

2026 Western Epilepsy Research Day Agenda

Sign In & Refreshments	7:45 - 8:00 am
Welcome & Acknowledgements	8:00 - 8:10 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Acknowledgement • Donor Acknowledgment
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Yemi Damisah	8:10 - 9:10 am <i>Learning of Visual Sequences by Neurons in the Human Hippocampus</i>
International Bureau for Epilepsy Youth Programme and ILAE Young Epilepsy Section: Alison Kukla and Katharina Moser	9:10 - 9:55 am <i>The Epilepsy Dialogue Project: Advancing Epilepsy Care Together</i>
Coffee Break - Poster Browsing	9:55 - 10:15 am
Western Epilepsy Research Group Updates & Future Directions	10:15 - 10:45 am
Research Talks & Discussion	<p>10:45 - 11:35 am</p> <p>10:45 - 10:55 am <i>SEEG Monitoring After Ablation: Patterns and Clinical Implications</i> presented by Iván Castro</p> <p>10:55 - 11:05 am <i>Human Hippocampal Sharp-Wave Ripple Rate Predicts Associative Learning</i> presented by Nasim Mortazavi</p> <p>11:05 - 11:15 am <i>Quasi-Instantaneous Neural Excitability (QINe): A Multiscale fMRI Framework Applied to Healthy, Anesthesia, and Epilepsy Cohorts</i> presented by Dilanjan Diyabalanage</p> <p>11:15 - 11:25 am <i>Microscopic Fractional Anisotropy with High Field MRI Reveals Subfield-Specific Hippocampal Alterations in Temporal Lobe Epilepsy</i> presented by Anthony Chu</p>
Poster Presentations	<p>11:35 - 12:15 pm</p> <p>1. <i>Multi-Scale Surface Searchlight ISC: A Vertex-Wise Approach to Localizing Epileptogenic Tissue</i> presented by Ali Tafakkor</p> <p>3. <i>Cortical Morphometry in Drug-Resistant Epilepsy: A Multi-Site Structural MRI Study</i> presented by Hala Abudaqqa</p> <p>5. <i>A Reproducible Snakemake Pipeline for Assessing Microstructural Changes in Temporal Lobe Epilepsy</i> presented by Mia Green</p>

	<p>7. <i>Real-World Performance of Automated MRI Lesion Detection Tools in Drug-Resistant Focal Epilepsy</i> presented by Michelle Li</p> <p>9. <i>Naturalistic Stimulation as a Localizer for Epileptogenic Zone: Insights from Homotopic Functional Connectivity</i> presented by Nima Zargarneshad</p> <p>11. <i>Quantum Inspired Neural Excitability (QINE): A Novel Approach to EEG Excitability Approximation Through the Lens of Quantum Mechanics</i> presented by Steven Li</p> <p>13. <i>Emergence of Memory Engrams in Stem Cell-Derived Neuronal Networks</i> by Mary Mahmoudi</p> <p>15. <i>Structure-Function Coupling Across Childhood and in Pediatric Focal Epilepsy</i> presented by Mary Taylor</p> <p>17. <i>Stereoencephalography-Guided Radiofrequency Thermocoagulation for Hypothalamic Hamartoma: A Pediatric Case Report and Systematic Review of Outcomes and Protocols</i> presented by Kevin Paul Ferraris</p> <p>19. <i>Frontal Lobe Coverage in Stereoencephalography: A Retrospective Analysis at University Hospital</i> presented by Mohamad Kesserwan</p> <p>21. <i>Investigating Deep Brain Stimulation Parameters for Drug-Resistant Epilepsy Treatment: A Literature Review</i> presented by Sam Dabir</p> <p>23. <i>Use of Responsive Neurostimulation Beyond the U.S.: International Experience and Outcomes</i> presented by Natalia Valencia Enciso</p> <p>25. <i>Seizure Identification in the Intensive Care Unit by Non-Neurophysiologists Using Quantitative Electroencephalogram: A Systematic Review</i> presented by Poul Espino Alvarado</p> <p>27. <i>Global Variability in the Recognition, Diagnosis, and Management of Autoimmune Epilepsy: A Cross-Sectional Survey Study</i> presented by Emily Guarasci</p>
Lunch	12:15 - 1:15 pm
Research Talks & Discussion	<p>1:15 - 2:05 pm</p> <p>1:15 - 1:25 pm <i>The Comprehensive Epilepsy Genetics Clinic as a Model for Integrated Epilepsy Services in Canada</i> presented by Cherie Marie Tecson-delos Santos</p> <p>1:25 - 1:35 pm <i>Valproic Acid Withdrawal During Pregnancy</i> presented by Claudia Burbano Donoso</p>

