

1st Translation Epilepsy Summer School 2024

Date: 21st-25th October 2024

Venue: Monash University Malaysia

Chairs: Dr Alina Arulsamy, Monash University Malaysia
& Professor Lim Kheng Seang, Universiti Malaya

Organizing Team: Dr Irma Wati Ngadimon, Dr Vanessa Lee and Eryse Seth

Sponsors: ILAE-AO, Danmedik Sdn Bhd, Labquip Sdn Bhd, ADInstruments

Partners: ILAE-AO and Epilepsy Council Malaysia

This was a 5-day intensive event that saw 15 participants from various backgrounds in epilepsy, largely and equally dividing between clinical and preclinical epilepsy. These participants were from different local institutions across the Klang Valley region and also Penang in Malaysia. The opening ceremony started with each participant, speakers and organizers wearing a purple ribbon representing epilepsy awareness, followed by an opening speech by Dr Alina as the chairperson. The first two days of the event was focused on giving participants an overview of epilepsy through lectures from various field experts. The overview touched semiology, anti-seizure medications, status epilepticus, post-traumatic epilepsy, animal behaviour and molecular models, genetic epilepsy, neuroimaging, artificial intelligence, and clinical trials aspects of epilepsy. International speakers gave the talk via zoom while local speakers lectured in person at the Monash University Malaysia, School of Medicine's seminar room. Participants were intrigued by the different aspects of epilepsy which they were unaware of previously. Following these lectures, the next couple of days, participants were divided into small working groups, consisting of preclinical and clinical representation, and were tasked with developing a novel project that addresses key gaps in epilepsy, either in research or in the community. Each working groups were supervised by one of the speakers from the earlier lecture sessions. On the last day of the summer school, the working groups had to present their projects which were evaluated by four judges. The winning group had a project on managing post-traumatic epilepsy comorbidities using GluCl gene in an animal model, and won a luge ride at Gamuda Cove, Malaysia. Besides project development workshops, the third and fourth day had demonstrations session, where on the third day, Danmedik showcased and demonstrated their electroencephalogram (EEG) device and taught the participants the electrode placement strategies, which was eye-opening for preclinical participants. While on the fourth day, Monash University Malaysia Animal Facility had a demonstration on rodent electrocardiogram (ECG) monitoring in a status epilepticus pilocarpine model, using the ADInstrument/Labquip Kaha Telemetry ECG device, which was demonstrated by Eryse Seth. This animal seizure induction was awed by the clinical participants particularly. Prof Lim Kheng Seang gave his closing remarks as the chairperson, followed by a short event recap by Dr Alina and a short speech by Assc. Prof. Satoshi Ogawa, as the Head of the Neuroscience Research Strength. The summer school concluded with a farewell dinner at the Sunset Terrace. Overall, participants have given positive feedback on this first translation epilepsy summer school in SouthAsia and had requested an annual conductance of this summer school in Monash University Malaysia.

