

# *COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS*

## *[THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY]*

### *NEWS BULLETIN*

Communicator: Prof Emmanuel Sanya

#### **NEWS:**

#### **2017-2021 OFFICERS ON THE COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS INAUGURATED AT THE 32ND INTERNATIONAL EPILEPSY CONGRESS, BARCELONA, SPAIN, 2017**

The 2017-2021 officers on the Commission on African Affairs were inaugurated at the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Epilepsy Congress which held in Barcelona, Spain between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The new executives have Dr Angelina Kakooza-Nwesiga as its Chairperson. The entire ILAE family especially those from Africa and the epilepsy patients wish the team a successful tenure. Other officers and their duties are:

	OFFICER	EMAIL	DUTIES	COUNTRY
1	HELEN J CROSS	<a href="mailto:h.cross@ucl.ac.uk">h.cross@ucl.ac.uk</a>	MC LIAISON	UK
2	ANGELINA KAKOOZA-MWESIGE	<a href="mailto:angelina_kakooza@yahoo.co.uk">angelina_kakooza@yahoo.co.uk</a>	CHAIR/ RAISING EPILEPSY AWARENESS	UGANDA
3	JO WILMSHURST	<a href="mailto:jo.wilmshurst@uct.ac.za">jo.wilmshurst@uct.ac.za</a>	EDUCATION/TRAINING EXPANSION	SOUTH AFRICA
4	MESU'A-KABWA LUABEYA	mesua-kabwa.luabeya@valida.be OR <a href="mailto:mk.luabeya@gmail.com">mk.luabeya@gmail.com</a>	TREASURER/SEEKING FUNDING THROUGH COLLABORATIONS WITH OTHER FUNDERS.eg IBRO,	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

			WFN, EFNS / TRAINING EXPANSION	
5	VICTOR SINI	<a href="mailto:vitaldoc@yahoo.com">vitaldoc@yahoo.com</a>	<b>SECRETARY GENERAL/</b> INCREASING ILAE MEMBERSHIP	CAMEROON
6	EMMANUEL OLATUNDE SANYA	<a href="mailto:emanuelosanya@yahoo.com">emanuelosanya@yahoo.com</a>	<b>COMMUNICATION/FOSTER</b> RESEARCH AGENDA	NIGERIA
7	EDWARD KIJA	<a href="mailto:edwardkija@yahoo.co.uk">edwardkija@yahoo.co.uk</a> OR <a href="mailto:edwardkija@gmail.com">edwardkija@gmail.com</a>	INCREASING ILAE MEMBERSHIP/ IMPROVING ACCESS TO CARE	TANZANIA
8	NDEYE FATOU NDOYE	<a href="mailto:nfn17@hotmail.com">nfn17@hotmail.com</a>	IMPROVING ACCESS TO CARE/FOSTER RESEARCH AGENDA	SENEGAL (CAA Link with the African- French speaking countries)

Also inaugurated during the congress were the ILAE, IBE executive committee. The first meeting of the ILAE executive committee was held at the congress with sole aim familiarizing itself with the structure, operations and finances of the ILAE.



President of the CAA, Dr. Angelina Kakooza. M, at the 32nd IEC poster, Barcelona, Spain

At the congress the new ILAE Executive Committee, Joint executive committees of the ILAE and the International Bureau of Epilepsy (IBE) were inaugurated. Other activities which took

place at the congress included chapters presentation and handing over ceremonies by the outgoing President, Secretary general and Treasurer.

Dr. Kakooza the incoming Chairperson of CAA gave a joint lecture with Prof. Gretchen Birbeck of University of Rochester Medical Center, USA (adjunct faculty in University of Zambia and at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi) on 'Epilepsy Case Management in Resource Limited settings'. An informal meeting of the African delegates from Africa was held where suggestions were made on how to improve epilepsy care in African. There was emphasis on the need to incorporate prevailing sociocultural factors in Africa along with treatment strategies. These positions were also supported by the in-coming president of the IBE, Prof, M Brodie who proposed that more epilepsy programs should be developed in order to improve the funding of epilepsy research in Africa.



Group photo of some of the African delegates at the 32nd IEC in Barcelona, Spain.

### **NEWS:**

### **TRAINING ON EEG RECORDING AND DATA INTERPRETATION HELD BY NIGERIAN LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY & NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF NEUROLOGICAL SCIENCES**

University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital, located in Ilorin, North-central Nigeria, hosted the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Scientific conference of the Nigerian Society of Neurological Sciences between 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2017. As part of the program of events, a preconference workshop took place which featured Hands-on training on Electroencephalogram (EEG) recording and data interpretation. The training took place at the clinical skills laboratory of the College of Health sciences, University of Ilorin. The program was organised to improve the

skills of young neurologist and medical personnel in EEG recording and data interpretation. Participants included Neurologists, Neurology trainees, Psychiatrists, electrophysiologists, EEG technicians and Nurses. Resources persons were drawn from Nigerian and United Kingdom, including Prof E O Sanya, Dr Steve Coates from Teleeeg a UK based organisation involved on online EEG reported and machine donation to resource scarce counties.



