

CLAE October 2022 Newsletter



CLAE-LCCE
Canadian League Against Epilepsy
Ligue Canadienne Contre L'Épilepsie



A Message from the President



Dear CLAE Members

It is a great honor to be elected President of the CLAE for the next 2 years. I will do my best to serve our community and to continue the excellent leadership of Dr Paolo Federico, Dr Dang Nguyen and Dr. Nathalie Jette among others. Dr. Juhn Wada, a founding member of the CLAE, and a mentor proposed me for the position of President. During our frequent meetings, I have learned much from him about the early history and evolution of the CLAE. I also had the pleasure of training under Dr. Henry Dunn, one of the founders of Child Neurology in Canada, who was also a founding member of CLAE.

This past 2.5 years, have been very challenging for all of us and the individuals with epilepsy under our care. There are considerable disparities in access to epilepsy care in Canada. However, the pandemic has facilitated a rapid shift to integration of telemedicine in the delivery of epilepsy care. It is clear that epilepsy is a condition where telemedicine is very effective and enables patients who live remote from Comprehensive Epilepsy

Programs to access expert care. In addition, the Education Committee at CLAE and The Canadian Epilepsy Teaching Network have implemented an excellent education program with international reach.

The recent in person CLAE meeting in Kelowna was an enormous success and it was such a pleasure to meet colleagues in person. We look forward to the 2023 meeting in Prince Edward Island. This is an exciting time in epilepsy with advances in brain imaging, robotic assisted stereotactic EEG, genomic testing, new and precision therapies. However, for many individuals living with epilepsy, the associated psychosocial challenges, learning and employment issues are as great a challenge as seizure management.

Over the next 2 years, I would like to attempt to address how we can improve inequities in access to epilepsy care, transition from pediatric to adult providers and also to work with colleagues across Canada to collect appropriate data to allow us to look at outcomes of epilepsy care that are meaningful to patients and their families/caregivers.

I look forward to working with CLAE Executive and Board and I would appreciate if you, the members of CLAE would reach out to me with ideas about how the CLAE can serve you better.

Sincerely,

Mary

CLAE News and Updates

Education Initiatives



Education initiatives have been developing with [CETN EEG series](#) launched, as well as expert speaker series which can be viewed [here](#).



EPILEPSY FELLOWS E-JOURNAL CLUB



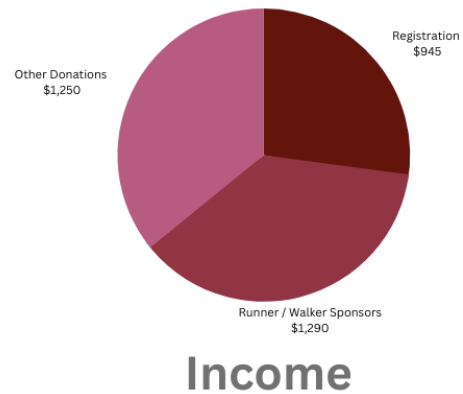
The CLAE is proud to announce the development of an e-journal club dedicated for epilepsy fellows across Canada. These are held once a month Friday 12-1PM EST. Upcoming sessions for 2022 are: Nov 11 / Dec 9.

Trainees, faculty and health professionals of an epilepsy program are welcome to join. The primary focus will be on fostering a community of life-long learning, collaboration, mentorship and inclusivity in **post-graduate epilepsy education**. The e-journal club is lead by Dr. Esther Bui and co-lead by Dr. Paula Marquez. If your training program would like to be involved, please email the CLAE or esther.bui@uhn.ca

2022 Fun Run



CLAE Fun Run/Walk



The 2022 Fun Run in Kelowna was a very successful event raising over \$3000. Thank you to everyone who made this event a huge success.



CLAE 2022 Award Winners

Publication Awards

Allied Health Student Award – Tamara Tavares

Fellow or Post-Doc Award- Miguel Arevalo-Astrada

Graduate Student or Medical Student Award- Daniele Wolf

Mary Ann Lee Award- Sarah Buttle

Non-Trainee Award

Junior Investigator Award – George Ibrahim

Conference Awards
Abstract Awards
Clinical Research Award – Alex Santos
Basic Science Award –Evan Dimentberg

ILAE News and Updates



The Career Path of Dr. Meriem Bensalem-Owen



Dr. Alina Ivaniuk interviews Dr. Meriem Bensalem-Owen about growing up in Algeria, attending medical school during a civil war, moving to the United States for training, and starting Kentucky's first epilepsy fellowship program. She also practices Brazilian jiu jitsu and taekwondo, and dances Argentine tango.

