

# 2018 Annual Report - Young Epilepsy Section



## **Chair**

Marian Galovic (UK)

## **Members**

Christos Lisgaras (Greece), Vice-Chair  
Genevieve Rayner (Australia), Secretary  
Katja Kobow (Germany), Treasurer  
Rosa Michaelis (Germany)

## *Regional Representatives*

Musa Mamman Wabila (Nigeria), Africa  
Mohmad Farooq Shaikh (Malaysia), Asia & Oceania  
Caroline Neuray (Austria), Europe  
Johann Sebastian Ortiz de la Rosa (Colombia), Latin America  
Taylor Abel (USA), North America

## *YES Task Forces:*

*Advocacy and Diversity:* Rodolfo Cesar Callejas (Mexico) and Musa Mamman Wabila (Africa)

*Communications:* Neha Kaul (Australia)

*Education and Career Development:* Christoph Schöne-Bake (Germany)

*Finances and Conferences:* Caroline Neuray (Austria)

*Research and Translational:* Christos Lisgaras (Greece)

Young Epilepsy Section (YES) members have initiated collaborations with the ILAE Wikipedia Epilepsy Initiative and the Young Neurobiologists Task Force (NBC), focusing on basic science advocacy and the Research Advocacy and Priorities Task Force (TF).

## **Activities**

The ILAE Next Generation Task Force identified the need to better foster the involvement of young people in epileptology and epilepsy research. Following the work of a small organizing committee, the ILAE Young Epilepsy Section (YES) was formally established on May 13, 2018 at a Kick-Off Workshop in London, UK. Fifty-five workshop participants with diverse regional and professional backgrounds discussed and determined the goals and the organisational structure of an ILAE section to involve and represent young epileptologists. The YES Terms of Reference were approved at this meeting and later endorsed by the ILAE Executive Committee.

The central aims of YES are to (i) attract young people to epileptology and epilepsy research, (ii) foster their professional development, (iii) offer educational and conference activities specific to young participants, and (iv) represent junior members of the ILAE within the organisation. The internal framework of YES was determined at the first YES general assembly meeting on May 13, 2018 and representatives were elected.

### **Internal communication and diversity:**

Channels for international communication were established on the Slack platform. We currently operate 28 channels and our 324 registered contributors (as of January 2019) posted more than 7,000 messages. An online registration form to become an active contributor to YES was set up on our website [www.ilae.org/yes](http://www.ilae.org/yes). We publish a regular YES newsletter that has more than 500 subscribers as of January 2019.

An important goal for YES is to foster a balanced but diverse global representation of our active members. Regional representatives have organised meetings at regional ILAE conferences and have started to approach national liaisons for each country in their region.

### **External communication:**

The first steps for an efficient external communication were designing a recognisable ILAE-YES logo, securing an online presence on social media (Twitter: [@yesILAE](https://twitter.com/yesILAE); Facebook: [/yesILAE](https://www.facebook.com/yesILAE)) and a website ([www.ilae.org/yes](http://www.ilae.org/yes)). YES members have been supporting the ILAE on social media and have been involved in translating online messaging into Spanish, Portuguese, French, and German.

The ILAE Communications & Social Media Task Force identified the benefits of including tech-savvy junior members in their work and invited YES to collaborate on an infographics project. This initiative translates key points of ILAE guidelines and position papers into graphical abstracts. Five infographics have been produced by YES members as of January 2019, which have reached more than 5,000 views on social media.

### **Education and career development**

A Peer2Peer Mentoring programme has been set-up and will debut at the International Epilepsy Congress (IEC) in 2019. This programme will focus on junior and first-time conference participants, who will be mentored by more experienced peers. It will run in parallel with the established ILAE Mentor-Mentee programme that targets more experienced mentees. YES has also put forward plans to establish a Career-Development programme at the IEC 2019 that will include several interactive sessions.

YES members have been involved in shaping the epilepsy curriculum of the ILAE Education task force. Our members will contribute cases into the case-based curriculum.

### **Conferences**

YES has had a strong presence at the Latin American and European epilepsy congresses in 2018. We operated booths in the exhibition areas, hosted career-development sessions, and held Q&A sessions about YES. Networking events brought together more than 200 young conference participants in an informal setting. An 'epilepsy run' with 50 participants in the Vienna Prater aimed to increase public awareness about epilepsy.

YES was also represented with various activities at several national conferences, including the annual scientific meetings of the American Epilepsy Society and Epilepsy Society of Australia.

## **Research and translational aspects**

In collaboration with the Young Neurobiologists Task Force of the Neurobiology Commission, YES hosted a successful brainstorming session on “Biomarkers of Epilepsy and Epileptogenesis” and a forum entitled, “Your First Epilepsy Research Project,” at the European Conference on Epileptology 2018. A well-attended career funding session on “How to Land an NIH Fellowship or Career Development Award” was also organised during the AES 2018 meeting in New Orleans. The research initiatives targeting young conference participants will be expanded in the future, including several brainstorming sessions and an ILAE-YES Best Presenter Award. Work has begun on a database of epilepsy courses and fellowship opportunities to foster the professional development of early-career clinicians and researchers.

Marian Galovic  
Chair, Young Epilepsy Section