**Why is Epilepsy Different for Women?
Virtual Conference**

**AGENDA**

 ***Chairperson: Donna Walsh, Chief Executive Officer, International Bureau for Epilepsy [IBE]***
13.00 – 13.02hrs Opening Words

13.02 – 13.10hrs Welcome Address: Dr Francesca Sofia, IBE President

 **Part 1: Why is epilepsy different for women? A clinical perspective

*Being a woman with epilepsy is not the same as being a man with epilepsy. This is especially noticeable when a woman reaches childbearing age and becomes sexually active.***

***Seizures can be influenced by the female hormones of oestrogen and progesterone, resulting in issues for women across the lifecourse from puberty to menopause and beyond…
In Part 1 of this virtual conference we will hear about the latest research and clinical best practice in the field from leading experts, as well as hearing the experiences of women with epilepsy directly. There will also be time for interactive discussion and questions with the audience.***

13.10 – 13.20hrs Personal Testimony 1: **Liz Dueweke**
*Expert by Experience, USA*

13.20 – 13.40hrs Keynote Presentation 1: **Dr Page Pennell**
*Professor of Neurology, University of Pittsburgh & Harvard Medical School. Visiting Scientist, Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Massachusetts.*

13.40 – 14.00hrs Panel Discussion 1 *Panellists*

* Clinician’s Perspective: **Dr Page Pennell**, Professor of Neurology, University of Pittsburgh & Harvard Medical School. Visiting Scientist, Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Massachusetts.
* Psychologist’s Perspective: **Prof. Gus Baker**, Neuropsychologist & Secretary-General, International Bureau for Epilepsy.
* Researcher’s Perspective: **Dr Maria Teresa Ferretti,** Chief Scientific Officer, Women’s Brain Project.
* Person with Epilepsy’s Perspective: **Alison Kukla**, Expert by Experience.
* Industry Perspective : **Dr Elena Alvarez-Baron, Global Medical Affairs Director, Specialty Care, Angelini Pharma S.p.A.**

14.00 – 14.20hrs Question Time with the Audience
 *Moderator:* Dr Sebastian Winter, IBE, Head of Policy and Research

 **14.20 – 14.40hrs BREAK**

**Part 2: Why is epilepsy different for women? A social perspective**

***In many countries, women with epilepsy are disproportionally affected by stigma***

***and discrimination surrounding their condition, with detrimental effects on quality of***

***life, wellbeing, and societal inclusion. Additionally, similar impact is felt by women who are the main caregivers to children with epilepsy.
In Part 2, of this virtual conference we will discuss the social impact of epilepsy on women affected, and discuss intersectoral solutions – ranging from policy interventions to psycho-social support.***

14.40 – 14.55hrs Keynote Presentation 2: **WHO Brain Health Unit [TBC]**

14.55 – 15.10hrs Personal Testimony 2: **Anita Mago**, Uganda
 *Expert by Experience*

15.10 – 15.35hrs Panel Discussion 2

 *Panellists*

* Clinical Perspective: **Prof**. **Joanna Jędrzejczak**, Associate Professor of Neurology, Department of Neurology, Epileptology Centre of Postgraduate Medical Education, Warsaw.
* Social Perspective: **Dr Dzenana Rustempasic**, Social Activist, Psychologist and Parent.
* Human Right’s Perspective: **Adv. Nkandu Nchindila**, Lawyer, researcher, writer, and humanitarian worker.
* Personal Perspective: **Erin Davies**, Expert by Experience.
* Industry Perspective: **Andrea Wilkinson**, Global Head of Epilepsy Patient Engagement Strategy, and Women in Leadership - Healthcare Businesswomen’s Association (HBA) Lead, UCB

15.35 – 15.55hrs Answer Time with the Audience
 *Moderator:* Dr Sebastian Winter, IBE, Head of Policy and Research

15.55 – 16.00hrs Closing Address: Prof Gus Baker, IBE Secretary-General