Hands-on training on EEG recording at Ilorin



Participants during hands-on training session on EEG recording at Ilorin Nigeria. (Extreme right- Dr Steve Coates Teleeeeg, UK)

### **NEWS:**

### **INTERNATIONAL EPILEPSY DAY HELD IN DOUALA (CAMEROON)**

The Cameroon League Against Epilepsy (CLAE) as part of programs to mark the International Epilepsy Day, organised a training workshop for general practitioners on various aspects of Epilepsy on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2018. The program took place in the city of Douala, which is the economic capital of Cameroon. The training workshop which was opened by the hospital director, Professor L R Njock, took place in the conference room of the Douala Laquinitinie hospital.

Topics taken during the session were basically on epilepsy definition, classification, pathophysiology, diagnosis and management; while a short paper was presented on new perspective on epilepsy research focusing on relationship between Onchocerciasis and epilepsy in Cameroon. The program was well attended and well covered by major media outlets.

The speakers: from the left to the right, Dr Dominique ENYAMA, Pr Yacouba MAPOURE, Pr Alfred



NJAMNSHI, Pr Louis Richard NJOCK, Pr Callixte KUATE, Dr Clet Benjamin TCHALEU, Dr Jacques DOUMBE & Dr Caroline KENMEGNE.

### **NEWS:**

### **TALKING, WALKING, AND TRAINING ON EPILEPSY WAS HELD IN ENUGU, NIGERIA**

A two 2-day training on epilepsy and EEG conference for Neurologist, Psychiatrist, Resident doctors, Nurses and EEG Technicians was held between 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Faculties for the conference included reknown Neurologists and Academician from Nigeria and the United State of America. The Events began with talk and walk for epilepsy in the community, after which didactic lectures and training were held. Certificates and 10 CME credits were awarded to all participants. It was a self-sponsored program.



Doctors training in EEG recording



Health workers walking for epilepsy in Enugu, State, South-eastern Nigeria.

#### NEWS:

### **2018 WORLD EPILEPSY DAY CELEBRATION IN IBADAN OYO STATE NIGERIA**

The 2018 was held in Ibadan with the theme “epilepsy is treatable-stop the stigma”. Health talks were delivered at two secondary schools and one primary school by a team of health workers from the University College Hospital, Ibadan, Oyo State Nigeria. The also educated traders and plank sellers at the popular Bodija Saw mill markets on epilepsy, its care and management. Members of the health team included Professors Adesola Ogunniyi and Ike Lagunju, Dr Rufus Akinyemi, senior Nurses and EEG technicians.



The team with students of Salvation Army Primary school Yemetu Ibadan.



Team and Plank sellers in Bodija Saw Mill Market Ibadan, Nigeria

## COMING EVENTS:

### THE NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA ANNOUNCES ONLINE EEG TRAINING.

(commence - Monday May 14th, 2018. The last date for applications is April 30th 2018)

The Neurological Association of South Africa, in association with the Division of Neurology of the University of Cape Town, has developed a Web-based, multimodal, distance learning program (EEG online) which is primarily designed to assist in the training of career neurology registrars in the principles and practice of clinical EEG.

EEG online provides participants with a sound introduction to the art and science of performing, reading and clinically applying EEG. Succinct text is provided, but the emphasis of the teaching is on the interpretation of many normal and abnormal EEG epochs which are presented in the course material. The online course is divided into different 1 to 3-weekly modules will run for a period of 6 months. EEG online Participants who are successful in the end of course examinations are provided with a certificate endorsed by the Neurological Association of South Africa.

For enrolment or more information contact: [studyEEGonline@gmail.com](mailto:studyEEGonline@gmail.com).

## PAEDIATRIC EPILEPSY TRAINING COURSES IN AFRICA

The British Paediatric Neurology Association (BPNA) have developed a series of short and focused teaching courses which have been so successful in the United Kingdom (UK), that they have been rolled out internationally. These Paediatric Epilepsy Training courses have been run across Asia (especially India and Myanmar) and are now becoming established in Africa. The first African PET course was undertaken in Sudan in January 2015. The plan is to provide paediatric epilepsy training programs all across Africa by training the trainers. The content of the PET1 course is carefully tailored to target high impact health issues of the child presenting with convulsions, from how to recognise a seizure, best care for febrile seizures, developing comprehensive care plans for children with epilepsy and addressing the significant co-morbidities faced by children with epilepsy.

For further information, please follow the under listed links;

<https://www.bpna.org.uk/pet/>;

[https://www.bpna.org.uk/ecommerce/product\\_view.php?courseid=305](https://www.bpna.org.uk/ecommerce/product_view.php?courseid=305)

[https://www.bpna.org.uk/south\\_africa/](https://www.bpna.org.uk/south_africa/);

<http://www.paediatrics.uct.ac.za/scah/apfp/programme/overviewS>