

Report on the Annual Epilepsy Course

Organized by the Moroccan League Against Epilepsy

Location and Date:

The Annual Epilepsy Course, organized by the Moroccan League Against Epilepsy (LMCE) in partnership with the Moroccan Society of Clinical Neurophysiology (SMNC) and the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) of International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE), was held at the **Conferences center of Palais Medina Hotel, Fez city, 26th – 27th October 2024**. This event provided an invaluable platform for specialists across Morocco and neighboring regions to enhance their expertise in Epilepsy and EEG.

Participants and Reach:

The course attracted a diverse group of participants, including neurologists, clinical neurophysiologists, pediatricians, neuropediatricians, psychiatrists and neurosurgeons. A total of **94 participants attended in person**, primarily from Morocco, while **287 additional attendees joined online via a specialized MOOC platform created by SMNPh**. This platform facilitated remote participation from professionals in Tunisia, Algeria, and other Francophone African nations, extending the course's educational reach across the region.

Scientific Program and Session Highlights :

The 2024 Annual Epilepsy Course featured a carefully curated scientific program focused on delivering practical insights and foundational knowledge in EEG interpretation and epilepsy management. Key sessions and their highlights are summarized below:

➤ Session 1: Clinical Case Presentations

This session offered an in-depth exploration of complex epilepsy cases, encouraging interactive discussion. Key cases included:

- Pediatric epilepsy cases with speech and behavioral challenges.
- Interplay between epilepsy and psychogenic factors.
- Differentiating epileptic events in states of vigilance versus sleep.

These cases provided participants with practical diagnostic insights applicable to diverse clinical scenarios.

➤ Session 2: Focal Epilepsy Management

This session highlighted crucial aspects of epilepsy treatment, including:

- ❖ **Lateralized Periodic Anomalies:** Identifying and interpreting specific EEG patterns.
- ❖ **Medical Management of Focal Epilepsies:** A focus on tailored treatment approaches.
- ❖ **Localization Principles in EEG:** Essential rules for accurate localization in EEG.

These lectures underscored the importance of precision in EEG analysis and individualized treatment strategies.

➤ Session 3: Pediatric Epilepsy and Specific Syndromes

Dedicated to pediatric epilepsy, this session covered:

- ❖ **Infantile Spasms Localization** and idiopathic focal epilepsies in children.
- ❖ **Status Epilepticus in Occipital Epilepsy:** Diagnostic and management approaches.

The session provided key insights into the unique characteristics of epilepsy in children.

➤ Session 4: Advanced Epilepsy Topics

This session focused on the latest advancements, including:

- ❖ **Sleep and Epilepsy Interactions:** Understanding how sleep affects seizure localization.
- ❖ **Updated Seizure Classification:** Practical applications of the new classification.
- ❖ **Electroclinical Aspects of Temporal Epilepsy:** Identifying specific temporal lobe epilepsy patterns.

This session equipped attendees with up-to-date knowledge to improve diagnostic accuracy and treatment effectiveness.

Each session combined expert lectures with case-based discussions, reinforcing practical skills in EEG interpretation and epilepsy management. The scientific program successfully addressed core competencies and emerging insights essential for practitioners in the field.

Keynote Speakers and Acknowledgments

The success of the Annual Epilepsy Course was greatly enhanced by the contributions of distinguished speakers and moderators, whose expertise and commitment elevated the educational value of the event. Notable speakers included:

- *Philippe Gélisse (Montpellier, France)*
- *Agnès Trébuchon (Marseille, France)*
- *Zouhayr Souirti, Fatima Harim, Zahra Ferchoujia, Khaoula Bali, Imane Bouhaf, Najib Kissani, Kaoutar Khabbach, Imane Chahid, Abdellah Taous, Jamal Mounach, Fatiha Lahjouji, Reda Ouazzani, Mohamed*

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Chraa, Hassani Sbai Mohammed, Rachid Belfkih, Mohammed Chaoui El Faiz and others from the Moroccan Epilepsy community.

Special acknowledgments are due to the organizing and scientific committees, who ensured the seamless execution of the program. Their efforts were instrumental in providing an exceptional learning environment for attendees and advancing the standards of epilepsy care in the region.

Conclusion

The Annual Epilepsy Course 2024 successfully combined theoretical lectures with practical sessions, offering a balanced and comprehensive program for epilepsy specialists. The diverse topics, expert-led discussions, and collaborative format created an enriching experience for participants, reinforcing best practices in EEG interpretation and epilepsy management across Morocco and neighboring regions. This event underscored LMCE's commitment to fostering expertise in clinical neurophysiology and supporting the professional development of neurologists and neurophysiologists in the field of epilepsy.



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