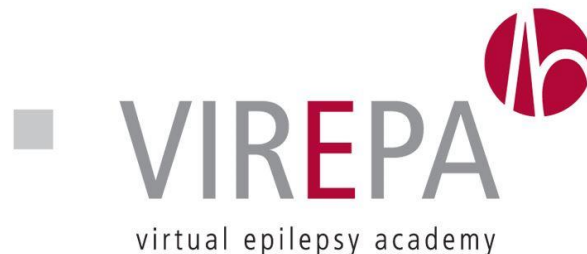
[Download](#) | [Listen](#) | [Read the transcript](#)



Across the globe, nurses have an important role in the care of people with epilepsy. The [ILAE Nursing Section](#) is committed to identifying and ensuring that the voices of nurses are heard. We need your help to understand the important needs of nurses caring for patients with epilepsy. We request you take 7-10 minutes to complete this survey. The survey is open to all nurses caring for people with epilepsy, including Nursing Section members and non-members. Therefore, the initial questions may be similar to those on the Nursing Section registration page.

[ILAE Nursing Survey Letter](#)

[ILAE Nursing Survey](#)



Opportunities are still available for 2022-23 VIREPA courses!

Available [VIREPA courses](#):

- EEG in the Diagnosis & Management of Epilepsy – Pediatrics (October 2022)
- Neuroimaging Course for Epilepsy Diagnosis & Management (November 2022)

[More details, CME credits available and how to apply.](#)

Canadian Epilepsy Alliance

We invite you to share your expectations and opinions regarding the potential development of a Canadian Epilepsy Alliance mobile app. We are asking the epilepsy community (epilepsy agencies,

epilepsy partners, people living with epilepsy, and families of people with epilepsy) to have a say in developing a potential CEA app.

We are hoping to develop an app that will be relevant to someone living with epilepsy or someone part of the epilepsy community. The survey will help us gain understanding of how you/they might use an app to help increase the quality of life, manage epilepsy, and stay up to date on the latest news and resources. Responses to this survey will be collected and shared with our cea app committee in order to center future developments in this field around the needs and preferences of people living with epilepsy and the community at large.

Doing this survey will give you the opportunity to be part of the growth of support services in Canada and help support your epilepsy community.

[Canadian Epilepsy Alliance Survey](#)

Early Careers



The University of Montreal is pleased to announce that Dr Aristides (Aris) Hadjicolaou has been recently appointed to the Department of Neurosciences. He will be working as a pediatric neurologist/epileptologist at the CHU Ste-Justine.

After obtaining his medical degree (MD) at the University of Montreal in 2014, he completed his residency in pediatrics at McGill University in 2018, followed by a specialty in pediatric neurology at the University of Toronto in 2021. He recently completed a fellowship in epilepsy and clinical neurophysiology at Boston Children's Hospital, affiliated with Harvard Medical School. In parallel with his medical degrees, he completed a certificate in Disaster Response and Humanitarian Studies Initiative (McGill University), Canadian Child Clinician Scientist Program (McGill University), and Post-Graduate Medical Education Leadership Certificate (Toronto University).

His interests lie within novel invasive and non-invasive investigations of patients with refractory epilepsy, as well as novel treatment modalities such as transcranial magnetic stimulation and intracranial neuromodulation.

Welcome Dr Hadjinicolaou!

Philippe Major

Upcoming Events



SUDEP Action Day is October 14, 2022. The Epilepsy Foundation is excited to share their annual SUDEP Action Day toolkit.

[SUDEP Action Day 2022 Communications Toolkit](#)

[SUDEP Information Sheet](#)



The conference addresses a broad range of topics, from phenotyping epilepsy and drug discovery, to precision treatments, seizure forecasting and thalamic neuromodulation. From recent contributions and interest, we know that we are at an important juncture, where new technologies and advances are poised to impact clinical practice and research to an extent where education and awareness in the community has become a critical need. For more information or to register please visit [here](#).

A Message from our Sponsor MD Financial

Business banking advice and solutions designed uniquely for physicians

Scotiabank's Healthcare Specialists understand the unique financial needs of starting, managing and growing your medical practice. We have the business banking expertise to provide customized advice, tailored banking solutions and preferred benefits through the

Scotiabank Healthcare+ Physician Banking Program. For more information, please visit scotiabankhealthcareplus.com

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