



Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to release a third issue of the seventh volume of '**CLAE Connections**', the official newsletter of the Canadian League Against Epilepsy. Inside you will find some brief updates as well as reminders of upcoming events from across Canada and abroad.

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## Editor's message



Dear all,

I hope this finds you well. As previously stated, we will be moving to provide you more frequent updates via this newsletter, epilepsy news travels fast and we aim to deliver it in a timely matter. Not quite the New York Times, but close!

In this spirit, please don't hesitate to send us content you would like to share with the membership, either in French or in English, anytime. We will aim to publish within 4-6 weeks depending on quantity amassed.

We will continue to provide larger newsletters with more program updates twice yearly as we have done in the past.

This issue would not have been possible without the support of CLAE members who contributed to its content as well as our dedicated Publications Committee members.

A heartfelt thank YOU to all and please send us your news!!

Sincerely,

Tadeu Fantaneanu, MDCM, FRCPC.

Editor-in-Chief

## Recent News



THE **EPILEPSY RESEARCH PROGRAM**  
OF THE **ONTARIO BRAIN INSTITUTE**

EpLink – the Epilepsy Research Program of the Ontario Brain Institute is looking to gather questions Canadians have about epilepsy and seizures. These questions may relate to cause or diagnosis, treatment, managing day-to-day life or co-existing conditions related to epilepsy. Your questions can help influence epilepsy research to address the issues that matter the most about the health and well-being for people with epilepsy or seizures and those that care for them.

Here are some example questions Canadians have submitted:

- 1) How are autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders related to seizures?
- 2) Are there additional treatments to compliment medication to reduce seizures?
- 3) How can memory issues after medications and seizures be addressed?

We want you to have your say in shaping future research in epilepsy and seizures. Take the survey today:

<http://www.braininstitute.ca/epilepsy-ppp> (also available in French).

This is an opportunity for you to share your expertise from your personal or professional experience to guide research priorities in epilepsy and seizures.

The survey will be open until February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Share your questions today!

## In Memoriam

Dear Colleagues,

The tragedy of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 has left a lasting mark on our Country. We lost many beautiful souls, whom primarily heralded from academic institutions and many with scientific backgrounds. Our colleague from Manitoba, Dr. Marcus Ng lost one of his own students in this incident.

Please take a moment to remember Dr. Ghassemi and consider donating to honour his memory.

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*"It is with profound sadness that I am writing to let you know one of my grad students, Amirhossein Ghassemi, has died on the recent Iranian plane crash.*

*Amir was an MD from Iran and was doing his M.Sc. in Biomedical Engineering with Dr. Moussavi as his co-advisor. He had been one of our rising stars. Amir's time in Canada had been extremely valuable. His research contributions held (and still hold) the promise of helping the 65 million people around the world with epilepsy. Using his MD background, Amir has been absolutely instrumental in helping make great advances into the fundamental understanding of dreams and seizures. His research has been presented widely both within Canada and internationally. It is hard to use past tenses when writing about him as he was also quite charismatic and a very charming young fellow.*



*To honour his memory and to continue his legacy, I have established a [memorial fellowship](#) in his name at the University of Manitoba, dedicated to his area of research in epilepsy.*

*If I am able to fundraise \$25K, then the fund becomes endowed so that the scholarship can be awarded on a yearly basis.*

*Your donation would help us achieve this goal and leave him with a beautiful legacy in our institution.*

*Thank you so much for your consideration.*

*Sincerely,*

*Marcus Ng*



**Joseph Michael DOOLEY**  
1950 - 2020

DR. JOSEPH MICHAEL DOOLEY It is with immense sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Joseph Michael Dooley MB, BCh, BAO, FRCPC. Joe passed away peacefully surrounded by his devoted family after a heartbreaking and brief illness, on February 1, 2020, at the Victoria General Hospital in Halifax. Born in Dublin, Ireland on October 8, 1950, he was predeceased by his parents Pierce and Helen Dooley (née Quinn) and his infant daughter Fiona. Joe is survived by his loving wife Elizabeth (née McCarthy), his adoring children Conor (Diana), Jessica (Jim) and Garrett (Ashley), grandchildren Liam, Sophia and Aidan, who were the joys of his life, his sister and brother Patricia (Larry) and Paul (Valerie), along with his nieces, nephews and extended family to whom he brought great delight. Joe grew up in Dublin where he attended Belvedere College.

Joe and Elizabeth met on New Year's Eve fifty years ago, December 31, 1969, and were married on December 18, 1974 while Joe was attending University College Dublin where he graduated

with a medical degree in 1975. After graduation, a happy turn of fate brought Joe and Elizabeth to Toronto in 1976 where he completed his residency in Pediatric Neurology at the Hospital for Sick Children. Following a year as a research fellow at the Montreal General Hospital Research Institute, Joe and Elizabeth settled their young family in Halifax in 1982 where he practiced as a Pediatric Neurologist at the Izaak Walton Killam Hospital for Children (the IWK Health Centre) and taught at the medical school at Dalhousie University for 37 years, until his retirement. Joe was the head of the Division of Pediatric Neurology at the IWK Health Centre for more than 15 years. He truly cared for and loved seeing the many children in his practice and took immense satisfaction in helping infants and children from all over the Maritimes. Joe will be remembered for his warmth, quick wit, wonderful humour and his entertaining storytelling. He was a man of many talents. A natural athlete, he played rugby and soccer competitively throughout his school years and continued playing soccer for many years after. In later years, as his children grew up, he was able to spend more time with friends and family playing golf, another game he loved. Joe was a talented and enthusiastic musician and spent many happy evenings rehearsing and performing with his band, Dicey Reilly. Joe will be dearly missed by his loving family, friends and colleagues. Our family would like to thank the dedicated doctors and nurses who cared for Joe over his last difficult month, including the Cardiovascular Surgery and Oncology teams at the New Halifax Infirmary and the caring staff on the Palliative Care ward at the Victoria General Hospital.