	<p>1:35 -1:45 pm <i>Global Health Outcomes Among Women with Epilepsy: The Influence of Socioeconomic Disparities in a Cross-Sectional Analysis</i> presented by Ana Victoria Mourao de Meira</p> <p>1:45 – 1:55 pm <i>Volume of Tissue Activated as a Predictor of Clinical Outcomes in Deep Brain Stimulation for Drug-Resistant Epilepsy</i> presented by Xin Yue (Sharon) Xie</p>
<p>Poster Presentations</p>	<p>2:05 - 2:45 pm</p> <p>2. <i>Mapping the Limbic Connectome Using In Vivo Diffusion MRI: Reliability and Reproducibility</i> presented by Dilyar Deniz</p> <p>4. <i>Comparative Evaluation of Machine Learning Models for Automatic Localization of the Centromedian Nucleus of the Thalamus</i> presented by Dhananjhay Bansal</p> <p>6. <i>A Containerized, Tissue-Resolved Pipeline for Reproducible Biomarker Extraction in Resting-State fMRI for Epilepsy</i> presented by Dilanjan Diyabalanage</p> <p>8. <i>Structure-Function Coupling for Epileptogenic Zone Network Identification and Connectivity Analysis in Paediatric Focal Epilepsy</i> presented by Adetunji Oremakinde</p> <p>10. <i>Comparing MEG Markers of Cortical Excitability</i> presented by Kevin Kim</p> <p>12. <i>Peri-Ictal Autonomic Functioning During Sleep: A Case Report</i> presented by Hannah Gray</p> <p>14. <i>Electrophysiological Changes Following SEEG-Guided Radiofrequency Thermocoagulation in Drug-Resistant Epilepsy</i> presented by Ahdyie Ahmadi</p> <p>16. <i>Outcomes in Patients with Frontal Lobe Stereoelectroencephalography Investigations: Case Series and Single Center Study Review</i> presented by Amir Saam Youshani</p> <p>18. <i>Investigating the Role of the Hippocampus in Implicit and Explicit Statistical Learning within Temporal Lobe Epilepsy Patients</i> presented by Emily Cordeiro</p> <p>20. <i>Transcriptomic Profiling Reveals Hippocampal White Matter Inflammation as Potential Epileptogenic Focus in Temporal Lobe Epilepsy</i> presented by Xuan Wang</p> <p>22. <i>Status Epilepticus Management in Resource-Limited Settings: An International Expert Survey</i> presented by Grace Couper</p>

	<p>24. <i>Centromedian Thalamic Stimulation in Refractory Generalized Epilepsies: Our Experience Combined with a Literature Review</i> presented by Aditi Molhotra</p> <p>26. <i>Unmasking the Clinical Spectrum of DEPDC5-Related Epilepsy</i> presented by Razan Jabbad</p>
Coffee Break - Poster Browsing	2:45 - 3:05 pm
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Tugce Balci	3:05 - 3:50 pm <i>Genetics and Epigenetics in Epilepsy: Local, Provincial and Global Perspectives</i>
Closure & Awards	3:50 - 4:00 pm