

# COMMISSION ON CLASSIFICATION AND TERMINOLOGY



Sameer Zuberi

## Chair

Sameer Zuberi (Scotland)

## Members

Nerses Bebek (Turkey)  
Robert Fisher (USA)  
Jackie French (USA)  
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Nobukasu Nakasato (Japan)  
Jukka Peltola (Finland)  
Kate Riney (Australia), Treasurer  
Eliane Roulet Perez (Switzerland)  
Muhammad Salisu (Nigeria)  
Ingrid Scheffer (Australia), Secretary  
Solomon Moshé (USA), EC Liaison

## Aims

1. To develop the classification of seizures and epilepsies to reflect scientific advances in understanding of the etiology of epilepsies, epilepsy syndromes and their associated comorbidities.
2. Global education relating to epilepsy classification and the revision of terms used to describe seizures and epilepsies.
3. Development, launch and global marketing of EpilepsyDiagnosis.org, an online diagnostic manual for the epilepsies.
4. To develop a classification of neonatal seizures and epilepsies applicable to all health care settings worldwide and which reflects the framework for the developing classification of seizures and epilepsies.

## Mission

To develop a scientifically-based approach to the classification of seizures and the epilepsies and to improve diagnosis of epileptic seizures and syndromes globally. The commission oversees the work of four task forces.

## Task Force on Classification

Ingrid Scheffer (Australia), Task Force Chair  
Jacqueline French (USA)  
Edouard Hirsch (France)  
Satish Jain (India)  
Gary Mathern (USA)  
Solomon Moshé (USA)

Emilio Periecea (Italy)  
Torbjörn Tomson (Sweden)  
Sam Wiebe (Canada)  
Helen Zhang (China)  
Sameer Zuberi (UK)

This group met for the first time in Stockholm in 2014 and was tasked with developing a classification framework for the epilepsies taking into account the epilepsy community's feedback on proposals relating to classification from the commission over the previous four years. A paper "Classification of the epilepsies: New concepts for discussion and debate. Special Report of the ILAE Classification Task Force of the Commission for Classification and Terminology" was prepared and circulated within the task force, the commission, and the ILAE Management Committee. The paper was discussed in Istanbul and at the AES meeting in 2015. The developing classification emphasizes the importance of considering etiology at all stages of classification and proposes a framework encompassing seizure type, epilepsies classified by seizure types, epilepsy syndromes and a new category of epilepsy with etiology. The term "Classification" has been re-instituted, replacing "Organization." The task force has brought etiology to the forefront of epilepsy classification to reflect increasing scientific knowledge and the wider aim within medicine to encourage the practice of personalized or precision medicine. There are many areas within the document which will produce debate within the epilepsy community. The paper will be published in the new open access journal of the ILAE in 2016 with the aim of soliciting immediate comment from the readership.

## Task Force on Seizure Types

Robert Fisher (USA), Task Force Chair  
Helen Cross (UK)  
Jacqueline French (USA)  
Norimichi Higurashi (Japan)  
Edouard Hirsch (France)  
Floor Jansen (Netherlands)  
Lieven Lagae (Belgium)  
Jukka Peltola (Finland)  
Eliane Roulet Perez (Switzerland)  
Ingrid Scheffer (Australia)  
Sameer Zuberi (UK)  
Solomon Moshé (USA), EC Liaison

To accompany the framework for the Classification of the Epilepsies a task force is working on updating the classification of seizure types and the ILAE glossary of terms. The group met in London in February 2015,

# COMMISSION ON CLASSIFICATION AND TERMINOLOGY *(continued)*

communicated by email and teleconference and met again in Istanbul. A paper "Operational Classification of Seizure Types by the International League Against Epilepsy" was written by the task force led by Bob Fisher. There are several reasons for devising a new classification of seizure types. Some seizure types, for example tonic or epileptic spasms, can have either a focal or generalized onset. A lack of knowledge about the onset makes a seizure unclassifiable with the 1981 system. There is a need to move away from preservation or alteration of awareness, responsiveness or consciousness as the only descriptor of a focal seizure, although it remains an important descriptor. Some important seizure types are not included in previous classifications.

The paper is regarded as a position paper of the ILAE in development and as such will be put on the ILAE website for comment and submitted to *Epilepsia* for peer review. A further task force will then review comments received prior to producing the final document for publication.

