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1.0 Background:

Africa bears the impact of carrying the burden of the highest incidence and prevalence of active epilepsy compared to that of all other continents. An impressive number of individuals grappling with this disease in Africa reside in the rural areas, where the burden of disease is magnified by the high incidence of acquired causes, low community awareness, lack of basic infrastructure for adequate management and the large treatment gap.

One of the key challenges in the delivery of services to people with this disease in Africa is the setback of identifying, managing, and monitoring cases at the primary care level where a limited or non-existent human resource or infrastructure capacity prevails. Furthermore, the secondary or specialized level of care is often non-existent or highly concentrated in the urban centers.

Therefore to mitigate some of these issues, the International League Against Epilepsy Africa (ILAE-Africa) for the term 2017-2021 has as its goals to:

i. Promote Epilepsy Awareness.

ii. Improve Access to Epilepsy Care.

iii. Conduct training in epilepsy and strengthen the education activities of ILAE-Africa.

iv. Foster Epilepsy Research in the Region.

v. Multiply ILAE membership in the region.

The Epilepsy Society Uganda (EPISOU), a branch of ILAE-Africa has the goal of “Better care for epilepsy patients in Uganda”, with a vision “to have a country with controlled and well managed epilepsy” and a mission “to
ensure holistic care to patients with epilepsy by advocacy for drugs availability, capacity building and research”.

In response to upholding the ILAE-Africa strategy, EPISOU held a joint Symposium on EPILEPSY IN CHILDREN, together with the UGANDA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (U.M.A.) – ELGON REGION BRANCH and the UGANDA PAEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION (UPA) in a rural town in the eastern region of Uganda.

**Symposium Objectives:**

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.
2.0 Details of the Symposium:

**Date:** 20\(^{th}\)-21\(^{st}\) September 2018

**Location:**
Rock Classic Hotel, Tororo town –Eastern Uganda.

![Rock Classic Hotel](image1.jpg)

**Time and Programme:**
The symposium was held from 8.00am -4.00pm, on both days and included prior radio talks shows 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. For the full detailed programme a copy is available at the end of this report.

**Attendance:**
The target group were:
1) The General Community or Public.
2) The Affected Community including PWE, Parents, and Care-givers.
3) The Caring Community including Health Care Professionals and Supporting Partners.

The total number of attendees registered on Day 1 of the symposium was 83 out of an expected 100, and 61 out of an expected 80 for Day 2. These included participants from the regional districts of Tororo, Busia, Butaleja, Pallisa, Mbale, Kween, and Kapchorwa.

**Figure 1:** Map Showing the Eastern Uganda Districts:
3.0 Summary of the Symposium:
The symposium began with registration of the participants followed by welcome remarks from the district authorities as well as the representative from the district health services in Tororo district. All the presenters (facilitators) as indicated on the program turned up in time and all the planned topics were covered.

On day 1, a pretest was done prior to the presentations and a post test at the end of the day. The mean score for the pre-test was 50.6% and post-test was 74.6%, indicating that the training had benefited the participants.

On Day 2, during the session **Joining Hands Against Epilepsy**, the empowered participants resolved to form a **regional forum or association** whose membership will include not only the people with epilepsy but also their care givers, health professionals, teachers and/or educators, administrators, and almost any other persons affected by epilepsy – to address the needs and challenges posed by epilepsy in the region and beyond. This promises to be a **powerful morally therapeutic and inspiring fellowship, as well as a lobby and/or advocacy platform for Persons Affected by Epilepsy (PAE)**. We hope that in future ILAE-Africa, PLAN (U), Tororo Cement, Uganda and World Vision, Uganda who were major contributors to this symposium will continue be part of, and support, this initiative.
4.0 Photo Gallery

District Authority making some opening remarks at the symposium
Some of the Symposia speakers giving their talks

Some of the caregivers with children having epilepsy sharing their story
The Radio Talk Show facilitators on the topics related to Epilepsy
PROGRAMME FOR THE SYMPOSIUM ON EPILEPSY IN CHILDREN HELD AT THE ROCK CLASSIC HOTEL TORORO TOWN, UGANDA.
20TH- 21ST SEPTEMBER 2019

ORGANIZED BY UMA ELGON REGION IN CONJUNCTION WITH UGANDA PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION & SUPPORTING PARTNERS