A visitation will be held at JA Snow Funeral Home (339 Lacewood Dr., Halifax, NS) from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, February 7, 2020. Please join us in a celebration of Joe's life at Ashburn Golf Club (3250 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS) at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 8, 2020. For those who wish, and in lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Joe to the IWK Health Centre Foundation would be sincerely appreciated by Joe and his family.

## Fellowships

The Canadian League Against Epilepsy, in conjunction with UCB, is currently accepting Proposals for the 2020-2021 Epilepsy Post-Graduate Training Fellowship Award (with a research component).

1 to 2 separate awards of \$64,000 each will be offered and the application checklist, with instructions on how to apply, can be found [here](#).

The deadline for applications is [March 29, 2020](#).

## Upcoming events

**Preview blurb:** What's happening in epilepsy in 2020

### From across the globe

April 25 -May 1 – [AAN 2020 Annual Meeting](#), Toronto, Canada

May 8-9 - [Montreal Neurological Institute: Epilepsy 2020](#), Montreal, Canada

July 5-9 – [14<sup>th</sup> European Congress on Epileptology \(ECE\)](#), Geneva, Switzerland

July 20-31 - [18th San Servolo Advanced Epilepsy Course](#), San Servolo (Venice), Italy

August 16-21 - [Gordon Research Conference and Seminar](#), Castelldefels, Spain

October 4-6 – [ANA2020](#), Los Angeles, CA

October 19-23 – [2020 CNS-ICNA Conjoint Meeting](#), San Diego, CA

October 24-28 – [Society for Neuroscience Neuroscience 2020](#), Washington, DC

December 4-8, [AES Annual Meeting 2020](#), Seattle, WA

## In Montreal

### **Epilepsy 2020: A vision of the future in epilepsy research**

8 May 2020 To 9 May 2020

**Montreal Neurological Institute** Jeanne Timmins  
Amphitheatre, 3801 rue University, Montreal,  
QC, H3A 2B4, CA

**Epilepsy 2020: A vision of the future in epilepsy research** is a two-day symposium honoring Professor Jean Gotman and Professor Marilyn Jones-Gotman. With careers spanning five decades at The Neuro, Jean Gotman and Marilyn

Jones-Gotman have each, in their field of expertise, contributed tremendously to the advancement of knowledge in epilepsy. This symposium will highlight their contributions in the field as well as focus on current topics and future trends in epilepsy.

This educational event will gather national and international experts in neurophysiology, neuroimaging, cognition and neuropsychology. The intended audience includes neurologists, epileptologists and epilepsy neurosurgeons, neurophysiologists, neuropsychologists, psychiatrists and neuropsychiatrists, neuroscientists, neurology residents and graduate students in engineering, neuroscience and psychology.

The registration fee includes course material, welcome reception, daily breakfast, lunch and refreshments. Please note that the registration fee does not include accommodation or travel expenses.

For more information: <https://www.mcgill.ca/neuro/channels/event/epilepsy-2020-vision-future-epilepsy-research-300406>



The Canadian League Against Epilepsy invites you to

### **The Gotman/Jones-Gotman Fundraising Dinner**

**MAY 8, 2020 | 6:30 PM**

HÔTEL NELLIGAN

MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC

*Donations will be allocated to the creation of an  
epilepsy research award to honour  
Dr. Jean Gotman and Dr. Marilyn Jones-Gotman*



## In Banff



<http://congress.cnsfederation.org/congress/congressdetails/>

## In Toronto



Dear Colleagues,

This year the CLAE meeting will be held in Toronto on September 25-27, 2020 under the banner of the 1st North American Epilepsy Congress (NAEC). This congress is organized by the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) and the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE).

As you may be aware, the International League Against Epilepsy has 6 regions, one of which is ILAE-North America. ILAE-North America includes members from the following chapters: The American Epilepsy Society, the Canadian League Against Epilepsy and the Caribbean Epilepsy Society,

All ILAE regions are encouraged to hold a regional congress biannually. The upcoming North American Epilepsy Congress will be the first regional congress of ILAE North America. This regional congress will be held every 2 years and will rotate between Canada, the USA and the Caribbean.

On the year when it is held in Canada, it will replace the CLAE meeting that year (i.e. as will be the case in 2020). Thus, there will not be a separate CLAE meeting in 2020.

We therefore encourage you to join us at the 1st North American Epilepsy Congress! The NAEC will be a 3-day event with the participation of renowned international and regional faculty. The programme will comprise lectures and interactive sessions on a broad range of topics that are highly relevant to recent scientific, clinical and social developments in epilepsy. In addition, the congress will give delegates the chance to come together, discuss the latest developments in basic and clinical epileptology, and network with fellow researchers, clinicians and other health care practitioners and learners.

Please join your CLAE, AES and CES colleagues at this important scientific meeting!

Abstract submission deadline for the NAEC is February 21, 2020.

For more information: <https://www.ilae.org/congresses/1st-north-american-epilepsy-congress-naec>