

Epilepsy Society of Australia 2021-2022 Report

MEMBERS

Stephen Malone, President
Kaitlyn Parratt, Vice President
Dean Jones, Treasurer
Hanka Laue-Gizz, Secretary



Officer Election Date: 3 November 2021

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Annual Scientific Meeting
- 2021 ANZAN EEG course was held as a virtual event which replicated the successful formula of previous years.
- 2022 ANZAN EEG and Epilepsy Society of Australia Clinical Epilepsy course was held again as a virtual event again on 11-13 February as the previous years.
- Epilepsy Society of Australia Webinars have provided state of the art updates on key topics during the pandemic and are planned to continue. For more information and access to previous webinars go to the Epilepsy Society of Australia website: <https://www.epilepsy-society.org.au/esa-webinar.asp>
- Epilepsy Summer School Sri Lanka 19-20 March 2022: This virtual epilepsy course was held in a similar interactive format as the Australian Epilepsy Society of Australia Epilepsy course through ASEPA.
- The Epilepsy Society of Australia supported the Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders (IGAP).
- Revision of the Austroads standards: The latest is now in force in Australia.
- The Australian Pregnancy Register (APR) is supported by the Epilepsy Society of Australia. The International standing of the register has been enhanced partly because of the APR's numerous publications which are peer reviewed. The APR has had a very successful year in 2022 in terms of publications with at least 10 major publications.
- EpiNet under Peter Bergin and the Epilepsy Society of Australia: EpiNet is a SUDEP Case-control study with currently 30 of the planned 200 cases recruited.
- The YES-Australia group is continuing to build their profile and has held many networking and educational events. The group proactively manages the Epilepsy Society of Australia Twitter account.
- The Epilepsy Society of Australia welcomed Epilepsy Nurse Special Interest Group of Australasia's (ENSIGNA) linked meeting with the Epilepsy Society of Australia in 2022.
- A Clinical Epilepsy Observership was awarded at the last ASM. The Overseas Clinical Observership is aimed at young neurologists/epileptologists from the Asian and Oceanian region.

- Epilepsy Society of Australia/ANZAN EEG Asian Oceanian Scholarships for attendance at the virtual meetings.
- Epilepsy Community Service Organizations: Epilepsy Australia and Epilepsy Action Australia.

CHALLENGES FACED IN 2021 AND 2022

The main challenges were around the COVID-19 pandemic with associated lockdowns and restrictions at community and hospital levels. It also led to the need to converting the Annual Scientific Meeting into a virtual event.

RESEARCH AND PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- The Epilepsy Society of Australia has been active in Guideline development and the cEEG subcommittee of the EEG group with Simon Harvey as chair has produced a comprehensive and balanced position statement on the use of continuous EEG in the ICU, this available on the website and is planned for publication.
- Consensus advice lead by John Lawson for prescribing cannabis medicines for patients with epilepsy have been published in 2022. It provides an informed overview of the different cannabis medicines currently available for use in the treatment of epilepsy in pediatric and adult setting. The guideline is uploaded to the Epilepsy Society of Australia website.
- The History of the Epilepsy Society of Australia book, by Frank Vada: This book chronicles the history of the Epilepsy Society of Australia from its humble beginnings at a peripheral teaching hospital in Melbourne, arising from a comprehensive epilepsy program envisioned by its creator Peter F. Bladin. This book sketches the important events which had occurred during the periods of each Presidential tenure and the work of their executives and state representatives, and details their deliberations, workshops, scientific meetings, and international contacts and speakers, had who visited Australia as invited guests for the annual scientific congresses.

FUTURE PLANS FOR 2023

- Next Epilepsy Society of Australia Annual Scientific Meeting will be held at the Viaduct Convention Centre in Auckland, New Zealand on the 1-3 November 2023. Major themes will be 'Epilepsy in Indigenous Peoples' and 'Epilepsy Across the Lifespan'. Confirmed International Speakers are Professor Samuel Weibe and Professor Ley Sander.
- The 2023 Epilepsy Society of Australia Clinical and ANZAN EEG Course will be held on 10-12 February 2023 and is planned as a face-to-face event in Sydney. The 2023 course focuses on outpatient issues.
- Continue regional travel scholarships for the Epilepsy Society of Australia Clinical and ANZAN EEG Course. However, these scholarships will not be offered for the 2023 course as we transition back to a face-to-face Course from the virtual format.
- Continue the Clinical Epilepsy Observership program for young neurologists/ epileptologists from the Asian and Oceanian region.

- Transition in Epilepsy working Group within the Epilepsy Society of Australia for focusing on Transitional Care services and Resources for Young People with Epilepsy (YPE) in Australia and New Zealand and to progress toward an accessible resource and dedicated connection/service hubs for young people with epilepsy transitioning to adult care.

MEETINGS

The Annual Scientific Meeting is the major annual activity of the Epilepsy Society of Australia.

- Virtual Annual Scientific Meeting 2021 took place from 2-4 November. The major themes for the meeting were Epilepsy Comorbidities, Epilepsy Genomics in the Post-Mendelian Era, and Psychogenic Non-epileptic Seizures. Attendance of the virtual meeting was excellent with 304 registrants, and over 200 participants at most sessions. The Peter Bladin Lecture was given by Associate Professor Cecilie Lander on Women with Epilepsy. Prof Ingrid Scheffer gave the Keynote Lecture on 'Precision medicine for epilepsy patients: from targeted anti-seizure drugs to gene therapy'.
- The 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting took place from 26-28 October in Adelaide, Australia. The major themes were Epilepsy Surgery, Genetic/Idiopathic Epilepsy and Epileptic spasms. Professor Helen Cross and Professor Aileen McGonigal were invited speakers. There were 278 registrants, of which 216 were in person.



2022 Annual Scientific Meeting from 26-28 October in Adelaide/Australia. From the left: Dr. Stephen Malone (Epilepsy Society of Australia president), Professor Helen Cross and Professor Aileen McGonigal (guest speaker), Dr. Michelle Kiley and Dr. Edmund Cheong (Co-Chairs, ASM organizing committee).

Report submitted by Dr. Hanka Laue-Gizzi