For Health Professionals, People With Epilepsy, & Care Givers

II) SYMPOSIUM DAY 1: THURSDAY 20TH SEPT 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>SESSION/TOPIC</th>
<th>CHAIR</th>
<th>LEAD PRESENTER &amp; ORGANIZATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.00-8.30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td></td>
<td>UMA ELGON E.C.</td>
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<td>Dr. Joan O. Wamuluga</td>
<td>UMA Elgon Executive Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>08.30-8.40</td>
<td>Prayer &amp; Welcome Remarks</td>
<td>MC: Dr. M. Mulongo</td>
<td>Chair-UMA Elgon,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Session</td>
<td>Presenter(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.40-50</td>
<td>Remarks from UMA President Remarks from Host DHO</td>
<td>Co-MC :Dr.Julian Abeso Dr.E.A. Obuku Dr.David C.Okumu.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.50-9.</td>
<td>DEFINITION,CLASSIFICATION&amp;DIAGNOSIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.00-9.30</td>
<td><strong>Seizures and Epilepsy</strong>: Definition, Burden, Etiology, and Classification</td>
<td><strong>Conference Chair – Dr. Charles Engoru.</strong> Dr. Angelina Kakooza</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.30-10.00</td>
<td>Diagnosis of Epilepsy: History and Investigations</td>
<td>Do Dr. Vincent Kayina</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00-10.15</td>
<td>Febrile Convulsions</td>
<td>Dr. Shema Christine</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.15-10.45</td>
<td><strong>Epilepsy Syndromes</strong>: A brief look at the common syndromes</td>
<td>Dr. Martin Chebet</td>
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<td>10.45-11.15</td>
<td>TEA/COFFEE BREAK</td>
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<td></td>
<td>MANAGEMENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15-11.30</td>
<td>The Role of Imaging in Epilepsy</td>
<td>Do Dr. Elijah Wakamuke MRRH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Presenter</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30-12.00</td>
<td>Principles of Management of Epilepsy</td>
<td>Do</td>
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<td>Dr. Richard Idro</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00-12.30</td>
<td>Acute Scenarios in Epilepsy</td>
<td>Do</td>
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<td>Dr. Martin Chebet</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30-01.00</td>
<td>Co-morbidities, Risks and Non-Drug Management of Epilepsy</td>
<td>Do</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Dr. Shema Christine</td>
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<tr>
<td>01.15</td>
<td>OFFICIAL OPENING</td>
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<td>LC V Chair Tororo District</td>
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<tr>
<td>01.15-02.00</td>
<td>LUNCH BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>02.00-02.30</td>
<td>Neurosurgical Aspects of Epilepsy: The role of neurosurgery and long term outcomes</td>
<td>Dr. Justin Onen CURE, Mbale</td>
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<tr>
<td>02.30-03.00</td>
<td>Local Regional Research Findings &amp; Experience (including SEEDS)</td>
<td>UPA/DHO/MS Tororo GH</td>
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<td>Dr. Angelina Kakooza</td>
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<tr>
<td>03.00-03.30</td>
<td>Local Up-Country Experience with Epilepsy Care:</td>
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<td>Sarah Mukite Psychiatry NO TGH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Session/Topic</td>
<td>Chair/Moderator</td>
<td>Lead Presenter(s) &amp; Organizer</td>
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<tr>
<td>03.30-</td>
<td><strong>Organizing Epilepsy Care</strong>: Challenges and Way Forward</td>
<td>UMA/Elgon/DHOs</td>
<td>Dr. Vincent Kayina /UMA/DHOs</td>
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<tr>
<td>04.00</td>
<td>Tea &amp; Departure</td>
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<tr>
<td>07.00-</td>
<td>FM Radio Talk Show</td>
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<td>UPA/UMA/DHO</td>
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<td>08.00</td>
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**III) SYMPOSIUM DAY 2:** FRIDAY 21ST SEPT 2018
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Presenter/Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.30-10.30</td>
<td><strong>ABC of Epilepsy</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Angelina Kakooza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30-11.30</td>
<td>Experience of PWE &amp; Care Givers</td>
<td>From Elgon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30-12.00</td>
<td><strong>TEA/COFFEE BREAK</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00-01.00</td>
<td>Experience of CHW with Epilepsy Care</td>
<td>From Tororo</td>
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<tr>
<td>01.00-01.30</td>
<td>Recommendations for Prevention, Early Diagnosis and Better Care</td>
<td>UPA /UMA Elgon</td>
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<tr>
<td>01.30</td>
<td><strong>LUNCHEON</strong></td>
<td>RDC, MOH.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.30-03.30</td>
<td>Interactive Session-Challenges of Epilepsy Case Management in resource limited settings-(Case scenarios with open discussion)</td>
<td>Dr. Idro Richard &amp; UPA Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>03.30-04.00</td>
<td>Joining Hands Against Epilepsy: Launch of Eastern Region- Local Branch of Epilepsy Society Uganda.</td>
<td>ELGON TEAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>04.00</td>
<td>OFFICIAL CLOSURE followed by Tea &amp; Departure</td>
<td>RDC, MOH.</td>
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