WILEY

It has been nearly three decades since experts published a classification system related to epilepsy. Now, the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) provides an update to systems that includes many types of seizures not captured in the older version, allowing clinicians and patients to make more informed decisions concerning treatment. The three companion articles are published today in *Epilepsia* .

“There are many more avenues for epilepsy diagnosis and therapy than there were when the classification was constructed in the 1980s,” said Robert Fisher, MD, PhD, a professor in the Stanford Department of Neurology & Neurological Sciences and lead author of two of the articles in *Epilepsia*. “Applying the right therapy often depends upon knowing the precise type of seizure.”

Dr. Fisher noted that some important seizure types did not fit into the old classification, while others had names that were difficult to understand and apply. The 2017 ILAE seizure classification addresses some of these issues. “Patients and families will hopefully better understand the name of their seizures: for example, a ‘focal aware seizure’ is more understandable than is the old term ‘simple partial seizure’,” said Dr. Fisher.

The new classification takes care to include the whole clinical picture of epilepsy, which may point to potential causes and groupings of different types of seizures that could lead to further advances in research and treatment.

“The new classification will help clinicians to think more deeply about each patient so that they can improve their care with optimized treatment and understanding of their disease,” said Ingrid Scheffer, MBBS, PhD, a paediatric nephrologist and professor at The University of Melbourne and lead author of one of the articles. “It will also be used for research into the epilepsies and to frame collaborative approaches that will lead to greater insights into this important group of diseases.”

The *Epilepsia* papers include two articles that outline changes in the new classification, and a guidance article on how to use the classification in clinical practice.

**Articles:**

"Operational Classification of Seizure Types by the International League Against Epilepsy." Robert S. Fisher, J. Helen Cross, Jacqueline A. French, Norimichi Higurashi, Edouard Hirsch, Floor E. Jansen, LievenLagae, Solomon L. Moshé, Jukka Peltola, Eliane Roulet Perez, Ingrid E. Scheffer, and Sameer M. Zuberi. Epilepsia; Published Online: 9 March, 2017 (DOI: 10.1111/epi.13670).

URL Upon Publication: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/epi.13670/full

"ILAE classification of the epilepsies. Position paper of the ILAE Commission for Classification and Terminology." Ingrid E. Scheffer, Samuel Berkovic, Giuseppe Capovilla, Mary B. Connolly, Jacqueline French, Laura Guilhoto, Edouard Hirsch, Satish Jain, Gary W. Mathern, Solomon L. Moshé, Douglas R Nordli, Emilio Perucca, Torbjorn Tomson, Samuel Wiebe, Yue-Hua Zhang, and Sameer M. Zuberi. Epilepsia; Published Online: 9 March, 2017 (DOI: 10.1111/epi.13709).

URL Upon Publication: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/epi.13709/full

"Instruction Manual for the ILAE 2017 Operational Classification of Seizure Types." Robert S. Fisher, J. Helen Cross, Carol D'Souza, Jacqueline A. French, Sheryl Haut, Norimichi Higurashi, Edouard Hirsch, Floor E. Jansen, Lieven Lagae, Solomon L. Moshé, Jukka Peltola, Eliane Roulet Perez, Ingrid E. Scheffer, Andreas Schulze-Bonhage, Ernest Somerville, Carol D'Souza Michael Sperling, Elza Marcia Yacubian, and Sameer M. Zuberi. Epilepsia; Published Online: 9 March 2017 (DOI: 10.1111/epi.13671).

URL Upon Publication: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/epi.13671/full

**Author Contacts:**

Dr. Fisher: Ruthann Richter, of Stanford Medicine's Office of Communications & Public Affairs,

at richter1@stanford.edu or +1 (650) 725-8047.

Dr. Scheffer: Elisabeth Lopez, of The University of Melbourne Newsroom, at lopez.e@unimelb.edu.au .

Dr. Sameer Zuberi, senior author of all three papers, is also available for European-based media outlets. He can be reached through the University of Glasgow's press office atÂÂ press.office@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

**About the Journal:**

**Epilepsia** is the leading, most authoritative source for current clinical and research results on all aspects of epilepsy. As the journal of the International League Against Epilepsy, subscribers every month will review scientific evidence and clinical methodology in: clinical neurology, neurophysiology, molecular biology, neuroimaging, neurochemistry, neurosurgery, pharmacology, neuroepidemiology, and therapeutic trials. For more information, please visit http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1528-1167

**About Wiley**

Wiley, a global company, helps people and organizations develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. Our online scientific, technical, medical, and scholarly journals, combined with our digital learning, assessment and certification solutions help universities, learned societies, businesses, governments and individuals increase the academic and professional impact of their work. For more than 200 years, we have delivered consistent performance to our stakeholders. The company's website can be accessed at www.wiley.com