

# COMMISSION ON CLASSIFICATION AND TERMINOLOGY



Sameer Zuberi

## Chair

Sameer Zuberi (Scotland)

## Members

Nerses Bebek (Turkey)  
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Kate Riney (Australia)  
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Muhammad Salisu (Nigeria)  
Nobukasu Nakasato (Japan)  
Ingrid Scheffer (Australia)

## MC Liaison

Nico Moshé (USA)

## Subcommission Members:

### Task Force on Classification

Ingrid Scheffer (Australia), Task Force Chair Sameer Zuberi (United Kingdom), Nico Moshé (United States), Edouard Hirsch (France), Helen Zhang (China), Jacqueline French (United States), Gary Mathern (United States), Sam Wiebe (Canada), Torbjörn Thomson (Sweden), Satish Jain (India)

### EpilepsyDiagnosis.org & Syndromes Task Force

Kate Riney (Australia) Task Force Chair, Roberto Caraballo (Argentina), Norimichi Higurashi (Japan), Vivek Jain (India), Floor Jansen (Netherlands), Lieven Lagae (Belgium), John Paul Leach (United Kingdom), Rima Nabbout (France)

Ingrid Scheffer (Australia), Elizabeth Thiele (United States), Federico Vigevano (Italy), Khaled Zamel (United Arab Emirates), Sameer Zuberi (United Kingdom), Mike Kerr (United Kingdom), Liaison to Commission on Neuropsychobiology

### Neonatal Seizures Task Force

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

## Aims

- To develop the classification of seizures and epilepsies to reflect scientific advances in understanding of the etiology of epilepsies, epilepsy syndromes and their associated co-morbidities.
- Global education relating to epilepsy classification and the revision of terms used to describe seizures and epilepsies.
- Development, launch and global marketing of EpilepsyDiagnosis.org online diagnostic manual for the epilepsies.
- To develop a classification of neonatal seizures and epilepsies applicable to all healthcare settings worldwide that reflects the framework for the developing classification of seizures and epilepsies.
- To develop a scientifically-based approach to the classification of seizures and the epilepsies and to improve diagnosis of epileptic seizures and syndromes globally.

## Commission Activities June 2013 through June 2014

The Commission has continued to work on developing the classification of the epilepsies. A paper authored by the 2009-2013 Commission led by Ingrid Scheffer was posted on the ILAE website and submitted to *Epilepsia*. Comments were received from 6 expert peer reviewers and from the wider epilepsy community via the website. This area remains one of considerable debate and controversy. The commission reviewed the comments and a Task Force on the Classification of Epilepsies and Seizures was established to develop a roadmap for the ILAE Classification of Seizures and Epilepsies with the ultimate aim to publish an ILAE position paper during the term of the Commission. A classification taking into account seizure type, syndrome and etiology is developing. Importantly epilepsies will also be classified by seizure type if a syndromic diagnosis cannot be made. A seizure types subgroup of the Commission in partnership with the Syndromes Task Force will revise the ILAE glossary of terms to inform the new classification.

A substantial amount of work, led by Kate Riney in partnership with eResearch at the University of Melbourne, has taken place to allow EpilepsyDiagnosis.org to go live in 2014. The goal of this major educational initiative of the ILAE is to

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make available, in an easy to understand form, the latest concepts relating to seizures and the epilepsies. 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 we hope will also serve as a useful teaching aid.

The Neonatal Seizures Task Force chaired by Ronit Pressler has reviewed the evidence underlying current classifications of neonatal seizures and has undertaken a critical appraisal of the widely used classifications. The Task Force is developing a shared terminology for neonatal seizures based on group review of video EEG examples of neonatal seizures.

## Accomplishments (2013-2014)

- Online posting of "The Organization of the Epilepsies: Report of the ILAE Commission on Classification & Terminology." Review of online comments and development of a roadmap for further engagement with the epilepsy community. Classification has now been retained as a term for the overall framework rather than organization.
- Launch of EpilepsyDiagnosis.org. Initial marketing to all ILAE Chapters and members. A detailed business plan for marketing and site development has been submitted to the ILAE Management Committee. Google analytics confirms several thousand visitors to the site per month.
- Classification symposium at European Congress on Epileptology and acceptance of proposals from the Commission and Task Force for symposia at the International Epilepsy Congress in Istanbul, 2015.

## Recommendations for Future Work

- To develop the classification through continuing engagement with the epilepsy community to include a series of controversy pieces in *Epilepsia*.
- 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.
- To revise the ILAE Glossary of Terms acknowledging developments in the scientific understanding of epilepsy.
- Global education and engagement program on epilepsy classification at national, regional and international epilepsy congresses.
- 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.