

CLAE June 2023 Newsletter



A Message from the CLAE President



Dear Members of CLAE

It is a great honour to serve as President of the CLAE since the fall of 2022. CLAE is a thriving organization and membership continues to increase as we all appreciate the many benefits of membership.

In the last month, Dr. Juhn Wada, co-founder of the CLAE and Past President died at the age of 99 years. He was a giant in the field of epilepsy at a time when we did not have all the advanced neuroimaging or genetic tools that we

have now. He was the quintessential clinician scientist before such a career path was recognized. Some details of his extraordinary life are summarized in the obituary in this newsletter as well as several other tributes to him in *Epilepsia*, *Epilepsy Open*, *The Globe and Mail* and *The Vancouver Sun*. He taught generations of neurologists and scientists who went on to have very successful careers. Dr. Wada was very proud of the CLAE and the work of Canadian clinicians and researchers in the epilepsy field. He kept up with the epilepsy literature and wrote scientific papers well into his retirement. I will always remember his compassion towards his patients and the attention he paid to their mental health and psychiatric comorbidity.

I would like to thank the members of the executive and board and the chairs and members of various committees of the CLAE for the excellent work that they do. The education committee under the excellent leadership of Dr. Esther Bui is currently very busy organizing the Annual Scientific Meeting of the CLAE meeting in Prince Edward Island in October 2023 and I am sure there will be a very exciting programme. I would like to encourage you to submit your work for presentation at this meeting and the abstract deadline is June 13th. The Medical Therapeutics Committee under the leadership of Dr. JP Appendino has been very busy dealing with the never ending shortages of anti-seizure medications and advocating for access to new therapies. The Communications Committee under Dr. Todd Fantaneau keep us updated on all the activities of CLAE and currently working on restructuring the CLAE website. I would also like to thank the French language committee under Dr. Elisabeth Simard-Tremblay for their excellent work. I would also like to thank Dr. Mary Lou Smith who was co-chair of CPEN with Dr. Linda Huh for her excellent work and also the Global Health and Fundraising committees under Dr. Jorge Burneo and Dr. Lysa Boisse Lomax.

The COVID 19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the provision of care for many of our patients as well as on their mental health. Wait lists for video-EEG monitoring and epilepsy surgery have increased in many provinces but finally these delays are being addressed. Shortages of neurophysiology technologists and nurses also continue to impact delivery of care. On the other hand, the integration and expansion of telehealth has improved access to epilepsy care for many patients who live remote from major epilepsy centres and has also had a financial benefit for many of our patients. Telehealth will not replace in person consultation but the benefits are considerable. Issues of equity of care remain and research to address this is of great import.

Currently in Western Canada, the impact of climate change is very evident. As I write, there are over 90 forest fires burning in Alberta and many in BC. Many families have had to evacuate their homes and properties and every year the situation worsens. It is difficult to know how it will end but there is no doubt that climate change will have a major impact on individuals with epilepsy as

well as the general population. I hope you and your families have an enjoyable summer and some time to rest and recharge. I look forward to meeting you in Prince Edward Island in October.

Sincerely

Mary Connolly

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 2023 are: Jun 8, Jul 14, Aug 11, Sep 8, Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 8

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



Register Now for the CLAE 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting

October 13-15, 2023

Delta Hotels Prince Edward | Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

The [Canadian League Against Epilepsy](#) invites you to attend the 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM), October 13-15, in beautiful Charlottetown, PEI! The ASM provides an opportunity to network and exchange ideas with colleagues from across the country, while gaining up-to-date knowledge on emerging basic and clinical research developments in epilepsy and key management issues in the field.

This year's conference will highlight and celebrate the state-of-the-art work being done in Canada and around the world in epilepsy care. For full program details, [click here](#).

[Register](#) by September 10 to take advantage of early-bird discounts!

CERI Symposium

The Canadian Epilepsy Research Initiative (CERI) is holding a symposium during the day on Friday, October 13, 2023, before the CLAE Annual Scientific meeting begins. This is an opportunity for epilepsy researchers, both pre-clinical and clinical, to come together to present research findings and discuss possible collaborative projects. Please note, the CERI Symposium requires separate registration for all participants.

ILAE News and Updates



Closing the Treatment Gap in Africa



How to address a treatment gap that in some countries exceeds 90%? ILAE talks with International Bureau for Epilepsy Vice President Action Amos about the plans and strategies under way to address the 10-year International Global Action Plan.

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

ILAE Taskforce on Transition



Transition in Epilepsy – A survey for patients and healthcare practitioners (HCP)

If you are a **health care provider** that cares for patients with epilepsy or seizures, you may be eligible to participate. The study involves filling a questionnaire, and only 15-20 minutes of your time.

[HCP - English](#)



[HCP - French](#)



[HCP - Portuguese](#)



[HCP - Spanish](#)



[HCP – Romanian](#)



[HCP – Japanese](#)



[HCP – Persian](#)



[HCP – Chinese](#)



In Memoriam



Juhn Atsushi Wada, O.C., M.D., Med.Sc.D., F.A.A.N., F.R.C.P.(C), D.Sc. *h.c.*

1924–2023

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the death of Dr. Juhn Wada, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Psychiatry and Neurosciences at UBC, at his home in Vancouver. He was Co-founder of the Canadian League Against Epilepsy (CLAE) and President of the CLAE from 1977 to 1979. He had just celebrated his 99th birthday.

For the full obituary please click [here](#).

Fellowships

The Vancouver epilepsy program has two funded epilepsy fellowship positions per year. Applicants can contact our fellowship director Dr. Farzad Moien Afshari at Farzad.MoienAfshari@vch.ca.

Announcements

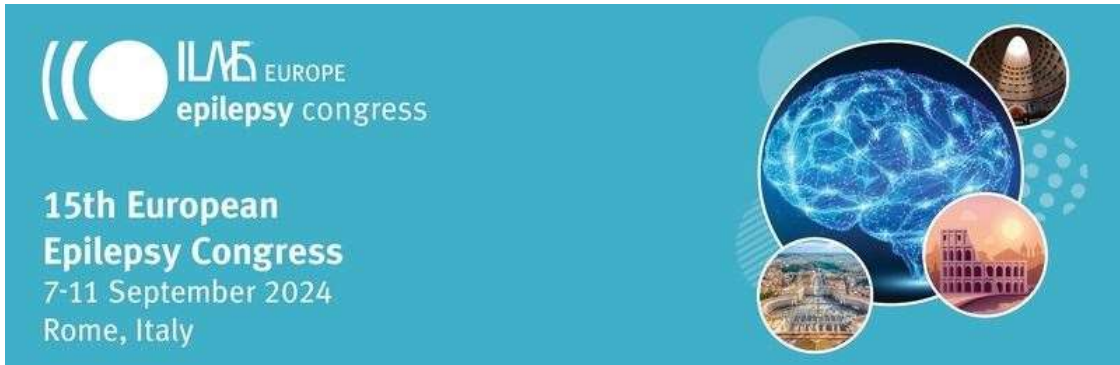
Lavender Day, at the CHU Ste-Justine (Montreal), members of the neurology service



Upcoming Events

ILAE IBE
epilepsy congress

35th International Epilepsy Congress
2-6 September 2023
Dublin, Ireland



A Message from our Sponsor MD Financial

Guide to retirement planning

Having a sound financial plan in place is important for physicians and their families. Equally important, but more often overlooked, is ensuring that your plan evolves as your life and career do. Learn how retirement planning can help you create a road map to the retirement you want.

[Learn more](#)

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