

Psychiatry Commission

2021 Annual Report

2017 – 2021 Members

Mike Kerr (UK), chair
Kousuke Kanemoto (Japan)
Rod Duncan (New Zealand)
Kette D. Valente (Brazil)
Alla Guekht (Russia), Management Committee liaison

Aims & Goals

The goal of the Commission on Psychiatry is to improve the psychiatric health and well-being of people with epilepsy through delivering guidance and education to clinicians in the field of epilepsy across the breadth of mental ill health.

Meetings

As a result of COVID-19 no formal commission meeting were held. Meetings were instead held online by individual task forces and for the development of our educational activities.

Task Force on Identification Treatment and Prevention

Focused on the development of the first ever Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) for the treatment of psychiatric disorders in epilepsy

The Task Force focused on CPG for the treatment of unipolar depression in adults with epilepsy. The Task Force published this guidance:

ILAE clinical practice recommendations for the medical treatment of depression in adults with epilepsy. Marco Mula, Martin J Brodie, Bertrand de Toffol, Alla Guekht, Hrvoje Hecimovic, Kousuke Kanemoto, Andres M Kanner, Antonio L Teixeira, Sarah J Wilson. *Epilepsia*. Vol 63 issue 2, February 2022. 316-334

The Task Force in conjunction with the Commission on Psychology ran a session on suicide during the next ILAE International Congress in Paris 2021.

Intellectual Disability Taskforce

The members of the Task Force are in the process of writing a consensus statement on the rescue medication on people with epilepsy and intellectual disability. The manuscript is about to be submitted by spring 2022.

The Task Force organized a symposium at the 2021 International Epilepsy Congress (held online). During this symposium, all Task Force members presented their choice of best papers

about epilepsy and ID which were published within the last two years. Each speaker covered a specific aspect of the topic. The symposium was well attended and had lively discussions.

The Task Force chair was liaising with the Education Council and contributed to the ILAE Academy by reviewing and writing with regard to neuropsychiatric aspects. A course module on depression in epilepsy was completed in 2021 and will be launched in early 2022. It is our intent to further contribute to the educational activities of the ILAE.

Task Force on Psychiatric Conditions in Pediatric Epilepsy

Co- chairs: Kette de Valente, (Brazil) and Colin Reilly, (Sweden)

The ILAE Task Force on Psychiatric Conditions in Pediatric Epilepsy, a collaboration between the Psychiatric and Pediatric Commissions, identified the urgent need to develop:

1. Recommendations for assessment and management of PNES in the children and adolescents
2. Recommendations for identifying and managing depression and Anxiety in Pediatric Epilepsy by HCPs working with children and adolescents.

Assessment and Management of Psychogenic Nonepileptic Seizures

- The Task Force reran the systematic search for articles focussing on assessing and managing PNES in children
- The Task Force also conducted a 2 round Delphi process to reach a consensus on assessing and managing PNES in children. The Task Force completed stage of our Position Paper was completed Jan 2022.
- The paper "Psychogenic Non-Epileptic Seizures in Children: A scoping review and consensus recommendations for assessment and management" based on results on review and Delphi is currently being drafted and will be submitted by summer 2022.

Assessment and Management of Anxiety and Depression in Children and Adolescents with Epilepsy

The Task Force has completed a systematic review of the topic (PROSPERO 2020 CRD420202702; PROSPERO 2020 CRD420202682).

Concerning diagnosis, the Task Force identified two studies that validated questionnaires against a gold-standard psychiatric interview (Kiddie-Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia [K-SADS]). These two studies have a high risk of bias (Quality Assessment of Diagnostic Accuracy Studies [QUADAS]) and provide a very low level of evidence due to limited sample size and lack of further evidence on the same topic (Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation [GRADE]).

Concerning treatment, the Task Force identified four non-pharmacological randomized clinical trials (RCTs) (one about cognitive behavioral therapy for depressive symptoms) and three non-RCTs (two with cognitive behavioral therapy for anxiety and one with selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (fluoxetine and sertraline) major depressive disorder. All studies have a high or unclear risk of bias for Randomized Controlled Trials (Revised Cochrane Risk of

Bias for [RoB II] and Risk of Bias for Non-Randomized Controlled Trials [ROBINS]). The evidence for treatment was low (GRADE) since each study addressed a different type of treatment with small samples.

In this context, the Task Force on Psychiatric Conditions in Pediatric Epilepsy, with the support of the ILAE Guideline Task Force, has acknowledged the need for expert opinion to support guidance and has already completed the first round of the recommendations using a modified Delphi with representatives from all ILAE regions. After this first round, we obtained >80% of agreement in 20 recommendations. Ten recommendations are under review for the second round.

Psychogenic Nonepileptic Seizure Task Force (2021)

Chair: Markus Reuber (UK)

The Taskforce provided the following output during this year:

- Publication of a report summarising the results of an international survey of the use of suggestion techniques in the diagnosis of patients with PNES in *Epilepsia Open* (Gras, A., Wardrope, A., Hirsch, E. et al. (13 more authors) (2021) Use of suggestive seizure manipulation methods in the investigation of patients with possible psychogenic nonepileptic seizures - an international ILAE survey. *Epilepsia Open* 2021 Sep;6(3):472-482. doi: 10.1002/epi4.12521.
- Publication a summary of two webinars entitled “What’s in a name” in December 2020 to launch the process of negotiation about a better name for PNES (one hosted by the FNDS, one hosted by the AES during their annual meeting): Wardrope A, Dworetzky BA, Barkley GL, Baslet G, Buchhalter J, Doss J, Goldstein LH, Hallett M, Kozłowska K, LaFrance WC Jr, McGonigal A, Mildon B, Oto M, Perez DL, Riker E, Roberts NA, Stone J, Tolchin B, Reuber M. How to do things with words: Two seminars on the naming of functional (psychogenic, non-epileptic, dissociative, conversion, ...) seizures. *Seizure*. 2021 Dec; 93:102-110. doi: 10.1016/j.seizure.2021.10.016. Epub 2021 Oct 24. PMID: 34740139.
- The PNES Task Force delivered a Symposium at the IEC 2021 entitled: “Looking into the causes of Psychogenic Nonepileptic Seizures: the contribution of imaging studies”.

