

# THE ILAE- AFRICA NEWSLETTER 2019 Vol. 1

## From the President and Editor

Dear Readers welcome to yet another ILAE-Africa bulletin, it is with great pleasure that we congratulate one of our very own, Dr. Priscilla Mante from the Ghanaian Epilepsy Society working at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana. Dr. Mante was one of 15 International Rising Talents and the only African award recipient for the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science International Awards. This award was for her work on alternative therapy in the management of drug-resistant epilepsy resulting from neurocysticercosis. Well done Dr.Mante!

Among the greatest barriers to epilepsy care is the deficiency of persons with education and access to reliable knowledge on the subject. Therefore, the ILAE-Africa region for the term 2017-2021 set as one of its goals, conducting training in epilepsy and strengthening the education activities of ILAE-Africa. It is very encouraging to note that in this issue of the ILAE-Africa bulletin we have received reports from the Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigerian, Mali and Ugandan Chapters of activities conducted in their respective areas to address this concern.

Education using valid, measurable and cost-effective methods is a key element if we are to clearly address the issues plaguing those affected with epilepsy in our region. It is our pray that each region will continue with activities to address the **treatment gap, promote epilepsy care and research, foster the education of all persons at the respective levels and continue the advocacy initiatives for people with epilepsy**

The ILAE-Africa building on past successes, plans to expand the educational and training opportunities at the African Epilepsy Congresses. The 4<sup>th</sup> African Epilepsy Congress to be held in Entebbe, Uganda 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> August 2019 hopes to attract several professionals concerned with the care and management of epilepsy, both locally and abroad. There will be a pre-congress Paediatric Epilepsy Training (PET) course as well as a joint International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO)/ILAE course prior to the main conference. These courses are geared towards enriching the practice and career development of those in the early/mid stages of their careers. All those that are interested are encouraged to apply on line. The deadline is 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019. We warmly welcome you all to the 'Pearl of Africa'-Uganda and An exciting 4<sup>th</sup> African Epilepsy Conference. See you there!



Dr. Angelina Kakoua-Stroage  
(President, ILAE-Africa)

## NIGERIA LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY

### Training in epilepsy and Electroencephalogram

The Nigeria League Against Epilepsy in collaboration with the Regions Stroke and Neuroscience held the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual course on epilepsy and EEG in clinical practice. The training was held between January 18 and 19<sup>th</sup> 2019. Participants at the meeting were over 100 and included, general duty doctors, Neurologists, Neurosurgeons, Nurses, EEG technologist and other care practitioners from all over the country. The faculty included Neurologists, Neurosurgeons drawn from Nigeria and the USA. Feedback received after meeting was encouraging with participants looking forward to the next meeting.



Participants at the 2<sup>nd</sup> regions epilepsy meeting in Enugu Nigeria

### ILAE-Africa Goals for 2017-2021

- 1.Promotion of epilepsy awareness
- 2.Improve access to epilepsy care
- 3.Conduct training in epilepsy and strengthen the education activities of ILAE-Africa
- 4.Foster epilepsy research in the region
- 5.Multiple membership in the region

## NLAE MARKS PURPLE DAY

The 2019 purple day was celebrated by the NLAE with students of Dr Abubakar Memorial primary school National Hospital, Abuja as part of the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual General and Scientific Meeting of the Nigerian Society of Neurological Sciences. Talks were given to pupils, teachers and administrative staff of the school on what is epilepsy, its manifestation, associated stigma and psychosocial challenges as well as education for people living with epilepsy.



Members of NLAE with student and Staffers of Dr Abubakar Memorial Primary school National Hospital Abuja.



Members giving health talk to pupils and teachers

## International League Against Epilepsy Release Roadmap for a competency-based educational epileptology

The ILAE Epilepsy Education Task force has just released its Roadmap for a competency-based educational curriculum in epileptology. The release covers the spectrum of skills and knowledge for best practise. The curriculum contains 7 domains, 42 competences and 124 learning objective.

For further detail on the article please check Journal of Epileptic Disorders Volume 21, No 2.

## GHANA EPILEPSY SOCIETY

### Ghanaian Scientist wins' awards

Dr Priscilla Mante of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana has won the L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science International Award. The award was given in recognition of her research in alternative, plant-based therapeutic options to manage drug-resistant epilepsy due to the neglected tropical disease (Neurocysticercosis). The study explored the anticonvulsant activity of plant alkaloid cryptolepine and its solid-lipid nanoparticles in the management of neurocysticercosis-induced epilepsy. Dr Mante is a specialist in neuropharmacology and neuroscience.



Dr Priscilla Mante

### Ghana Epilepsy Society and the Ministry of Health Ghana Launched a book titled Fight Against Epilepsy Ghana initiative 2012-2016

The Ghana Epilepsy Society in collaboration with the Ghanaian Ministry of Health recently launched a book titled "Fight against epilepsy" initiative in Ghana. The book contained project activities co-sponsored by the WHO and the Ministry toward improvement in epilepsy care in Ghana between 2012 and 2016. The project was targeted at reducing the treatment gap of epilepsy in 10 of the 216 health districts in the country. The ILAE-Africa hopes that other countries in the continent could similarly carry out such a project.



