

Pediatrics Commission

Annual Report 2023

MEMBERS

Kette Valente (Brazil), chair

Stéphane Auvin (France)

Edward Kija (Tanzania)

Kamornwan Katanyuwong (Thailand)

Wafaa Al-Shehhi (Oman)

Hans Hartman (Germany)

Elaine Wirrell (USA)

Roberto Caraballo (Argentina), MC liaison

HIGHLIGHTS

- Publication of two manuscripts with recommendations for the assessment and management of psychogenic non-epileptic (functional) seizures in children and Guidelines for the Treatment of Neonatal Seizures
- Establishment of Educational Activities: (1) San Servolo - Pediatric Epilepsy; (2) VIREPA - Spanish Version finalized; (3) 3 educational webinars; (4) two podcasts for Epigraph; (5) 32 proposals for the IEC 2023; (6) one main session and four symposia at the IEC 2023
- Development of Protocols and conducting reviews for Guidelines and Recommendations considering (1) Treatment in Self-limited Epilepsies; (2) Guidelines for Developmental and Epileptic Encephalopathies as a liaison between the ILAE and the European Academy of Neurology; (4) Transition; (5) Neonatal Status Epilepticus; (6) Interventions to mitigate stigma; and (7) Diagnosis of ASD in Pediatric Epilepsy

MEETINGS

The Pediatric Commission held an eight-hour hybrid meeting ahead of the 35th International Epilepsy Congress (IEC 2023) in Dublin, Ireland, on 1 September 2023.

During this meeting, members of the Pediatric Commission, Task Forces chairs, and their members discussed the current situation of their projects, accomplishments, and barriers. On the same date, the Transition Task Force held a two-hour meeting to delineate the methodological aspects of the Recommendations for Transition in Epilepsy.

In addition, the Medical Therapies Task Force also had one meeting on 5 September 2023, with EpiCARE (represented by Prof. Eugen Trinka and Nicola Specchio) and EPNS (represented by Dana Craiu). Members from all groups attended this meeting to discuss the Guidelines of Dravet, Lennox-Gastaut, and Infantile Epileptic Spasms Syndrome.

During the American Epilepsy Society Annual Meeting (AES 2023) in December 2023, the Medical Therapy Task Force - Self-limited epilepsies in Neonates and Infants Project led by Rima Nababout and Kelly Knupp had an on-site meeting in Orlando, USA, to discuss methodological aspects of their project with the chairs of this Task Force - Elaine Wirrell and Ingrid Scheffer.

Members of the Pediatric Commission met in July 2023 for lectures and tutoring in the Advanced School of Epilepsy organized by Giuliano Avanzini and Marco de Curtis (Directors: Stéphane Auvin and Carla Marini).

ACTIVITIES

Educational Task Force

Jorge Vidaurre (USA), chair
Rene Silva (El Salvador)
Loreto Rios-Pohl (Chile)
KP Vinayan (India)
Antonietta Coppola (Italy)
Tomonori Ono (Japan)

Luis Carlos Mayor-Romero (Colombia)
Cigdem Ozkara (Turkey)
Dave Clarke (USA)
Dominique Enyama (Cameroon)
Chahnez Charfi Triki (Tunisia)

The Educational Task Force finished the translation of the VIREPA course, assembled teams to deliver online sessions, and had approval from the Education Council to start this educational endeavor in 2024.

Transition Task Force

Rima Nabbout (France), co-chair
Danielle Andrade (Canada), co-chair
Renee Shellhaas (USA)
Eva Fung (Hong Kong)
Jaime Carrizosa (Colombia)
Guido Rubboli (Denmark)

Tiziana Granata (Italy)
Hassan Hosny (Egypt)
Kate Riney (Australia)
Dana Craiu (Romania)
Puja Patel (USA)
Marco Mula (UK)

The Transition Task Force conducted a worldwide survey, and this manuscript's final version was finalized in 2023 by Rima Nabbout and Danielle Andrade. In addition, the group has started a protocol to develop the minimum criteria for transition in epilepsy with a scoping review and a Delphi process.

