

February 9, 2025

The Mongolian Epilepsy Society became a chapter of ILAE in 2003 and since that time, we have been actively cooperating with ILAE and its Commission of Asian Ocean Affairs and Asian Epilepsy Academy. We are happy to note that the management members, as well as the renowned scientists and professors from the CAO and ASEPA, have received our invitation and came to teach the doctors and professionals from urban and rural areas of Mongolia and share their knowledge on advanced methods and experiences of epilepsy diagnosis, treatment, and care in every 2 years since 2000. In May 2022, the World Health Organization adopted the International Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders (IGAP 2022 -2031) during its assembly. The primary objective of this plan is to address the treatment gap, where individuals do not receive the appropriate treatment they should. Mongolia is no exception to this issue.

In 2022, we established the first Epilepsy Center in Mongolia with 24-hour video EEG monitoring for epilepsy surgery program, diagnosing and treating in Mongolia-Japan Hospital in Collaboration with ILAE and its Commission of Asian Ocean Affairs and Asian Epilepsy Academy, Jichi Medical University, National Epilepsy center, Shizuoka, Tokyo Asukusa Rotary Club of Japan, Severance Hospital, Yonsei University of Korea and Epilepsy Center of the Uniklinikum Erlangen of Germany. Epilepsy surgery has become an essential option as treatment for patients with drug-resistant epilepsy. Access to epilepsy surgery is still limited in most Asian countries.

The epilepsy surgery program in Mongolia was first implemented in 2022, and with the support of the Epilepsy Surgery Task Force, CAO, and ILAE (co-chair, Professor Kensuke Kawai), more than 10 epilepsy surgeries have been performed, and 10 medical specialists have also received training in epilepsy in Japan. We would also like to express our extreme thanks and gratefulness to Professor Kensuke Kawai and his team were making and starting epilepsy surgery treatment in our Mongolia-Japan hospital, MNUMS.

In January 2025, Professor Kensuke Kawai (Japan) and Dr. Naoto Kunii (Japan) visited Mongolia with the support of ILAE and successfully performed epilepsy surgeries. During this period, corpus callosotomy and temporal lobectomy were performed in 4 patients with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, mesial temporal sclerosis, and temporal lobe cavernoma by using ECoG. During surgery, mentors taught surgical techniques instruction, and guidance, and also introduced ECoG procedure and usage to neurosurgeons and epileptologists. Apart from surgery, the training included interactive case discussions on the outcome of postsurgical follow-up and presurgical evaluation.

In the future the epilepsy surgery mentorship program of the Epilepsy Surgery Task Force, ILAE is of great importance to our country. This program will be a success

and bring the cooperation between Mongolian epilepsy field and ILAE to the new stage, further deepening our collaboration and significantly contribute to the advancement of medical care of the patients with epilepsy.

Looking forward to our long-term cooperation growth with you.

Reported by

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Mongolian Epilepsy Society

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