

ILAE-Eastern Mediterranean Region Educational Course Activity Report

Genetic Basis of Developmental and Epileptic Encephalopathies Workshop, Sfax, Tunisia, 2025.

1. Event Summary

A pioneering regional workshop, "Genetic Basis of Developmental and Epileptic Encephalopathies," was successfully held from **1 – 2 October 2025** at the Hotel Palais Royal in Sfax, Tunisia. This first-of-its-kind educational initiative was designed to enhance expertise and foster collaboration among healthcare providers in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

2. Organizers


The workshop was organized through a collaborative effort between:

- The International League Against Epilepsy, Eastern Mediterranean Region (ILAE-EMR)
- The Young Epilepsy Section - Eastern Mediterranean Region (YES-EMR)

3. Format & Audience

The program was designed for practicing healthcare providers and featured interactive sessions and case-based learning to encourage the practical application of knowledge and peer-to-peer exchange. Expert faculty, comprising speakers from **Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Morocco, and Italy**, facilitated these dynamic discussions.

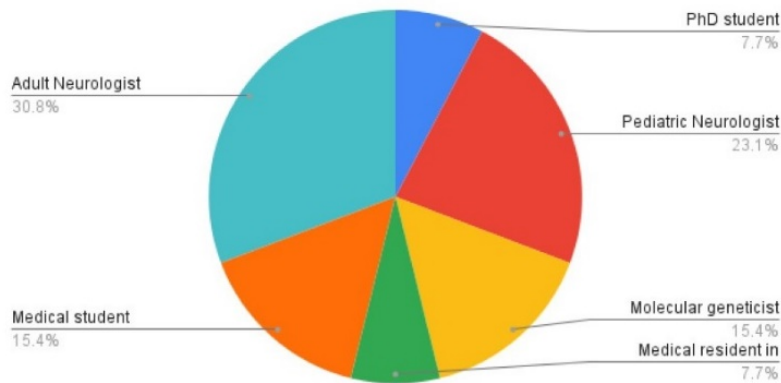
3. Program:

| | |
|---|---|
|     | |
| Genetic Basis of Developmental and Epileptic Encephalopathies Workshop for the Eastern Mediterranean Epilepsy Health Care Providers | |
| 1 - 2 October 2025, Sfax, Tunisia | |
| Wednesday 01 October 2025 | |
| 8h00-8h15: Inscription and Registration | |
| Session 1: | |
| 8h15-8h25: Welcome and introduction to the Course | |
| 8h25-8h40: Pretest | |
| 8h40-9h55: Deciphering the concepts behind "Epileptic encephalopathy" and "Developmental and epileptic encephalopathy (DLE)" | Prof. Fatma KAMMOUN |
| 9h55-9h20h: Genetic Architecture of Epilepsy /DEE | Dr. Ikhlas BEN AYED |
| Discussion :10 min | |
| 9h30-9h55: Major Genes and Syndromes in DEE | Dr. Imene BOUJELBENE |
| Discussion :10 min | |
| 9h55-10h20: DEE Dyskinesia'S forms | Prof. Chahnez CHARFI TRIKI |
| Discussion :10 min | |
| Coffee Break / 10h30-11h | |
| Session 2: | |
| 11h-11h25: Practical Approach for ordering genetic testing in a patient with epilepsy | |
| | Dr. Marina TRIVISANO |
| 11h25-12h: Introduction of ACMG and AMP Guidelines for interpretation of sequence variations and ClinGen Epilepsy Sodium Channel Expert Panel Specifications | |
| | Dr. Fatma MAJDOUB |
| 12h10-12h35: You have received the report of genetic testing ...now What? | |
| | Dr. Fatma MAJDOUB |
| 12h35-13h: Personalized medicine in genetic testing in a patient with epilepsy | |
| | Dr. Marina TRIVISANO |
| Discussion :15 min | |
| Lunch Break: 13h15-14h30 | |
| Session 3 | |
| 14h30-14h55: Insights from Saudi Arabia's experience in genetic studies of epilepsy | |
| | Prof. Roshan AL-BARADIE |
| 14h55-15h20: Insights from Egypt's experience in genetic studies of epilepsy | |
| | Prof. Nurmeen A. Kishk |
| Discussion :10 min | |
| 15h30-15h50/ Panel DISCUSSION SESSION: Challenges and Opportunities for implementation of genetic testing of epilepsy in MENA region | |
| | Dr. Sally Shaaban |
| Thursday 02 October 2025 | |
| Session 1 | |
| 8h30-8h55h: SEED Project experience in Tunisia | |
| | Prof. Chahnez TRIKI and Dr. Ikhlas BEN AYED |
| 8h55-10h30: First session of practical cases of monogenic epilepsy (10- min presentation and 5- min discussion per case) | |
| Coffee Break: 10h30-11h | |
| Session 2 | |
| 11h- 12h30: Second session of practical cases of monogenic epilepsy (10- min presentation and 5- min discussion per case) | |
| 12h30-12h45: General discussion | |
| 12h45-13h: Posttest and closing of the event | |
| Lunch Break: 13h-14h | |

