

ILAE NURSING SECTION

NEWSLETTER



Europe Region

INTERNATIONAL EPILEPSY CONGRESS 30TH AUG - 3RD SEP 2025

The ILAE Nursing Section attended the IEC in Lisbon from August 30 to September 3, 2025. It was a valuable opportunity to meet in person and connect with nurses from around the world.

The Half-Day Nursing Symposium highlighted individualized epilepsy nursing care, regional approaches to self-management, and the need to strengthen safety practices.

Other nursing sessions showcased innovative projects, research, and initiatives, with input from patients, parents and physicians underscoring the essential role of nursing in epilepsy care.



JOIN US! - EEC 2026

<https://www.ilae.org/eec2026/section/sectionid/1>

NURSING SECTION - SPOTLIGHT



- ✓ The Nursing Section Europe is growing and the first ILAE Nursing Webinar in German will be held in 19th of March 2026. Watch out for joining links in your email.
- ✓ The next European Epilepsy Congress (EEC) will be taking place in Athens from 5th - 9th of September 2026
- A day for Nursing Training at the EEC on Sunday 6th September 2026
- ✓ Networking sessions during EEC
- ✓ Several events for nurses during EEC
- ✓ Forum sessions with nursing research during EEC

REGISTER FOR THE EEC IN ATHENS IN SEPTEMBER



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**PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE A PROJECT
OR RESEARCH STUDY THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO
PRESENT DURING THE NETWORKING NURSING
SECTION AT THE EEC IN ATHENS**

[HTTPS://WWW.ILAE.ORG/EEC2026/SECTION/SECTION](https://www.ilae.org/EEC2026/SECTION/SECTION)

NID/1



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MEET THE EUROPEAN NURSING COMMITTEE



Tolu Olaniyan: Co-Lead of ILAE
Nursing Section Europe, based in UK

My name is Tolu Olaniyan

I am a Learning Disability Nurse specialising in epilepsy, Co-Lead of the ILAE Nursing Section – Europe Region, and Chair of the ILAE Nursing Section – British Branch. In the UK, I lead the Learning Disability and Autism Mortality Review (LeDeR) Programme for South East London Integrated Care Board, driving improvements to reduce preventable deaths. I am also Founder and CEO of Pretola Global Health & Consulting, which works to improve epilepsy care and tackle global health inequalities.

I love: Connecting with passionate nurses across Europe and beyond, sharing knowledge, and strengthening the voice of epilepsy nursing worldwide. I enjoy going to church and spending time with my husband and children.

I am passionate about: Improving epilepsy care and championing the rights of people with intellectual disabilities through innovation, research, and collaboration.

My responsibilities include: Leading the SEL LeDeR team, embedding learning into system improvement. As Co-Lead, I work with Ludivine Rorher to coordinate and execute ILAE Nursing Section activities to advance nursing visibility and professional growth.

I don't like: Health inequities and poor standards of care that deny people the quality they deserve.

My vision: A world where people with epilepsy and intellectual disabilities receive equitable, compassionate care – and nurses help shape that future.

I want to be: A changemaker.



Ludivine Rorher: Co-Lead of ILAE
Nursing Section Europe, based in France

My name is Ludivine Rorher

My name is Ludivine Rorher. I have been working as a nurse at the University Hospital of Nancy, France, since 2004, and I have been an APN in our Reference Center for Rare Epilepsies for the past five years. Since the creation of the ILAE Nursing Section, I have had the privilege of being chosen as one of the two European col-leads, and later as Vice chair. I am also co-lead of the French Epilepsy APN Committee.

I love: Supporting PWE throughout their journey (especially surgical), helping them better understand and manage their seizures and comorbidities. Collaborating with my fantastic multidisciplinary team, able to provide comprehensive and holistic patient care. Being part of this amazing ILAE Nursing Section network. A rewarding experience that has taught me a lot, both professionally and personally.

My responsibilities include: Providing clinical follow-up, managing medication, educating patients and families, and coordinating multidisciplinary care. Within the Nursing Section, I help to coordinate and animate the global network.

I don't like: Seeing patients struggle due to lack of access to care or information. When the role of nurses is not recognized or supported.

My vision: A collaborative approach that empowers patients to take an active role in their care decisions.

I want to be: An expert point of contact for patients, to whom they can ask any question without fear of judgment, someone who guides them in their decision-making.



