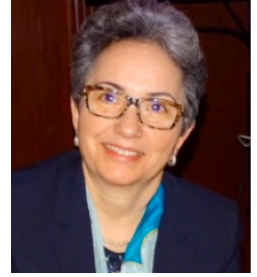


ILAE-Eastern Mediterranean Affairs



Chahnez Triki

Chair

Chahnez Charfi Triki (Tunisia)

Members

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Abdulaziz Ashkanani (Kuwait), Secretary
Reda Ouazzani Taibi (Morocco), Treasurer
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Nihal El Shazly (UAE)
Boulenouar Mesraoua (Qatar)
Adel Misk (Palestine)

Management Committee Liaison

Emilio Perucca (Italy)

The ILAE-East Mediterranean Region (ILAE-EMR) was launched in 2004, and includes 16 countries from North Africa, Asia, and the eastern side of the Mediterranean region.

Aims

The global objective of ILAE-EMR is to improve the management of people with epilepsy. To reach this objective, ILAE-EMR defined specific objectives:

- Promote epilepsy education
- Promote research on epilepsy
- Improve involvement of chapters

Strategic Goals

1. To collect data from the EMR region.
2. To promote epilepsy awareness.
3. To conduct training in epilepsy and strengthen the educational activities in the EMR.
4. To promote research activities in our region.
5. To increase membership from our region.

Executive Board Meetings

- Seven meetings via Zoom teleconference
- Two in-person meetings (Marrakesh 9th March, Istanbul December 12th-13th)

ILAE-EMR Chair's Overview

It is my privilege to share with you this report of our activity for the year 2019. This year was marked by holding the 5th EMEC, the consolidation of the activities started in 2018, and the launch of new teaching and collaboration activities. We are proud to share with you the results of these activities, and especially our vision to improve their medical and social impact on our region, and how to ensure their sustainability and development. We also want to welcome our two new chapters from Algeria and Bahrain, which will strengthen our activities, and we hope that more chapters will join us in 2020.

5th Eastern Mediterranean Epilepsy Congress (EMEC)

The EMEC is organised jointly by the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) and the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE). The Organizing Committee, chaired by Hassan Hosny (Egypt) and Chahnez Charfi Triki (Tunisia), comprised four members. The 5th EMEC Congress was held on 7-9th of March 2019 in Marrakech (Morocco). This regional congress was a great occasion to meet colleagues from several countries from the region.

The first day was devoted to the EEG and Epilepsy Course in French. The other two days included eight main sessions, with a half day for a social activity with meetings with parents and patients with epilepsy.

During this congress, YES-EMR was launched and Dr Reem Alayoubi was elected as the representative of EMR.

A chapter convention was also held during this meeting and nine chapters were present. It was an opportunity to discuss regional problems and determine the main axes to develop in the region to promote epileptology.

ILAE-Eastern Mediterranean Affairs *(continued)*



The 2nd Francophone Epilepsy and EEG course was held in Marrakech (Morocco) November 28-29, 2019, and was organized in conjunction with the 3rd Moroccan Congress of Neurophysiology and 4th session of the EEG & EMG school. The more than 2,829 participants included residents and qualified doctors from all parts of Morocco, as well as from Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania, Senegal, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mali, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Congo, Togo, Central African Republic, Niger, Spain, France, Belgium, and Switzerland. The course included lectures and panel discussions with question-and-answer sessions. About 94% of participants recognized that the course was extremely useful for their professional improvement and their daily practice, and found the lectures and practical workshops engaging and informative.



ILAE-EMR Courses

Two regional courses were held in 2019 in both English and French, in order to reach the maximum number of members from our region. The objective of these courses is to provide epilepsy training consistent with the objectives of the ILAE; these courses correspond to the curriculum of level one and two established by the ILAE.

The EEG course in Kuwait was held on November 14-15, 2019 and had 34 participants. Ten of them were partially sponsored by ILAE-EMR. The course was linked to the Neurology conference. This course has been assessed by the participants as being complete with the latest news in epilepsy, and is very useful for daily practice.

Fellowship Program

The aim of this program is to increase the number of epileptologists in the EMR. This program is very successful for young neurologists and pediatricians in the region who find in this program an opportunity to strengthen their training in EEG and epilepsy (surgery, epilepsy in children, EEG, etc.). This year, five young epileptologists benefited from a stay of two-to-three months in international centers (Skizuoka, Japan; Rennes and Paris, France) and regional (Sfax, Tunisia). This program also encourages collaboration between different centers in the region.



ILAE-Eastern Mediterranean Affairs *(continued)*

Visiting Teacher Program

The aims of the new 2019 program are to provide mentorship and education, and improve levels of knowledge and competencies of medical doctors in the region through the visits of a volunteer professor/senior or an expert on epileptology (preferably from EMR) to an epilepsy center in EMR.

We plan to conduct all these activities in 2020 and, in order to facilitate the process for all of these regional activities, we set up internal bylaws and guidelines for all activities.

Report by Chahnez Charfi Triki, Chair of ILAE-EMR