





International League Against Epilepsy
ILAE-Africa
NEWS BULLETIN ON
The 4th African Epilepsy Congress

The 4th AEC was held at the Imperial Resort Beach Hotel, Entebbe Uganda between 22nd to 24th August 2019. A total of 244 delegates attended the meeting including the Presidents of ILAE and IBE, Profs Sam Wiebe and IBE Martin Brodie, respectively.

The congress provided opportunity to share knowledge on the diagnosis, social issues, treatment and challenges mitigating against epilepsy care and the way forward. Emphasis was placed on the role of sociocultural and economic aspects of epilepsy on the continent. Eleven plenary sessions

presentations; 73 abstracts were submitted out of which 50 presented as posters.

The congress was declared open by the Director of Clinical services Uganda Ministry of Health, Dr Charles Olaro on behalf of the Minister for Health. Other events at the ceremony was a rich and colourful cultural display by the Ugandan Cultural Troupe. Thereafter, participants were led to the swimming pool side of the hotel where delegates had social interactions with good musical entertainment by the Troupe.



Conference Participants

- f. encourage the public, private sectors and NGO's to get involved,
- g. promote interaction with natural, traditional or indigenous health systems,
- h. encourage basic and applied research on epilepsy,
- i. support International Epilepsy Day,
- j. encourage a continental action plan led by the African Union and WHO-Afro and supported by regional bodies.

2. Partners to:

- a. support national, regional and continental plans,
- b. support International Epilepsy Day,
- c. support capacity building of associations, advocates, researchers, professionals and professional groups.

3. Persons with epilepsy and epilepsy advocates to:

- a. advocate for development, funding and implementation of national Plans for epilepsy,
- b. accelerated action to improve and sustain epilepsy services.



Social interactions by the pool

EPILEPSY FORUM

The 3rd Africa epilepsy forum took place on the 2nd day of the congress. The forum was established to bring together advocates, PWE and professionals in Africa as a way to improve epilepsy care on the continent.

The meeting was co-chaired by the presidents of Africa ILAE and IBE Drs Angelina Kakooza and Jacob Mugumba, respectively. Forty-five representatives of different organizations and institutions from African countries attended. A representative of the African Union also attended the meeting.

The forum rose with a call to action against epilepsy that:

1. Every Africa government was to develop a national plan for

a. address the multiple needs of people with epilepsy, including but not limited to access to train Personnel, antiepileptic medications, information, age-appropriate social assistance, quality education, safety, security and access to justice.

b. educate and train health and social care professionals about Epilepsy,

c. educate the general public about epilepsy as a universal neurological, non-communicable and treatable condition,

d. Eliminate stigma and discrimination in all spheres of life, particularly in villages, at school and the work place,

e. encourage incorporation of prevention and treatment of epilepsy in national plans for other relevant health issues,

LAUNCHING OF THE AFRICAN YOUNG EPILEPSY SECTION

The official launching of the "Young Epilepsy Section" (YES) Africa was held in a Town Hall meeting on the last day of the congress. It was co-chaired by Professors Helen Cross (UK) and Jo Wilmshurst (South Africa). The outgoing Africa representative (Dr Musa Watila) introduced "YES" to the audience, and explained its aims and how to get involved. The launching was supported by the Next Generation Taskforce (NGTF) of the ILAE.

After the hall meeting, members of YES Africa met and elected a new African representative and four regional leaders, namely:

- i. Naluca Mwendaweli (Zambia) YES-Africa regional representative.
- ii. Samuel Angwafor (Cameroon) Central Africa
- iii. Tichasvika Mwoyofiri (Zimbabwe) Southern Africa
- iv. Cadnelle Affognon (Senegal) West Africa,
- v. Chantel Kaubyabutembo (Rwanda) East Africa
- vi. Dr Watila the past YES-Africa representative as Ex-officio



The YES town hall meeting



Africa- IBE & ILAE Presidents

Epilepsy Forum

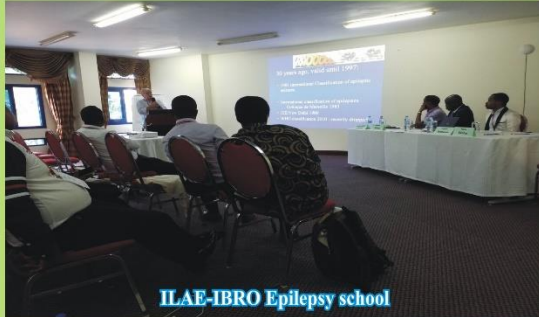
ILAE Sam Wiebe and YES leadership



YES delegates

ILAE-IBRO EPILEPSY SCHOOL

A jointly organized one-day ILAE-IBRO epilepsy school took place on the 21st August 2019 (a day before the congress). The aim of the school was to improve participants' basic and clinical knowledge of epilepsy; and to foster collaborations among students and the faculties. Twenty-nine young Africans attended and 5 faculties participated in the training. Bursary awards were offered to some of the participants.



ILAE-IBRO Epilepsy school



ILAE-IBRO Epilepsy school



Congress Participants



IBE President during a plenary session

Emmanuel Sanya
communicator