Matilda Modigh
Nursing Section Europe, based in Sweden

My name is Matilda Modigh

I am an epilepsy clinical nurse specialist with a specialization in pediatrics, Chair of the ILAE YES Section – Swedish Branch, and Chair of the ILAE Nursing Section – Swedish Branch. In Sweden, I work at Astrid Lindgren Children's Hospital, and I am also pursuing a PhD at Karolinska Institutet focusing on epilepsy surgery evaluation and artificial intelligence.

I love: Connecting with colleagues across the Nordic countries, Europe, and globally to share experiences and knowledge and to build collaborations, both clinically and within research. In addition, I love travelling and spending time with my family and friends.

I am passionate about: Bridging clinical practice and research, and integrating advanced data-driven methods into epilepsy care to personalize treatment and improve long-term quality of life for people living with drug-resistant epilepsy and their families.

My responsibilities include: In the clinic, I am responsible for a highly specialized outpatient service at Astrid Lindgren Children's Hospital focusing on children with drug-resistant epilepsy. This role also includes coordinating the epilepsy surgery evaluation process and serving as the contact nurse for approximately 200 patients.

Within the ILAE, both in the Swedish YES Section and the Nursing Section, my work involves coordinating and delivering activities related to research, nursing, and professional development together with my board member colleagues.

I don't like: Unjust disparities in access to healthcare.

My vision: A world where people with different severities of epilepsy and comorbidities do not feel excluded from the community, and where differences are seen as assets that make our world more colorful and richer.

I want to be: Open-minded, a new thinker.



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MEET THE EUROPEAN NURSING COMMITTEE



Alwina Koch
Nursing Section Europe, based in Germany

My name is Alwina Koch

My name is Alwina Koch, I am 37 years old and a registered nurse specializing in epilepsy. I did an internship at the Kehl-Kork Epilepsy Center during my training. After that, I knew: "THIS IS MY CAREER FIELD!" After completing my training, I started working there and remained at the children's clinic for 13 years. Since 2023, I have been working at the Epilepsy Center for Children and Adolescents at Charité University of medicine Berlin.

I Love: Advising patients and parents and seeing how their worries and fears can be noticeably reduced, how they feel more confident and can live with and cope better with epilepsy.

My responsibilities include: Include advising patients and their families, especially after a new diagnosis and on prevention, in both inpatient and outpatient settings. I assist with applications for wearables and organize epilepsy information days every 2-3 months with CPR training for parents, family members and teachers/educators.

I don't Like: Injustice.

My vision: I strive to empower patients and families through education, clear communication, and ongoing support, fostering confidence and trust. Within the dynamic environment of a university hospital, I aim to provide continuity, safety, and a consistent point of contact for individuals navigating the challenges of epilepsy.

I want to be: A source of knowledge, reassurance and hope, a bridge between medical expertise and the human experience of living with epilepsy



Ariane Bernier Emch
Nursing Section Europe, based in Switzerland



Annette Hospes
Nursing Section Europe, based in Netherlands

My name is Annette Hospes

A nurse practitioner epilepsy since 2005 (RN, MA-ANP). Since 2016 I work in specialised epilepsy care in the University Hospital of Amsterdam with adults who have refractory epilepsy. Before that I worked for 23 years in an epilepsy centre. So you can guess my age... (56)

I Love: Seeing patients and being able to help them dealing with their seizures and the consequences of the seizures. Not only by informing and supporting them but also searching for the best treatment with medication, neuromodulation or surgery.

My responsibilities include: Diagnosing, making treatment plans and treating PWE with medication; coaching and care of PWE; multidisciplinary coordination and teaching colleagues.

I don't Like: My inability to say 'no', resulting in very busy days with patients, meeting an never-ending to-do-lists.

My vision: Communication is essential in epilepsy care. Not only with the patients, their family and caretakers but also with the multidisciplinary team. My role is being a 'spider in the web'.

I want to be: A role model for my patients and colleague nurse practitioners.



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MEET THE EUROPEAN NURSING COMMITTEE



My name is Silvia Velková

PhDr. Silvia Velková, PhD.nurse. Paediatric Neurology Department. Children's Teaching Hospital Košice, Slovakia

I love: I like it when my young patients, their parents, and relatives are satisfied with the healthcare and care we provide for their needs, which we strive to deliver at the highest level in our department.

My responsibilities include: Nursing care for children with neurological disorders, especially children with epilepsy; coordinator of education for patients with epilepsy and their relatives.

I don't like: Problematic situations.

My vision: Improve care for patients with epilepsy by improving educational systems.

I want to be: I would like to contribute to improving healthcare for patients with epilepsy in Slovakia.