World Health Organization

## EPILEPSY SOCIETY UGANDA

The Epilepsy Society Uganda (EPISOU), Uganda Pediatric Association and the Uganda Medical Association held a symposium on "Epilepsy in children" between 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September at the Rock Classic Hotel, Tororo Town, Uganda. The symposium's objectives were:

- 1) To raise awareness in the public with a view to create an atmosphere for prevention, early detection/diagnosis, effective treatment, and reduction of stigmatization and discrimination of people with epilepsy (PWE).
- 2) To update and improve the knowledge and ability among health professionals, and motivate and equip them, to give better preventive interventions, and care, for people with epilepsy.
- 3) To build and/or improve strategies, for better prevention of, and care for people with and/or affected by, epilepsy in the sub-region.

In addition, there were several radio talk shows made to the general public on East FM and Rock Mambo FM radio stations regarding several issues on Epilepsy including its causes, care and coping with the stigma, delivered in the local languages.



Facilitators at the radio talk show on epilepsy in Uganda



Participants at the epilepsy symposium.

## MALIAN LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY

To create awareness on the teratogenic potential of Antiepilepsy drugs, the Malian League Against epilepsy recently organised postgraduate training for Neurologists, Gynaecologists, Pediatricians, Medical students and Paramedics. In the report by the secretary of MLAE, the association secretary Prof Maiga reported a well-attended program. ILAE-Africa appreciate this effort and look forward to more training from MLAE.



Lecture being delivered at the postgraduate training put together by MLAE



MLAE organized postgraduate training program

## IVOIRIAN ASSOCIATION AGAINST EPILEPSY (AILE) ACTIVITY REPORT

The Ivoirien Association against Epilepsy organized a postgraduate training to mark the World Epilepsy Day on the 27th February, 2019. The theme of the training program was 'Epilepsy of the child: diagnostic difficulties and care'.

The program was held at the Palm Club Hotel in Abidjan / Cocody (Ivory Coast). The event was declared open by the President of AILE Prof Doumbia-Ouattara Mariam. A total of 77 doctors attended from several medical specialties. These included General practitioners, Neurologists, Neurosurgeons, Pediatricians, and Endocrinologists. The Program focused on the diagnosis of four epilepsies: simple febrile seizures: epilepsy syndrome, complex febrile seizures and West syndrome. Each of the topics were preceded by a clinical scenario and lasted 40 minutes. The training ended with a cocktail party.

### Planned activities for the ILAE-Africa region in 2019:

1. Conduct the 4<sup>th</sup> African Epilepsy Congress (AEC) in Kampala, Uganda, August 2019.
2. Conduct a PET Lusophone teaching course, venue and dates TBD. Course materials have already been translated into Portuguese.
3. Conduct a PET Anglophone teaching course at the 4<sup>th</sup> AEC pre-congress in Kampala, Uganda- August 2019.
4. Conduct a joint IBRO/ ILAE-Africa Anglophone teaching course at the 4<sup>th</sup> AEC pre-congress in Kampala, Uganda- August 2019.
5. To annually support participation of African trainees in Epilepsy distance learning courses (eg. VIREPA, San Servolo) by provision of bursaries.
6. Organize regional epilepsy awareness raising campaigns- for English and French speaking countries.
7. To establish the Epilepsy research needs on the continent.
8. Foster South to South Epilepsy related research collaborations in the region.
9. To increase on the number of countries joining the ILAE on the continent.
10. To continue the bi-annual production of the News E-Report "Epilepsy News Africa".

### UPCOMING EVENTS/TRAINING

1. 33<sup>rd</sup> international epilepsy congress in Bangkok Thailand 22-26<sup>th</sup> June, 2019. [www.ilae.org](http://www.ilae.org)
2. PET Anglophone teaching course in Kampala, Uganda in 18<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019
3. Joint IBRO/ILAE Africa Anglophone teaching course in Kampala 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2019. [www.ilae.org](http://www.ilae.org)
4. 4<sup>th</sup> African Epilepsy Congress (AEC) 22-24<sup>th</sup> August, Kampala. [www.ilae.org](http://www.ilae.org)
5. The NLAE in collaborations with Regions stroke and neurosciences Hospital and the University of Nigeria is organising a Course on "Electroencephalography reading for Physicians" Date: 17-21<sup>st</sup> June, 2019; Venue- Enugu Nigeria. For registration details: [www.regionsneuro.com/eegcourse](http://www.regionsneuro.com/eegcourse); [epilepsyafrika.caa@gmail.com](mailto:epilepsyafrika.caa@gmail.com), [info@regionsneuro.com](mailto:info@regionsneuro.com)
6. The NLAE in collaborations with Regions stroke and neurosciences Hospital and the University of Nigeria is organising a Hands on training course on EEG acquisition for EEG technicians. Date 1-19<sup>th</sup> June, 2019; Venue- Enugu Nigeria. For registration details: [www.regionsneuro.com/eegcourse](http://www.regionsneuro.com/eegcourse); [epilepsyafrika.caa@gmail.com](mailto:epilepsyafrika.caa@gmail.com), [info@regionsneuro.com](mailto:info@regionsneuro.com)

**Expecting your contribution towards next issue**  
We are calling on chapters, groups and individuals to contribute towards next issue of the ILAE-Africa news bulletin. Please share your story on events carried out to improve epilepsy care and to reduce epilepsy stigma in your domain to [epilepsyafrika.caa@gmail.com](mailto:epilepsyafrika.caa@gmail.com); [emmanuelanya@yahoo.com](mailto:emmanuelanya@yahoo.com)



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(Communicator/ Editor)