

# ILAE-Africa

## Members

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Angelina Mwesige Kakooza (Uganda)

### Members

Amadou Gallo Diop (Senegal), Past Chair  
Ndeye Fatou Ndoye (Senegal)  
Edward Kija (Tanzania)  
Pierre Mesu'a-Kabwa Luabeya (Congo, DR)  
Emmanuel Olatunde Sanya (Nigeria)  
Victor Sini( Cameroon)  
Jo Wilmshurst (South Africa)



Angelina Kakooza

### Management Committee Liaison

J. Helen Cross (UK)

### ILAE Chapters in Africa

Benin	Rwanda
Ivory Coast	Senegal
Cameroon	South Africa
Democratic Republic of Congo	Tanzania
Ghana	Uganda
Guinea	Zambia
Kenya	Zimbabwe
Mali	Burundi
Nigeria	

### ILAE-Africa Goals for the 2017-2021 Term:

1. Promotion of Epilepsy Awareness.
2. Improving Access to Epilepsy Care
3. Conduct training in epilepsy and strengthen the education activities of ILAE-Africa.
4. Foster Epilepsy Research in the Region.
5. Multiply ILAE membership in the region

### Commission Activities and Accomplishments in 2020:

#### Democratic Republic of Congo Chapter:

Epilepsy care provided by Neuropsychiatrists, Paediatricians, personnel from Center of Mental Health and in paediatric medical settings

### **Activities**

Conducted a series of individual Research projects on:

- Onchocerciasis and epilepsy.
- Comorbidities in child epilepsy

### **Cameroon Chapter**

Epilepsy care provided by health workers, nurses, medical doctors

### **Activities**

With support from pharmaceutical companies, carried out the Sensitization of the population of the West Region of Cameroon and training of health personnel of the region with great input from the Regional Delegation of Public Health. Over 200 trainees participated in these activities.

### **Tanzania Chapter**

Epilepsy care provided by health care workers in both public and private institutions.

### **Activities**

Conducted a large study on Epilepsy in Mahenge after 27 years of Ivermectin distribution with strong community involvement and have been able to publish several papers from this work.

### **Uganda Chapter**

Epilepsy care provided by Paediatricians, Physicians, Psychiatrists, General practitioners, Nurses and Clinical officers.

### **Activities**

Celebrated National Epilepsy day with a joint IBE & ILAE conference theme “Epilepsy a Public Health Priority” on 10/02/2020.



*Chair ILAE Africa (far left) Dr. Angelina Kakooza and General Secretary Uganda Epilepsy Society/ Chair of Epilepsy Support Association Uganda, Ms. Sarah Nekesa (standing up far right) during a speech to the conference participants*

Held a successful SANOFI sponsored webinar on Epilepsy treatment guidelines among children and adults on 22/07/2020 attended by varied health workers from across the country.

Working with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders, the Epilepsy Support Association Uganda worked on COVID-19 response activities during the lock down by providing cash disbursements, anti-epileptic drug distributions to not for profit health facilities, provision of sanitizers, gloves and radio spot messages about epilepsy and COVID- 19.



*General Secretary Uganda Epilepsy Society/ Chair of Epilepsy Support Association Uganda, Ms. Sarah Nekesa (in the foreground) supervising epilepsy drug distribution at Adjumani Health Centre IV during the COVID-19 lockdown in northern Uganda.*

### **South Africa Chapter**

Epilepsy care provided at:

- i. Primary Health Level by nurses, community health workers, general practitioners, community health doctors.
- ii. Regional and Tertiary Level Services by Specialist physicians, trainees, neurologists

#### **Activities**

- Conducted PET courses hosted by PANDA SA to improve training on reporting of EEG
- Held weekly online interactive EEG sessions, however these were limited to trainees in certain areas of the country
- Conducted a series of Neurology and Neurodevelopment Webinars

### **Senegal Chapter**

Epilepsy care provided by Neurologists, Paediatricians, general practitioners, and by nurses in suburban and rural areas

#### **Activities**

- The training in epilepsy (hours) have increased in medical schools' country wide as well as the Faculties of Medicine.

- Some epilepsy webinars were organized in the region.
- Face to face meetings were restricted in some areas outside of Dakar because Covid-19 pandemic was a big concern.

### **Nigeria Chapter**

Epilepsy care provided by doctors, ranging from general practitioners to specialists, however also Non-orthodox methods exist.

#### **Activities**

The Nigerian League had embarked on the training of health care workers on epilepsy in Borno State in north east Nigeria, however this activity was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Ivory Coast Chapter**

Epilepsy care provided by generalists, neurologists and pediatricians.

#### **Activities**

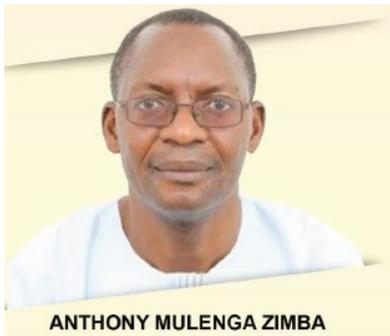
Held several webinars on management of epilepsy.  
Improved collaboration with their neurosurgeons

## **Recommendations for Future Work**

- Continue in the promotion of Epilepsy Awareness using digital media.
- Improving Access to Epilepsy Care.
- Education on Epilepsy- joint webinars with IBE and ILAE-Eastern Mediterranean region.
- Foster Epilepsy Research in the Region
- Multiply ILAE membership in the region- utilizing a different approach in the registration of new chapters.
- To continue production of the bi-annual News E-Report “Epilepsy News Africa”

## **Obituary**

Our colleagues, Anthony Mulenga Zimba and Paul Guchu Kioy, made significant contributions to the study of epilepsy and epilepsy care in sub-Saharan Africa, may their souls rest in eternal peace. Amen



**ANTHONY MULENGA ZIMBA**

17/03/54-----09/08/20



**PAUL GUCHU KIOY**

23/09/52-----07/01/21

Submitted by Angelina Kakooza