

COMMISSION ON NEUROPSYCHOBIOLOGY

List of Members

Co-Chair
Co-Chair

Andres Kanner (USA)
Marco Mula (USA)
Mike Kerr (UK)
ES Krishnamoorthy
(India)
Frank Besag (UK)
Bettina Schmitz
(Germany)
W Curt LaFrance Jr
(USA)
Lilia Nunez Orozco
(Mexico)
Naoto Adachi (Japan)

Sub-commissions

Task Force on Education: Co-Chairs A Kanner (USA)
and WC LaFrance Jr (USA)
Task Force on Disabling Epilepsy:
Chair ES Krishnamoorthy (India)
Task Force on Child Neuropsychiatry: Chair F Besag
(UK)
Task Force on Psychoses: Chair N Adachi (Japan)
Task Force on Mood and Anxiety Disorders:
Chair A Kanner (USA)
Task Force on Intellectual Disabilities in Adults with
Epilepsy: Chair M Kerr (UK)
Task Force on Treatment Strategies: Chair M Mula
(Italy)
Task Force on Psychiatric Aspects of Epilepsy Surgery:
Chair A Kanner (USA)
Task Force on Psychogenic Non Epileptic Seizures:
Chair WC La France Jr (USA)

Aims

One of the principal aims is to provide clinicians (neurologists and non-neurologists alike) with practical and user-friendly tools to identify the more frequent psychiatric comorbidities in epilepsy and to provide clinicians with a pragmatic approach to the treatment of these psychiatric comorbidities.

Mission

The mission of the Commission is to ensure that health professionals, patients and their care providers have the educational and scientific resources that are essential in understanding, diagnosing and treating psychiatric and cognitive complications of patients with epilepsy.

Commission Activities from July 2011 through July 2012

The Commission continued the project of promoting translation and validation of screening instruments for psychiatric disorders in epilepsy. New versions of the Neurological Disorders Depression Inventory for Epilepsy (NDDI-E) have been validated in several languages and psychometric properties have been

published. The NDDI-E is currently available in validated versions in English, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese and Korean.

The first VIREPA course on psychiatric comorbidities of epilepsies has been developed and is currently running. The course is organized in two parts. Part one contains basic elements about epidemiology, pathophysiology, clinical aspects and basic treatment approaches of major psychiatric problems in epilepsy, namely mood and anxiety disorders, ADHD. The advanced section discusses more complex problems such as psychogenic nonepileptic seizures or psychoses.

The Commission developed a pragmatic approach to treatment of psychiatric comorbidities in epilepsy. A special issue of *Epilepsia* is dedicated to this problem providing a very practical and user-friendly guide for the pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatments of major psychiatric disorders affecting adult patients with epilepsy as well as special populations such as cognitively impaired subjects.

The Task Force on Child Neuropsychiatry is working on a number of consensus documents on specific topics that have been identified as particularly important, namely screening instruments, psychiatric complications of surgery, suicide in adolescents and ADHD in epilepsy.

The Task Force on Therapeutic Strategies published a consensus statement on the FDA alert about suicide during treatment with antiepileptic drugs.

The Task Force on Intellectual Disabilities, in conjunction with the IBE, developed a web-based survey in order to explore the views of health-professionals involved in the care of patients with intellectual disabilities. Data on burden, mortality/life expectancy, hospitalization and access to care of this subgroup of patients have been collected. Results of this project will be soon available in a special document.

The Task force on Psychogenic Non-Epileptic seizures is working to a specific document on diagnoses of PNES and their approach. The document will be soon available.

Accomplishments (2011-2012)

The NDDI-E translated and validated in seven languages; a position paper on AEDs and suicide published in *Epilepsia*; *Epilepsia* supplement dedicated to treatment of psychiatric disorders in adults with epilepsy; VIREPA course on psychiatric aspects of epilepsy

COMMISSION ON NEUROPSYCHOBIOLOGY *(continued)*

Recommendations for Future Work

Following projects need to be finalized by the end of 2013:

- A consensus document on screening instruments for psychiatric disorders in adult patients with epilepsy
- Task Force on child neuropsychiatry: four documents to be finalized
- Task Force on intellectual disabilities: one document to be finalized
- Task Force on psychogenic nonepileptic seizures: one document to be published

Epilepsy is a complex disorder that needs a comprehensive approach. Psychiatric comorbidities represent an important obstacle complicating the management of patients with epilepsy and significantly affecting their quality of life and prognosis. Further work is needed to develop models for cost-effective interventions taking into account local specificities.

Marco Mula
Co-Chair