## **EpilepsyDiagnosis.org & Syndromes Task Force**

Kate Riney (Australia), Task Force Chair  
Nerses Bebek (Turkey)  
Roberto Caraballo (Argentina)  
Norimichi Higurashi (Japan)  
Vivek Jain (India)  
Floor Jansen (Netherlands)  
Lieven Lagae (Belgium)  
John Paul Leach (UK)  
Rima Nabbout (France)  
Muhammad Salisu (Nigeria)  
Ingrid Sheffer (Australia)  
Elizabeth Thiele (USA)  
Federico Vigeveno (Italy)  
Khaled Zamel (United Arab Emirates)  
Sameer Zuberi (UK)  
Mike Kerr (UK), Liaison to Commission on Neuropsychobiology

EpilepsyDiagnosis.org is a major educational initiative of the ILAE the aim of which is to make available latest concepts relating to seizures and the epilepsies in an easy to understand form. The principal goal is to assist clinicians who look after people with epilepsy anywhere in the world to diagnose seizure type(s), classify epilepsy, diagnose epilepsy syndromes and define the etiology of the epilepsy. The site is principally

designed for clinicians in primary and secondary care settings, caring for people with epilepsy and is also a useful teaching aid. The site works well on a smartphone as well as on a computer or tablet, and contains very useful videos of seizures. Usage continues to increase steadily, growing from a few thousand at launch to more than 27,000 page views per month, and climbing. Feedback from users has been uniformly positive. The task force led by Kate Riney manages and develops the site.

This year, task force members have written a major new section on epilepsies with a structural etiology, including examples of imaging. This will go live in the first quarter of 2016. The task force has agreed to a Creative Commons License for text from the site so that it can be shared with Wikipedia's epilepsy pages. This should bring further traffic to EpilepsyDiagnosis.org, help ensure Wikipedia's content is current and further promote epilepsy education.

The task force is currently working with Translators Without Borders on translations of the content of EpilepsyDiagnosis.org into other languages. The website is promoted by task force members at every opportunity, was presented at Istanbul in September 2015 and will be showcased again at the 12th ECE in Prague in September 2016.

## **Neonatal Seizures Task Force**

Ronit Pressler (UK), Task Force Chair  
Roberta Cilio (USA)  
Eli Mizrahi (USA)  
Magda Nunes (Brazil)  
Perrine Plouin (France)  
Sampsa Vanhatalo (Finland)  
Elissa Yosawitz (USA)  
Sameer Zuberi (UK), Commission Liaison

The neonatal seizures task force has developed a Framework for Classification of Neonatal Seizures which reflects that developed by the Task Force on Classification but which acknowledges factors specifically relevant to this age group. The group has undertaken collaborative video – EEG review exercises to facilitate the development of relevant terminology. These have informed a seizure type classification that reflects the Seizure Type Task Force work but does not separate seizures into generalized and focal. Symposia were held to present the group's work in Istanbul 2015 and will be in Prague 2016.

# COMMISSION ON CLASSIFICATION AND TERMINOLOGY *(continued)*

## Accomplishments

1. Preparation & writing of “Classification of the epilepsies: New concepts for discussion and debate. Special Report of the ILAE Classification Task Force of the Commission for Classification and Terminology” – to be published in ILAE open access journal 2016.
2. Preparation and writing of “Operational Classification of Seizure Types by the International League Against Epilepsy” special report of the Task Force on Seizure Types.
3. Inaugural year of EpilepsyDiagnosis.org. Marketing to all ILAE Chapters and members and to congress participants. A detailed business plan for marketing and site development was submitted to the ILAE Management Committee. Further development of site with major new “Structural” section. Approximately 11,000 visitors per month. Agreement to share content with Wikipedia.
4. Classification symposium at International Congress on Epileptology, Istanbul and acceptance of proposals from the commission and task forces for symposia at the European Epilepsy Congress in Prague, 2016.

## Recommendations for Future Work

1. To develop the Classification of the Epilepsies Framework and Seizure Type Classification through continuing engagement with the epilepsy community to include open access papers, online posting and feedback.
2. To further develop EpilepsyDiagnosis.org and actively market the site to primary, secondary and tertiary care services, national and international physician and lay organizations and educational establishments around the world. Develop a CD version of the site and continuing medical education programs linked to the site.
3. To revise the ILAE Glossary of Terms acknowledging developments in the scientific understanding of epilepsy.
4. Global education and engagement program on epilepsy classification at national, regional and international epilepsy congresses.
5. Neonatal Task Force to prepare a paper critically reviewing current neonatal seizures and develop a glossary of terms to describe and classify clinical and electrographic seizures.