



## ILAE-YES TAKES OVER BANGKOK!

In this busy issue of the ILAE-Young Epilepsy Section (YES) newsletter we showcase our successful scientific and networking programmes that had the International Epilepsy Congress abuzz in July. We also highlight the establishment and thoughtful work of YES-Africa, meet a bright YES task force leader working in New York, keep you up to date on upcoming YES events at AES, and show you how you can contribute to one of the many exciting projects currently being run by ILAE-YES Task Forces. Get involved today!

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***Update from the ILAE-YES Chair***

ILAE-YES had a huge presence at the International Epilepsy Congress in Bangkok and was one of the biggest talking points of the congress. Thanks to all that were involved and helped with the program.

A super-successful IEC 2019 came to a close with the YES General Assembly Meeting. We revised our terms of reference, confirmed the current Leadership Team for the first regular 2-year term (2019-2021), and elected new task force leaders. In addition to our existing Task Forces, I'm pleased to announce the formation of these six new Task Forces:

Advocacy (Leader: Manuela Ochoa-Urrea, Colombia)

Career Development (Leader: Katja Kobow, Germany)

Publications (Leader: Nadia Khan, USA)

Opportunities (Leader: Victoria Gruber, Austria)

Visiting Fellowships (Leader: Mirja Steinbrenner, Germany)

Interactive Media (Leader: Patricia Saletti, USA)

We also welcome Naluca Mwendaweli from Zambia to the YES leadership team. Naluca was elected as the Regional Representative for Africa at the recent African Epilepsy Congress. The current representative, Musa Watila, will continue to support initiatives in the region.

Get involved in their work and join the task force channels on our internal communications platform, Slack, via the link below!

-Marian Galovic, Chair of ILAE-YES

[Click here to get actively involved with YES](#)

## REPORT OF THE YES PROGRAMME AT THE 4TH AFRICAN EPILEPSY CONGRESS, ENTEBBE, UGANDA

**YES–Town Hall Meeting.** Co-chaired by Helen Cross (UK) and Jo Wilmshurst (South Africa), Musa Watila introduced what is YES and its aims, and described how to get involved. In addition, he discussed the key outcomes and future directions for YES in Africa.



Dr Edward Kija (Tanzania), Charles Hammond (Ghana), and Robert Sebunya (Uganda) gave an overview of the challenges and opportunities they faced as young clinicians and researchers in sub-Saharan Africa. This was followed by a Q&A session. Some of the issues raised were difficulties faced by young professionals regarding training and funding opportunities. A major threat discussed was the impact of brain-drain on epilepsy care. Another challenge recognised was what Edward Kija called ‘brain-in-the-drain’ – a situation where trained professionals waste their talent due lack of equipment, bureaucratic bottlenecks, and opposition from less-trained senior colleagues. There was a great discussion on how YES could help coordinate these activities.

At the first YES-Africa meeting, elections for leadership positions were held:

- i. Naluca Mwendaweli (Zambia) – YES-Africa regional representative.
- ii. Samuel Angwafor (Cameroon) – Central Africa
- iii. Tichasvika Mwoyofiri (Zimbabwe) – Southern Africa

- iv. Cadnelle Affognon (Senegal) – West Africa, and
- v. Chantel Kauyabutembo (Rwanda) – East Africa

Please join us on Slack at #rc-africa !

- Musa Watila & Naluca Mwendaweli



### ***Meet a YES member:***

#### ***Introducing Patricia Saletti!***

**Neuroscientist (Brazil/USA)**

After finishing my studies in my home country of Brazil, I moved to New York to work as a postdoctoral fellow at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. I am currently working on antiepileptogenic effects of drugs following traumatic brain injury in Dr. Galanopoulou's lab. I joined ILAE-YES at American Epilepsy Society Meeting in 2018.



I first got involved in the Translation & Research Task Force, and as part of this team wrote the Wikipedia article: "Causes of acquired epilepsy". I have always had an interest in science communications and have also been involved in the Communication Task Force, where I am the administrator of the YES Facebook and ILAE Portuguese Twitter accounts, as well as coordinate the Portuguese translation group. I was delighted to receive the news from Bangkok that I was elected leader of the newly formed Interactive Media Task Force. Besides epilepsy research I am passionate about gymnastics and dogs, especially my little one, Malu.

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## Upcoming Events





## **American Epilepsy Society Annual Meeting**

**6 -10 December 2019, Baltimore U.S.A.**

The YES North America regional commission are busy planning an engaging selection of academic and social events during this year's annual meeting in Baltimore, including brainstorming sessions, networking opportunities, and more.

Please join Taylor Abel, Christos Lisgaris and the North American team on the Slack #2019aes channel to get involved with this exciting programme of events; otherwise, see you in Baltimore!

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**Get involved in a ILAE-YES Task Force today, these initiatives are looking for *your* support!**

**Advocacy** – YES and the IBE are working together to prepare a resource kit for healthcare professionals to use when giving presentations about epilepsy  
#tf-advocacy

**Communications** – Redevelopment of the YES section of the ILAE website is currently underway #tf-communications

**Conferences** – A YES Conference manual is currently being prepared. Join the #tf-conference Slack channel for assistance with preparing conference proposals or to share your ideas for upcoming conferences

**Education** – YES members continue to be involved in the development of the online epilepsy curriculum #tf-education

**Interactive Media** – Expansion of the social media channels, including content being available in multiple languages #tf-interactivemedia

**Opportunities** – See the latest jobs, courses and fellowship opportunities [here](#)

**Research** – Collaboration with the Interactive Media TF to produce video tutorials on clinical and basic science research methods #tf-research

**Visiting fellowships** – Scoping of opportunities and support for visiting fellowships is currently in progress #tf-visitingfellowship



*Some of your ILAE-YES Leadership Team at the rooftop networking event in Bangkok - see you in Paris 2021 or at your regional congress!*



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