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In this issue of *Epilepsia*, the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) Commission for Classification and Terminology presents in three companion pieces the first ILAE position papers on the classification of seizures and the epilepsies since 1989.<sup>1–3</sup> These papers represent the culmination of the work of many ILAE Commissions and Task Forces and individuals who have debated and published on the subject of classification over the last 28 years. This process developed momentum with the publication of the 2010 Report of the ILAE Commission on Classification and Terminology, in which new concepts and terminology

for epilepsy classification, most notably etiology, were introduced.<sup>4</sup> This document engendered much debate within the epilepsy community and began 7 years of an iterative process in which worldwide public engagement, further publications from the Commission, and online comments have resulted in the 2017 classification of seizures and epilepsies. The classification has changed significantly as a result of this process. The articles in this issue should be regarded as representing one body of work that has been presented in three papers to allow the depth of detail and explanation necessary for changes that are so fundamental to the care of people with epilepsy.

As knowledge grows and concepts evolve, classifications will change. However, this must be balanced against the requirement for consistency over time and a shared language for clinical practice and research. Clinical classifications need several years to become established, and although further fundamental changes to the 2017 classification of seizures and epilepsies are not planned in the short to medium term, the ILAE will continue to be responsive to feedback from the epilepsy community.

## DISCLOSURE

Sameer Zuberi has no conflicts of interest to disclose in relation to this commentary except for his position as Chair of the International League Against Epilepsy Commission for Classification & Terminology. Emilio Perucca has no conflicts of interest to disclose in relation to this commentary except for his position as President of the International League Against Epilepsy. We confirm that we have read the Journal's position on issues involved in ethical publication and affirm that this report is consistent with those guidelines.

## REFERENCES

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