

2018 Annual Report -ILAE-Africa

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Edward Kija (Tanzania)

Ndeye Fatou Ndoye (Cameroon)

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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

Zimbabwe

ILAE-Africa Goals for the Term 2017-2021

1. Promote epilepsy awareness.
2. Improve access to epilepsy care.
3. Conduct training in epilepsy and strengthen the educational activities of ILAE-Africa.
4. Foster epilepsy research in the region.
5. Multiply ILAE membership in the region.

Task Forces for ILAE Africa

1. Raising Epilepsy Awareness

Angelina Kakooza M (Uganda)

Richard Idro (Uganda)

Augustina Charway-Felli (Ghana)

2. Education/Training Expansion

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

3. Seeking Extra Funding Through Collaborations with Other Funders

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

4. Increasing ILAE Membership

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

5. Communication/Foster Research Agenda

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

6. Improving Access to Care

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

Achievements of ILAE-Africa in past term (2018)

1. Conducting of PET Courses
 - Establishment of a 35-member faculty from 12 countries within Africa, to conduct Paediatric Epilepsy Training (PET) courses in collaboration with the British Paediatric Neurology Association in the UK.
 - So far, various courses have been held in Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Ghana, and Uganda and over 300 health professionals have been trained in paediatric epilepsy. Other courses are planned in 2019 for Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ghana and Kenya.
2. A version of the CAA e-Newsletter `Epilepsy News Africa 2018` was published.
3. In conjunction with local partners, namely the Uganda Medical Association (U.M.A.) and the Uganda Pediatric Association (UPA), the local ILAE Uganda chapter conducted a sensitization symposium on 'Epilepsy in Children' in September 2018 at the Rock Classic Hotel, in Tororo, a rural town in Uganda.

Symposium objectives:

- a. To raise public awareness about epilepsy, so as to create an atmosphere conducive for prevention, early detection/diagnosis, effective treatment, and reduction of stigmatization and discrimination of people with epilepsy.

- b. To update and improve the knowledge and skills regarding epilepsy management among health professionals.
- c. To develop and/or improve strategies for advocacy, better prevention of, and care for people with epilepsy in the region.

This was achieved through varied scientific presentations related to updates on epilepsy care and management made by experts in the field. In addition, local FM radio talk shows for the public were conducted in English and the prevalent local languages of the area. A regional forum for people with epilepsy and their care givers, health professionals, teachers, and administrators was established to help address the needs and challenges posed by epilepsy in the region and beyond.



Symposium on Epilepsy in Children held in Tororo, Uganda, September 2018

Challenges to epilepsy care in the ILAE-Africa region

1. Highest incidence and prevalence of active epilepsy compared to that of all other continents.
2. High levels of stigma and low community awareness of epilepsy.
3. Lack of basic infrastructure for adequate management.
4. Large epilepsy treatment gap, estimated at over 80%.
5. Lack of established standardized treatment guidelines for epilepsy and weak referral systems.
6. Limited human resources trained to take care of people with epilepsy (PWE).
7. Poor linkage between governments, regional and national epilepsy associations, and funding agencies in supporting epilepsy work.

Planned activities for the ILAE-Africa region in 2019

1. Conduct the 4th African Epilepsy Congress (AEC) in Kampala, Uganda, August 2019.
2. Conduct a PET Lusophone teaching course, venue and dates TBD. Course materials have already been translated into Portuguese.

3. Conduct a PET Anglophone teaching course at the 4th AEC Pre-Congress in Kampala, Uganda- August 2019.
4. Conduct a joint IBRO/ ILAE-Africa Anglophone teaching course at the 4th AEC Pre-Congress in Kampala, Uganda- August 2019.
5. To annually support participation of African trainees in epilepsy distance learning courses (e.g. VIREPA, San Servolo) by provision of bursaries.
6. Organize regional epilepsy awareness raising campaigns for English and French speaking countries.
7. Establish epilepsy research needs on the continent.
8. Foster South to South epilepsy-related research collaborations in the region.
9. Increase the number of countries joining the ILAE on the continent.
10. Produce the bi-annual news e-Report, "Epilepsy News Africa".

Angelina Kakooza-Mwesige
Chair, ILAE-Africa