



Epilepsy Training Courses

12-14 February 2025

Harare, Zimbabwe

Report

Introduction

This report provides an overview of the Epilepsy Training courses conducted in Zimbabwe from February 12–14, 2025. The training aimed to enhance knowledge and clinical skills related to epilepsy care among healthcare professionals and individuals involved in epilepsy advocacy. The courses brought together a diverse group of participants, reflecting a multidisciplinary approach to epilepsy management.

Organization and Team Involvement

Course Instructors & Facilitators:

1. Prof Helen Cross, President, International League Against Epilepsy
2. Prof Arjune Sen, Centre for Global Epilepsy
3. Dr Gail Scher, Wits University Donald Gordon Medical Centre
4. Dr Gift Ngwende, President, Zimbabwean League Against Epilepsy
5. Dr Jo Wilmschurst, Chair International League Against Epilepsy Africa
6. Dr MV Gule, University of Cape Town
7. Prof Sloan Mahone, University of Oxford

Organizing Committee

1. Mr. Taurai Kadzviti, Epilepsy Support Foundation
2. Ms Anna Minarik, Centre for Global Epilepsy
3. Mr Gus Egan, International League Against Epilepsy

Partners



ZIMBABWE LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY

ZLAE



Member Chapter of the International League Against Epilepsy



Day 1 – Delegates and Local Faculty Complete the Epilepsy Training in Adult Medicine (ETAM) Course

Date: 12 February 2025

Venue: Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Zimbabwe

The first day of the training, the Epilepsy Training in Adult Medicine (ETAM) was taught by Prof Helen Cross, Prof Arjune Sen, Dr Gail Scher, Dr Jo Wilmshurst, and Dr MV Gule. There were a total of 48 participants who completed the course, including 17 local faculty members and 31 delegates from various professional backgrounds. The diverse group of attendees ensured rich discussions and a broad exchange of expertise.

The delegates included professionals from multiple disciplines relevant to epilepsy care, such as advocates and persons with lived experience of epilepsy, clinical neuropsychologists, doctors, medical students, nurses, paediatric neurologists, MSc and neuropsychology students, paediatricians and child development specialists, private allied healthcare workers, psychologists, specialist neurologists and physicians, and specialist neurosurgeons. Their collective expertise contributed to meaningful discussions and the exchange of knowledge crucial for advancing epilepsy care.

The session covered a range of foundational topics in epilepsy management, with interactive discussions and case-based learning. Participants engaged actively, highlighting the need for ongoing education and capacity building in epilepsy care within the region.

Day 2 – Local Faculty Complete the Train the Trainer Course & Solving Stigma in Epilepsy Course

Date: 13 February 2025

Venue: Innovation Hub, University of Zimbabwe

The second day of the training, the **ETAM Train-the-Trainer Course** was taught to the 17 local faculty who had participated in the ETAM course the previous day. They were taught by Prof Helen Cross, Dr Gail Scher, and Dr Jo Wilmshurst. These 17 local faculty members had previously been selected by Dr Gift Ngwende. This course, developed by the British Pediatric Neurology Association to train faculty for short courses, provided training in effective teaching methods, focusing on adult learning principles and best practices for large and small group sessions. It began with an introduction to educational philosophy, followed by sessions on delivering successful lectures and workshops. Attendees practiced teaching in both large and small groups, receiving feedback from mentors. The day concluded with a discussion on the practical delivery of the ETAM course, participant feedback, and a post-course meeting for new faculty.



Concurrent to this course, Prof Sloan Mahone taught her newly developed **Solving Stigma in Epilepsy Course**. There were 26 participants who took part in this course. This course explored epilepsy, stigma, and oral history, focusing on research and lived experiences, particularly in Zimbabwe. It began with an introduction by Prof Sloan Mahone and Dr Billy Rigava, followed by sessions on epilepsy-related stigma, lived experiences, and healthcare challenges. The day included discussions on clinical experiences, a seizure first aid demonstration, and breakout sessions for case discussions. The course concluded with group reports, open discussions, and a final wrap-up.

Day 3 – Local Faculty Teach the ETAM Course to New Delegates

Date: 13 February 2025

Venue: Innovation Hub, University of Zimbabwe

The third day of the training, the 17 local faculty that had completed the ETAM Train-the-Trainer course, delivered the ETAM course to new delegates. There were a total of 30 delegates that were taught by the local faculty. The delegates consisted primarily of doctors, including several internal medicine registrars. There were also doctors in training or medical students, a private clinic nurse, a government nurse, a clinical neuropsychology student, and advocates with lived experience of epilepsy.

Conclusion & Next Steps

In total, 104 people were trained across three days including seventeen new Zimbabwean faculty who will go on to deliver ‘training in adult epilepsy’ across Zimbabwe and across many different disciplines.

The next iteration of ETAM will take place at the 5th African Epilepsy Congress in Lusaka Zambia from 16-18 May.

Special Thanks

We want to extend our appreciation to the 10 local student volunteers for their valuable contributions in ensuring the successful and efficient delivery of the courses.





