Silvia Velková

Nursing Section Europe, based in Slovakia

My name is

I am the CEO and founding partner of the Advanced Neurology Center (CNA) in Spain, a position I have held since 2017. I have been a specialist neurology nurse since 2005 and Coordinator of the Video EEG Unit (CNA) since 2017. I have also been Coordinator of the Clinical Trials Unit since 2010 and a specialist clinical trials nurse since 2009. I am a founding partner of the Brain and Health Foundation in Spain. I am 49 years old.

I love: Caring for patients, accompanying them in everything they may need during their crises, as well as the knowledge gained from teamwork to provide them with the best possible care—caring for the patient is paramount.

My responsibilities include: Management of the Advanced Neurology Center, Coordination of the Video EEG Unit and the Clinical Trials Unit.

I don't like: Not being able to respond to patients' needs.

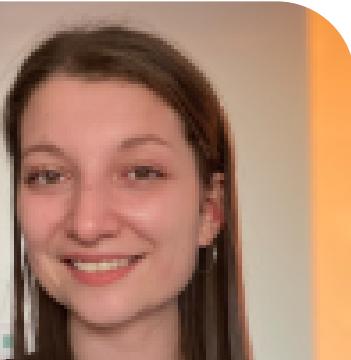
My vision: Caring for the patient as the central focus of the entire interdisciplinary team is essential, as is making them understand that the patient should be treated as if they were a family member, with all the care and affection that this implies, as well as acting as a link between them all.

I want to be: A role model for my fellow nurses in terms of patient care and the need for continuous training, as well as a model of patient care for the rest of the professional colleagues who are part of the interdisciplinary group.



Rocío Vallejo Expósito

Nursing Section Europe, based in Spain



My name is Melissa Denis

I am 27 years old. I obtained my nursing degree in 2020 and my advanced nurse practitioner degree in 2022. I have to work as a nurse for three years before I can practice as an advanced practice nurse (APN) in France. I have worked as a nurse in psychiatry and epileptology in several departments. Since November 2025, I have been working as an APN at the Epileptology Center at Timone Hospital in Marseille, France. I treat adults with drug-resistant epilepsy, particularly before and after surgery (SEEG, resection surgery, and neurostimulation). I see a few patients with rare forms of epilepsy. I am also starting a PhD in neuroscience. With a multidisciplinary team, we propose therapeutic education programs to patients and their families. We want to create specific questionnaires to assess patients' expectations and needs before their surgery in order to guide their care.

I love: Working with diverse groups: patients, professionals, students, and researchers.

My responsibilities include: Following people with epilepsy on clinical, pharmacological, and surgical aspects, and improving their quality of life. Teaching and research.

I don't like: Being too busy, but I enjoy working on exciting projects.

My vision: To view patients through a bio-psycho-social lens in order to identify and modify factors that impact healthcare and increase the risk of treatment inefficacy or complications.

I want to be: Both a clinician and a researcher.

Melissa Denis

Nursing Section Europe, based in France



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MEET THE EUROPEAN NURSING COMMITTEE



Kirsi Ruuska
Nursing Section Europe, based in Finland

My name is Kirsi Ruuska

I have been a clinically specialized epilepsy nurse (RN, APN) since 1997. I currently serve as the Chair of the Nursing Section of the Finnish Epilepsy Society. Since 2016, I have worked at the tertiary Kuopio University Epilepsy Center, which is responsible for the national coordination of diagnostics and care of severe epilepsy in Finland. Our Center is also a full member of European Reference Network for rare and complex epilepsies EpiCARE. Prior to this role, I spent 17 years working in various outpatient clinics, primarily in neurology.

I love: Encountering and supporting patients as a part of the multidisciplinary team. It is also wonderful to get to know my colleagues nationally and globally and working together.

My responsibilities include: I work as a part of a multidisciplinary team for newly diagnosed-, refractory and rare epilepsy patients, who are over 15 years old. The focus of my work is guiding and coordinating the care of epilepsy patients. My work also involves development (for example different digital tools) as well as training staff and patients.

I don't like: Those busy days when I don't have enough time to meet my patients.

My vision: I hope that I can continue to develop evidence-based epilepsy care and the training of the epilepsy nurses.

I want to be: An approachable colleague and epilepsy nurse.

WEBINARS



Discover, learn, and grow - watch our webinars anytime on [YouTube!](#)

Watch webinars about:

1

[**Testing Seizures in the EMU: A clinical practice challenge**](#)

2

[**Overcoming epilepsy stigma in Africa: Nursing perspectives**](#)

3

[**How to talk about SUDEP**](#)

4

[**Accompagner les patients et leur famille dans le choix d'un traitement chirurgical d'une épilepsie**](#)



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