

COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Commission Members:

Chair	Pr Amadou Gallo-Diop
Secretary General	Dr Callixte Kuate Tegueu
Treasurer	Dr Angelina Kakooza
Education Officer	Pr Jo Wilmshirst
Research Officer	Pr Paul Kioy
Communication Officer	Dr Birinus Ezeala Adikaibe
Liaison to GCAE (Outreach)	Pr Baba Koumare

Subcommissions and Members Task Force on Access to Care:

Dr Sammy Ohene, Ghana
Pr Amara Cisse, Guinea

Aims

- To set up the organization of the Commission on African Affairs
- To strengthen the communication and ILAE global outreach campaign of the CAA
- To establish and strengthen the education activities of the CAA
- To improve the access to care for patients with epilepsy
- To establish and coordinate epilepsy-related research activities in the African continent.

Mission of the Commission

The ILAE Commission on African Affairs shall serve all health professions in Africa as the premier international resource for current and emerging knowledge on epilepsy prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and research.

Commission Activities from July 2011 through July 2012

- 1-3 December 2011: Participation in the Commission of Chairs meeting at Baltimore, USA.
- Commission meetings: We had the first meeting in 30 August 2011 during the 29th IEC (Marriott Rome Park Hotel, Italy). Communications among members of the ILAE/CAA were mainly through e-mails and during business meeting.

The second business meeting took place on 12 to 15 November 2011 at Marrakesh, Morocco during the XXth World Congress of Neurology (WCN) and focused on the preparation of 1st African Epilepsy Congress, the training session in Bamako-Mali and Nairobi-Kenya.

The 3rd meeting held in 20 June 2012 in Nairobi Kenya, during the first African Epilepsy Congress (1st AEC).

3. November 2011: publication of the first newsletter of the Commission on African Affairs "EPILEPSY AFRICA."

4. January 2012: Preparation of the 1st African Epilepsy Congress (AEC), Nairobi, Kenya.
5. March 2012: Publication of the second version of the CAA newsletter and the opening of africaepilepsy website.
6. 12-15 November 2011: CAA Executive meeting. The agenda focused on the organization of the 1st AEC, the Anglophone training session during the 1st AEC, Nairobi, Kenya, the Francophone training session planned for September 2012 in Bamako-Mali, joint meeting of the WFN, IBE and ILAE for visiting professorship in Africa. It was also agreed to reinforce the Education commission with Dr Youssoufa Maiga (Mali) and Pr Charles Newton (Tanzania).
7. February 2012: Children with Epilepsy meeting in Uganda. Nineteen African countries were represented, additional information collected from 30 African countries. Speakers came from ILAE / ICNA, International and Africa. The next meeting is schedule in Cape Town, South Africa in February 2013 on Cerebral Palsy / Epilepsy feedback. Reports and publications are underway, see CAA Newsletter / www.ICNApedia.org.
8. 20 June 2012: Regional Training courses (RTC) for juniors and trainees in Neurology. Done in collaboration with WFN/EFNS/IBRO/ICNA. We had international and African speakers on adult and pediatric neurology (CNS infections and metabolic diseases; adult epidemiological studies). Bursaries were offered to six trainees. We specially thank Eveline Sipido (EFNS) for the organization and coordination of this meeting. The next RTC will be in Dakar, Senegal in June 2013. Epilepsy will be one of the teaching items. The ILAE has to increase the number of bursaries (more funding) to attend the meeting especially when epilepsy is a subject for discussion/training. We then need more collaboration with EFNS, WFN, IBRO.
9. 1st African Epilepsy Congress (Nairobi, Kenya, 21-23 June 2012). A well thought out program has been created incorporating specialists from within the region along with international speakers. A wide range of pediatric and adult topics are covered as well as a mix of didactic lectures with interactive videos. Nineteen training doctors were granted bursaries under the CAA after 40 applications were received; additional bursaries came from IBE.

ILAE Chapter Convention: AG Diop opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. N Moshé outlined the wonderful achievement that is the 1st African Epilepsy Congress and urged all present to continue to work together for the benefit of Africa. He suggested that ILAE's Commission on African Affairs (CAA) should work with the World Federation of Neurology, the European Federation

of Neurological Societies and the International Child Neurology Association to generate programs, for example long distance education, and to encourage the exchange of expertise. During the Commission meeting, the Education Subcommittee was expanded to encompass representatives from Francophone countries, Anglophone- and Portuguese-speaking countries.

- Pauline Samia (Kenya, pediatric neurology)
- Mehila Zebenigus (Ethiopia, adult neurology)
- Yohannes Woldeamanuel (Ethiopia, adult neurology)
- Soda Diop Sene (Senegal, adult neurology)
- Moustapha Ndiaye (Senegal, pediatric neurology)
- Manuel Cruzeiro (Angola, paediatric neurology).

Their roles are to support the educational activities and promote education in their Regions, to expand the adult neurology training needs and capacity database, and to assist with organization of training meetings.

Accomplishments from July 2011 through July 2012

- Organization of the 1st African Epilepsy Congress in Nairobi, Kenya on 21-23 June 2012
- Publication of two news letter "Epilepsy Africa" both soft and hard copy.

Recommendations for Future Work

- Increase the number of African Chapters
- Regular publication of the regional newsletter
- Update the GCAE document in French, English and Portuguese
- Epilepsy training courses should be organized in French, English and Portuguese
- Provide the list of epilepsy training centers in Africa and organize the visiting professorship in these centers.

Reported by

Callixte Kuate, Secretary-General