Research Advocacy Task Force

Symon Kariuki (Kenya), chair
Choong-Yi Fong (Malaysia)
Pauline Samia (Kenya)
Gretchen Birbeck (USA)
Colin Reilly (UK/Sweden)
Patricia Braga (Uruguay)

Fatma Kammoun (Tunisia)
Priya Treesa Thomas (India)
Jo Wilmshurst (South Africa)
Ryan Wagner (South Africa)
Kette D. Valente (Brazil)

The Task Force-approved protocol (Effectiveness and suitability for scalability of stigma interventions among children with epilepsy) was registered on the PROSPERO database (CRD42023411049). The Task Force carried out the search strategy (April), finalized the first step of the search process (June-September), and started the second step at the end of 2023, which will be concluded in 2024.

The Research Advocacy Task Force held one symposium at IEC 2023 entitled "Reducing the treatment gap and mitigating economic implications in pediatric epilepsy," co-chaired by Jo Wilmshurst and Symon Kariuki.

Psychiatric Issues in Pediatric Epilepsy

Colin Reilly (UK/Sweden), chair
Charlotte Tye (UK)
Stéphane Auvin (France)
Jay Salpekar (USA)
Kirsty Donald (South Africa)

Marylou Smith (Canada)
Hula Raoof Shereef (Iraq)
Nicola Specchio (Italy)
Eliza Honybun (Australia)
Kette D. Valente (Brazil)

The Task Force project on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Diagnosis in Pediatric Epilepsy is conducting a systematic review. The data extraction has already started, and the ADAPTE process will be used in 2024 to delineate Recommendations.

The Task Force held a Symposium at IEC 2023 entitled "Identifying and managing neurobehavioral comorbidities in children with epilepsy - Can we bridge the gap?" co-chaired by Colin J. Reilly and Francesca Sophia. The Task Force also organized a webinar about ASD in Pediatrics Epilepsy with Colin Reilly, Nicola Specchio, Jay Salpekar, and Stéphane Auvin. In addition, Colin Reilly and Stéphane Auvin recorded a podcast for Sharp Waves about autism and epilepsy.

Stéphane Auvin organized a Symposium at IEC 2023 entitled "The ILAE Classification as a Roadmap for Epilepsy-Associated Comorbidities," with Colin Reilly, Marco Mula, Stéphane Auvin, and Kette Valente. This symposium was recorded as a webinar on 7 October 2023.

The manuscript on Consensus-Based Recommendations for Depression and Anxiety Diagnosis and Treatment in Pediatric Epilepsy was finalized and submitted for public comments.

Neonatal Task Force

Nick Abend (USA), co-chair
Magda Nunes (Brazil), co-chair
Ronit Pressler (UK)
Courtney Wusthoff (USA)
Renee Shellhaas (USA)
Elissa Yozawitz (USA)

Jo Wilmshurst (South Africa)
Efraín Olivas Peña (Mexico)
Chahnez Charfi Triki (Tunisia)
Geraldine Boylan (Ireland)
Terrie Inder (USA)

The Publication Council approved the Neonatal Task Force protocol for Status Epilepticus in Neonates. The Task Force finalized the two-step search process and data extraction. The Neonatal Task Force, represented by Ronit Pressler and Nicholas Abend, have a liaison with the ACNS to provide Guidelines for Continuous EEG Monitoring in Neonates.

The Neonatal Task Force held a Symposium in IEC 2023 entitled "Neonatal Seizures and Epilepsy - From the past to the future: Why we still have controversies?" co-chaired by Magda L. Nunes

and Nicholas Abend. The Neonatal Task Force also participated by invitation in the AES 2023 and ACNS 2023 by invitation.

Medical Therapies Task Force

Ingrid Scheffer (Australia), co-chair
Elaine Wirrell (USA), co-chair
Jo Wilmshurst (South Africa)
Julia Jacobs-LeVan (Canada)
Finbar O'Callaghan (UK)
Yuwu Jiang (China)

Kelly Knupp (USA)
Ana Carolina Coan (Brazil)
Chahnez Charfi Triki (Tunisia)
Lievan Lagae (Belgium)
Jithangi Wanigasinghe (Sri Lanka)
Rima Nabbout (France)

The Medical Therapies Task Force conducted two main projects on self-limited epilepsies. The Recommendations for Treatment of Self-Limited Epilepsies in Childhood, led by Julia Jacobs LeVan and Ana Coan, had the scoping review's search process finalized and data extraction started.