Planned activities that are pending:

- The new PNES Task Force (now called Dissociative / Functional Seizure Task Force) has resubmitted a previous proposal for funding a process leading to an improved labeling and nosology of PNES. Depending on whether funding is approved this proposal or an alternative strategy to identify and disseminate a better name for PNES will be pursued.
- Our survey of suggestive seizure manipulation methods demonstrated the need to a position statement on optimal video-EEG procedures when PNES are one possible differential diagnosis. However, the ILAE Diagnostic Methods Commission should probably be invited to lead on this.

- The Forum planned by the PNES Task Force for the ECE 2020 in Geneva ("Social aspects of PNES") never took place because of the cancellation of this meeting. This would be an important and interesting topic for one of the upcoming international ILAE conferences.
- The recently constituted DFS Task Force with its new Chair, Coraline Hingray, has started the process of devising an action plan for the new ILAE presidency. This process should not be too strongly constrained by the ideas of the previous PNES Task Force.

Activities

Contribution to ILAE COVID-19 webpage with detailed documentation on the psychiatric impact of the pandemic for professionals and carers/families

Third Educational Symposium of the Psychiatry Commission: The Management of Core Psychiatric Issues in Epilepsy. 27 November 2021 November 2020

The commission delivered a major educational on-line symposium in conjunction with the Brazilian league against epilepsy and supported by the ILAE. This important symposium was delivered on-line and as a follow up to the highly successful symposia held in 2019 and 2020. Experts from the local region and international experts were able to pre record and support in real time lectures and interactive case discussions. The meeting was organized by Kette Valente and co-chaired by Mike Kerr. The full recorded symposium was available online during and post the day of the conference.

From September 2021 through to March 2022 a total of 5905 contacts were made with the online recordings demonstrating a tremendous impact for this activity

2021 – 2015 Psychiatry Commission

Chair: Rosa Michaelis

The ILAE Psychiatry Commission has been instrumental in developing and establishing effective measures to promote mental health in people with epilepsy. In doing so, the Commission must navigate the fact that even high-income countries may have few resources available in standard care settings in this particular area of care. It has given me great pleasure to accept the invitation to contribute to shaping this Commission's way forward. It is an honor to join this Commission, in which so many brilliant and renowned colleagues have rendered outstanding services. I am grateful that many of these experienced colleagues have agreed to continue to support the Commission with their expertise.

Development of the Task Force structure and tasks ahead

With the publication of the Clinical Practice Guideline for the treatment of unipolar depression in adults with epilepsy, the **Task Force on Identification, Treatment, and Prevention of Psychiatric Disorders** has set a milestone. In the coming term 2022 to 2025, the activities of this task force will unfold in two new Task Forces. One of them, the **Integrated Mental Health Care Pathways Task Force**, will also incorporate the activities of the Psychology Task Force which used to be part of the Commission on Medical Therapies. In

order to effectively treat patients with epilepsy and concomitant psychiatric disorders, identification through screening and subsequent diagnosis is needed. Then the spectrum of pharmacotherapy and talking medicine must be made available to appropriately take into account individual patient preferences. For this reason, the **Integrated Mental Health Care Pathways Task Force** will be staffed with a dual leadership of a neurologist (Heidi Marie Munger Clary) and a psychologist (Milena Gandy).

In order to promote the prevention of psychiatric disorders, we want to support psychoeducation to promote health literacy and resilience in people with seizure disorders in line with the ILAE educational curriculum. To this end, the **Psychoeducation Task Force** was newly established with a dual leadership consisting of a representative from the ILAE (Venus Tang) and a representative from IBE (Gus Baker).

The global discussion moderated by the **Psychogenic Nonepileptic Seizure Task Force** yielded a change of the Task Force's name to **Functional / dissociative Seizures Task Force** (Coraline Hingray). This change of name is informed by the insight that a name that only says what an affected person does not have is usually experienced as unhelpful.

Last but not least, the **Intellectual Disability Task Force** and the **Psychiatric Issues in Pediatric Epilepsy Task Force** (in collaboration with the Pediatric Commission) will advance their areas of responsibility with a good mix of member rotation and member continuity.

The **Intellectual Disability Task Force** (Christine Linehan) chose to commence the implementation of a selection of recommendations published in the ILAE Intellectual Disability White Paper. In doing so, the Task Force will engage with individuals with intellectual disability and other stakeholders.

After completing two major Clinical Practice Guidelines for Psychogenic Nonepileptic Seizures and Anxiety and Depression in Pediatric Epilepsy the **Psychiatric Issues in Pediatric Epilepsy Task Force** (Colin Reilly) will tackle yet another clinical challenge by compiling a systematic review and clinical practice guideline on screening for and assessment of autism in children with epilepsy.

Submitted by Professor Mike Kerr