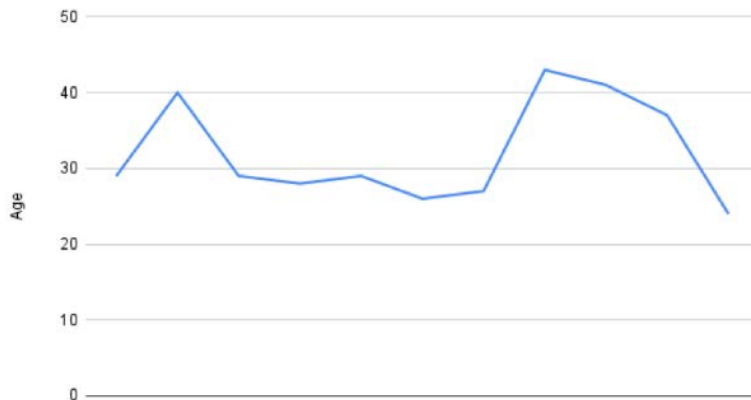
4. Participation

The majority of participants are young doctors coming from across the Eastern Mediterranean region especially from **Tunisia, Egypt, and Morocco**. Attendees included clinicians and geneticists

Count of Specialty: (Best describing yourself)

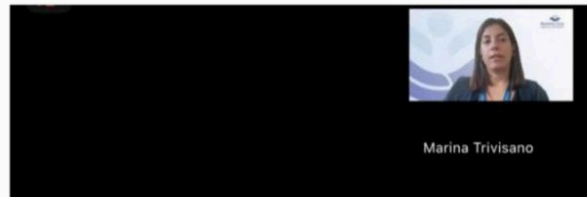


Age

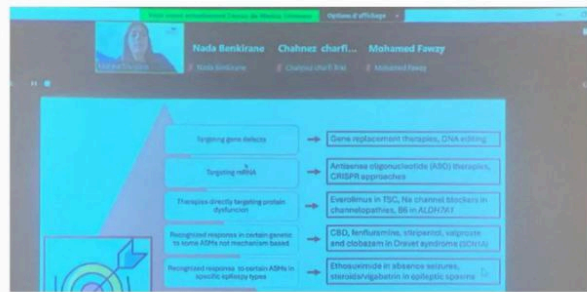


5. Outcomes and Feedback

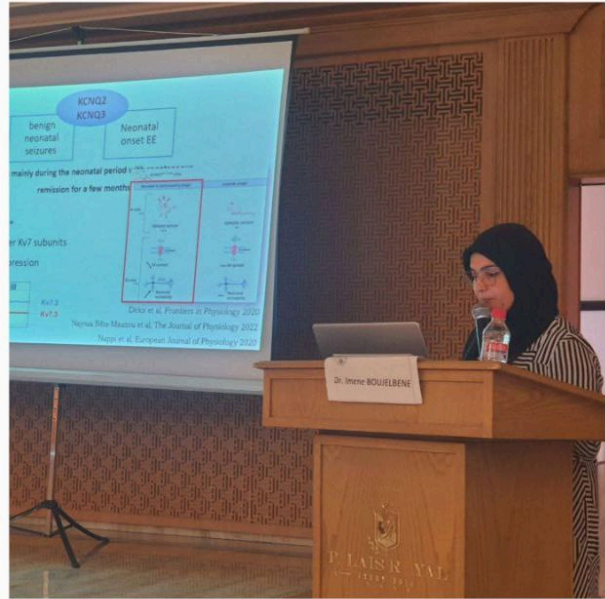
The workshop received highly positive feedback from attendees. Its primary success lies in creating a vital platform for dialogue and partnership between **epileptologists and geneticists**. The event successfully laid a foundation for future collaborative initiatives aimed at advancing the diagnosis and management of developmental and epileptic encephalopathies within the region.



Therapeutic algorithm for Dravet syndrome













The course was directed by:

Dr. Sally Shaaban, M.D, Ph.D

Regional Representative, Young Epilepsy Section (YES-EMR)

International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE-EMR)

Lecturer of Neurology, Faculty of Medicine, Mansoura University, Egypt

Dr. Ikhlas Ben Ayed, MD, PhD

Associate Professor,

Medical Genetics Department, Faculty of Medicine of Sfax, Sfax University

Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Screening Processes, Center of Biotechnology of Sfax