The Recommendations for Treatment of Self-Limited Epilepsies in Neonates and Infancy protocol, led by Kelly Knupp and Rima Nabbout, was approved. The search process is ongoing.

The EpiCARE-EPNS-ILAE Guidelines for Treatment of Dravet Syndrome, Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome, and Infantile Epileptic Spasms Syndrome is ongoing. The chairs of this Task Force organized this group with leaders for each task, as follows:

- Jo Wilmshurst and Finbar O'Callaghan - Infantile Epileptic Spasms Syndrome
- Stéphane Auvin and Kette Valente - Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome
- Rima Nabbout and Lieven Lagae - Dravet Syndrome

The Task Force held one webinar, "Complex and Rare Epilepsies: Past, Present and Future," with Elaine Wirrell, Ingrid Scheffer, Rima Nabbout, and Georgia Ramantadani on 11 November 2023. The group held a main session, chaired by Prof. Helen Cross, on the same topic as IEC 2023.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Honoraria

Two past chairs – Lieven Lagae and Stéphane Auvin - of the Pediatric Commission are now Ambassadors of the ILAE; honoraria received in Dublin, Ireland, during the IEC 2023. The Pediatric Commission congratulates their past chairs for their continuous effort to improve the epilepsy care for children and adolescents worldwide.

Protocols

The Medical Therapies Task Force, led by Elaine Wirrell and Ingrid Scheffer, finalized the protocols for Dravet Syndrome, Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome, and Infantile Epileptic Spasms Syndrome. The protocols were submitted to the European Academy of Neurology and the International League Against Epilepsy and were reviewed for final approval. The chairs of this Task Force have represented the ILAE in this liaison with the European Academy of Neurology

and European Pediatric Neurology Society. The development, guidance, and finalization by the Chairs and Leaders is praised by the Pediatric Commission of ILAE that recognizes this effort and endurance as a relevant accomplishment paving the way for future alliances.

RESEARCH & ARTICLES PUBLISHED

The Pediatric Commission published two papers that started in the past term:

Psychiatric Pediatric Issues in Epilepsy Task Force

Reilly C., Jette, N., Johnson, E. C., Kariuki, S. M., Meredith, F., Wirrell, E., ... & Auvin, S. (2023). [Scoping review and expert-based consensus recommendations for assessment and management of psychogenic non-epileptic \(functional\) seizures \(PNES\) in children: A report from the Pediatric Psychiatric Issues Task Force of the International League Against Epilepsy](#). *Epilepsia*, 64(12), 3160-3195.

Neonatal Task Force

Pressler RM, Abend NS, Auvin S, Boylan G, Brigo F, Cilio MR, De Vries LS, Elia M, Espeche A, Hahn CD, Inder T, Jette N, Kakooza-Mwesige A, Mader S, Mizrahi EM, Moshé SL, Nagarajan L, Noyman I, Nunes ML, Samia P, Shany E, Shellhaas RA, Subota A, Triki CC, Tsuchida T, Vinayan KP, Wilmshurst JM, Yozawitz EG, Hartmann H. [Treatment of seizures in the neonate: Guidelines and consensus-based recommendations-Special report from the ILAE Task Force on Neonatal Seizures](#). *Epilepsia*. 2023 Oct;64(10):2550-2570.



19th Advanced San Servolo Epilepsy Course
San Servolo (Venice) Italy



Pediatric Commission participation at the Advanced San Servolo Epilepsy Course in Italy, July 2023



Epilepsy Congress
September 2023
Dublin, Ireland

Pediatric Commission participation at IEC 2023 in Dublin, Ireland, September 2023



Pediatric Commission meeting in Dublin, Ireland, September 2023

Report submitted by Kette Valente