully collaborate on projects. Particularly fruitful collaborations were established in the areas of

education (cooperation on epilepsy curriculum development and cases), communication (support of social media accounts and creation of infographics), and conferences (networking events and career-development activities). Details of YES activities may be found in the separate Young Epilepsy Section report.

J. Helen Cross and Maeike Zijlmans
Co-Chairs, Next Generation Task Force