

CLAE July 2022 Newsletter



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



A Message from the President



Dear colleagues,

The COVID pandemic has been with us for over two years and changed our lives in a multitude of ways. Despite this, I am extremely proud how the CLAE membership has persevered through these challenging times. I am proud to say that we continue to provide exceptional care and support to our patients and their loved ones. We have also shown our resilience as we continue to collaborate, educate, and perform research despite these challenges. I am very pleased to provide some updates [here](#).

CLAE News and Updates



Registration is now open for the 2022 Scientific Meeting, September 23-25 in Kelowna, British Columbia. To register or for more information please visit [here](#).



Enjoy the beauty of the picturesque views and support the CLAE by challenging your colleagues, friends and family to join you on this 5 km run in Kelowna, B.C. Participants who do not want to run are invited to enjoy a 2.5 km walk. This Fun Run / Walk Fundraiser registration includes fresh air, exercise, and breath-taking views...what could be better? For more information, to register or to make a donation please visit [here](#).



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



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: Sept 9 / Oct 7 / 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

ILAE News and Updates



Early onset epilepsies: neurobiology and novel therapeutic strategies
Talloires, France | 4 - 8 July 2022. More information can be found [here](#).



Sharp Waves Dives into Epilepsy, Pregnancy, and Breastfeeding. A Conversation with Dr. Page Pennell



In this episode, Dr. Anca Arbune talks with Dr. Page Pennell about how to manage anti-seizure medications during pregnancies, including serum level monitoring and explaining risks to women. They discuss the latest research, as well as upcoming projects.

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

Managing Status Epilepticus with Limited Resources



Restricted emergency services. Limited medication availability. Lack of physician education. How is status epilepticus addressed and managed in limited-resource areas, and what do these regions need in order to provide better care?

[Read the article](#)



Calling all nurses working
in **epilepsy care**



[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

ILAE is excited to welcome the Nursing Section to our community! If you are interested in joining this new global network of nurses who care for people with epilepsy, visit www.ilae.org/nursing to learn about the group's goals and how to get involved.



The ILAE Academy has just launched their Level 2 of e-learning and higher education in epileptology. This e-learning program is outstanding and unique in its kind as it addresses realistic patient cases with interactive learning tools, such as EEG and MRI reading.

[Full Course Description](#)

Improving Expertise for Canadian Children with Epilepsy



Four Canadian paediatric neuropsychologists recently attended the ILAE International Training Course in the Neuropsychology of Epilepsy in France. Pictured are Drs. Nevena Simic (McMaster Children's Hospital, Hamilton), Sabrina Freud (*Children's Hospital - London Health Sciences Centre*), Mary Lou Smith (Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto (Faculty member for course)), and Stephanie Sylvain-Roy (Montreal Children's Hospital).

Early Careers



Dr. Paula Marques is an adult Neurologist who has finished her Neurology and Epilepsy training in the Federal University of Parana, Brazil. She came to Canada to improve her knowledge in Epilepsy and in the fields of Genetics. She has been an Epilepsy fellow in the Genetics program at University of Toronto (Toronto Western Hospital) since July 2019. Her work includes Research that is focused on Genetics, in an effort to better understand how genes play a role in Epilepsy. She also has a special interest in

Transition from pediatric to adult care and Neuromodulation.

Research Highlights



Dr. Ken Alexis is currently running a clinical trial of deoxynucleosides for children with mitochondrial DNA depletion disorders (e.g. *POLG*). For more information please click the link below.

[Deoxynucleosides Pyrimidines as Treatment for Mitochondrial Depletion Syndrome \(dC-dT-MDS\)](#)

A cross collaborative study group including colleagues from LHSC (Dr. Suller, Dr. Burneo), the Ontario Brain institute and the Health Sciences Center in Winnipeg (Dr. Ng) outlined the results of a pan Canadian survey aimed at identifying research priorities in Epilepsy over the coming years. This was a notable effort in that it included sampling of patients, caregivers, community stakeholders in addition to healthcare providers. See their work [here](#).

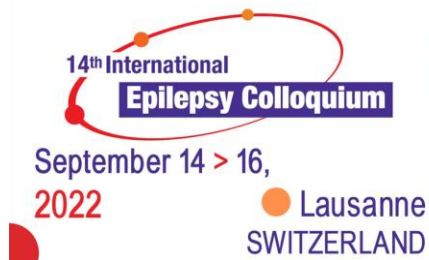
Program Highlights



The Epilepsy Program at UBC has had many successes over the last 3 years:

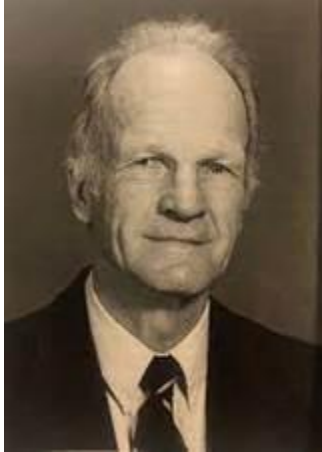
- Increase of SIU/EMU beds from 2 to 4
- Decrease of clinical wait times
- Increase of epilepsy surgeries to 50-60 per year.
- Intracranial EEG using ROSA for depth electrode implantation
- Ictal SPECT
- Funds to hire a second epilepsy surgeon
- Two funded epilepsy fellowship positions each year.

Upcoming Events



The 14th Epilepsy Colloquium will be held in Lausanne at the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois (CHUV) September 14 to 16, 2022. For more information please visit [here](#).

In Memoriam



Dr. Gordon Watters, former director of the McGill Division of Pediatric Neurology and its residency training program, passed away peacefully on April 5th, just shy of his 94th birthday.

He was a giant in the field of pediatric neurology, and left an indelible mark on his patients, trainees, and colleagues here at McGill, especially at the Montreal Children's Hospital. No doubt those who knew him directly all have memories that are being triggered by this news.

[Dr. Watters Biography](#)

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