

COMMISSION ON NEUROPSYCHOBIOLOGY



Andres Kanner



Marco Mula

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Task Force on Psychiatric Aspects of Epilepsy Surgery:	Chair A Kanner (USA)
Task Force on Psychogenic Non-Epileptic Seizures:	Chair WC La France Jr (USA)

Aims

One of the principal aims is to provide clinicians (neurologists and non-neurologists alike) with practical and user-friendly tools to identify the more frequent psychiatric comorbidities in epilepsy and to provide clinicians with a pragmatic approach to the treatment of these psychiatric comorbidities.

Mission

The mission of the Commission is to ensure that health professionals, patients and their care providers have the educational and scientific resources that are essential in understanding, diagnosing and treating psychiatric and cognitive complications of patients with epilepsy.

Commission Activities

The Commission continued the project of promoting translation and validation of screening instruments for depression in epilepsy. New versions of the Neurological Disorders Depression Inventory for Epilepsy (NDDI-E) have been validated in several languages and psychometric properties have been

published. The NDDI-E is now available in validated versions for patients with epilepsy in the following languages: English, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese and Korean. A French version and an Arabic version will be soon available.

The first VIREPA course on psychiatric comorbidities of epilepsies has been developed and recently terminated. The course is structured in two parts. Part one contains basic elements about epidemiology, pathophysiology, clinical aspects and basic treatment approaches of major psychiatric problems in epilepsy, namely mood and anxiety disorders, ADHD. The advanced section discusses more complex problems such as psychogenic non-epileptic seizures and psychoses.

The Commission developed a pragmatic approach for treatment of psychiatric comorbidities in adults with epilepsy. What has been briefly described in the international consensus statement published in *Epilepsia* in 2011 is now fully developed in a special issue of *Epilepsia*, dedicated to this problem. This supplement represents a very practical and user-friendly guide for the pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatments of major psychiatric disorders affecting adult patients with epilepsy as well as special populations such as cognitively impaired subjects.

The Task Force on Child Neuropsychiatry is working on a number of consensus documents on specific topics that have been identified as particularly important, namely screening instruments, psychiatric complications of surgery, suicide in adolescents and ADHD in epilepsy.

The Task Force on Therapeutic Strategies published a consensus statement on the FDA alert about suicide during treatment with anti-epileptic drugs.

The Task Force on Intellectual Disabilities developed, in conjunction with the IBE, a web-based survey to explore the views of health professionals involved in the care of patients with intellectual disabilities. Data on burden, mortality/life expectancy, hospitalization and access to care of this subgroup of patients have been collected. Results of this project will be soon available in a special document.

The Task Force on Psychogenic Non-epileptic Seizures developed a specific document on diagnostic standards for PNES. The document will be soon available in *Epilepsia*.

Accomplishments

- The NDDI-E translated and validated in seven languages
- Consensus statements on AEDs and suicide published in *Epilepsia*
- Diagnostic standards for PNES in press in *Epilepsia*
- Guidance of treatment of psychiatric disorders in

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adults with epilepsy published as *Epilepsia* Supplement (8 papers)

- VIREPA course on psychiatric aspects of epilepsy

Projects to be finalized by the end of 2013

- A consensus document on screening instruments for psychiatric disorders in adult patients with epilepsy
- Task Force on Intellectual Disabilities: one document to be finalized
- Task Force on Child Neuropsychiatry: eight documents to be finalized

Recommendations for Future Work

Epilepsy is a complex disorder that needs a comprehensive approach. Psychiatric comorbidities represent an important obstacle complicating the management of patients with epilepsy and significantly affecting their quality of life and prognosis.

Further work is needed to develop models for cost-effective interventions taking into account local specificities. The following aims have been identified as strategic:

- Close link with international psychiatric societies (APA, WPA, WFSBP)
- Identify geographical gaps and local needs
- Develop a consensus document on standard of care for presurgical and post-surgical psychiatric evaluation of patients with epilepsy

New Commission Members (renamed Neuropsychiatry) (2013-2017)

Kousuke Kanemoto, Chair (Japan)
Marco Mula (Italy)
Andres Kanner (USA)
David Dunn (USA)
Gerardo Filho (Brazil)
Mike Kerr (UK)
Robert Kuba (Czech Republic)
Sung-Pa Park (South Korea)
Markus Reuber (UK)
José Francisco Tellez-Zenteno (Canada)
Tatsuya Tanaka, EC Liaison (Japan)