

Professor Alla Guekht



Professor Alla Guekht obtained her M.D. degree at the 2nd Moscow Medical Institute and completed residency in Neurology in the same Institute. She was then trained in Neuropsychology at the Burdenko Institute of Neurosurgery (school of Alexander Luria), EEG (Institute of Neurology, Russian Academy of Medical sciences) and EMG (Russian National center for Myasthenia Gravis). She completed training/fellowship programs at Munster University, the University of Homburg/Saar (Germany) and at the Thomas Jefferson Hospital Comprehensive Epilepsy Center (USA). She received her PhD focusing on EEG monitoring in carotid surgery and obtained her Doctor of Medical Sciences Diploma after completing her dissertation on brain plasticity and restoration after stroke. She became an Associate Professor of the Department of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Medical Genetics of the Russian National Research Medical University in 1993 and has been a full Professor of this department since 1999. She is the Director of the Moscow Research and Clinical Center for Neuropsychiatry (since 2011) and the Head of Neurology and Epilepsy Clinic of the Buyanov City Hospital in Moscow since 2007.

She received the Bruce S. Schoenberg International Award and lecture in Neuroepidemiology (American Academy of Neurology) for her study "Seizures after stroke: prospective study of acute stroke patients" (2003), the European Educational Award on Epileptology (2012), the Ambassador for Epilepsy Award from the ILAE and IBE (2013), as well as several prestigious National Awards: "Honored Physician of the Russian Federation" Award from the Government of Russia (2006); "Priznanie" (Recognition) Award from the Russian Federation for her multidisciplinary study of restoration after stroke (2006); Awards of the Mayor of Moscow for her studies in epilepsy (2014 and 2019), the Presidential Certificate of Honor for her contribution to the fight against COVID-19 (2020).

Her main research interests are focused on epilepsy after stroke and traumatic brain injury, somatic and psychiatric co-morbidities in epilepsy, social issues (epidemiology, QOL, stigma). She is the author of more than 200 publications (Pubmed), including over 90 papers in international peer-reviewed journals, chapters in international textbooks, 20 books (in Russian) in Neurology and Epileptology, including National guidelines and Manual in Neurology with an H-index of 25 (Scopus). She is the mentor to many junior neurologists and epileptologists with over 25 completed PhD and 4 doctoral dissertations.

Professor Guekht has been extensively involved in ILAE activities for over 20 years, and is currently the Vice-President of the League. She coordinates the epilepsy community teamwork with the aim to promote epilepsy as a public health priority at the level of the WHO and Member States, fostering collaborative efforts in epilepsy, increasing engagement of Member States and collaboration with the IBE and other partner organizations. She is a significant contributor to the WHO-ILAE-IBE

Global Report on epilepsy as a member of the Steering committee, co-editor and co-author, one of the key organizers of the first-ever official Side event on epilepsy at the 72nd World Health Assembly. She played a leading role in preparing the epilepsy item at the 146th Meeting of the WHO Executive Board, where the support for epilepsy was overwhelming, with over 120 countries highlighting the need to address the global burden of epilepsy and co-sponsoring or supporting the Draft Decision on epilepsy and synergy with neurological disorders. She was appointed Chair of the ILAE Global Advocacy Council in 2020. She is the liaison of the Management Committee on the board of ILAE-Europe and a member of several Task Forces and Commissions of the ILAE (Commission of Psychiatry, Epilepsy and driving TF, Global Health TF, Epilepsy and COVID-19 TF). In previous years (2013-2017) she was Co-Chair of the ILAE Global Outreach Task Force and contributed substantially to the landmark 68th World Health Assembly Resolution on Epilepsy (2015). She also served for 3 terms on the Commission for European Affairs (CEA), being the Chair of the Subcommission for Central and Eastern Europe and the CEA Secretary in 2009-2013.

She served on the Editorial Boards of *Epilepsia* and *Epileptic Disorders*. She currently sits on the editorial boards of the *European Journal of Neurology*, *Neurological Sciences* (associate editor), *Journal of Neurological Sciences*, *Acta Neurologica Scandinavica*, *European Journal of Stroke* and the *Korsakov Journal of Neurology and Psychiatry*. She is a reviewer for many international journals.

She is a Member of the International Organizing / Scientific Committees of the International Epilepsy Congress and European Congress on Epileptology. She has been an invited speaker at the International Epilepsy Congress, European Congress on Epileptology and at the European and World Neurology Congresses. She is one of the founders and Director of the Migrating Course of epilepsy, and is a member of the organizing committee/speaker of numerous international educational events in epilepsy (Eilat, San Servolo, Baltic Sea, Caucasian Summer Schools on Epileptology).

She has made substantial contributions to the development of epilepsy care and education, especially in Central and Eastern Europe; initiated extensive population-based studies on the epidemiology of epilepsy and studies on the burden of epilepsy and QOL in people with epilepsy, which were impactful in improving epilepsy care. She established the multidisciplinary epilepsy surgery program and comprehensive clinic for patients with epilepsy and psychiatric co-morbidities in Moscow and contributed to the organization of epilepsy centers in many Russian regions and in former Soviet Union countries.

She has held both national and international roles in neurology (in addition to her extensive ILAE commitments). She is the Secretary-General of the Russian Society of Neurologists, Elected trustee of the World Federation of Neurology and for several years was the Chief Neurologist in Moscow.

Relevant publications (out of over 200 peer-reviewed)

1. Epilepsy: a public health imperative. WHO-ILAE-IBE, 2019 (Chapters 3, 5, 6).
2. Wilmshurst JM, **Guekht A**, Secco M, Helen Cross J, Perucca E. Advocacy Task Force, Commission of Pediatrics, International League Against Epilepsy. Advocacy for children with epilepsy: Leveraging the WHA resolution. *Epilepsia Open*. 2018;3(2):167-174
3. **Guekht A**. Epilepsy, Comorbidities and Treatments. *Curr Pharm Des*. 2017;23(37):5702-5726.
4. Mula M, Cavalheiro E, **Guekht A**, Kanner AM, Lee HW, Özkara Ç, Thomson A, Wilson SJ. Educational needs of epileptologists regarding psychiatric comorbidities of the epilepsies: a descriptive quantitative survey. *Epileptic Disord*. 2017;19(2):178-185.
5. **Guekht A**, Gersamiya A, Kaimovskiy I, Mizinova M, Yakovlev A, Shpak A. Attitudes towards people with epilepsy in Moscow. *Epilepsy Behav*. 2017; 70(Pt A):182-186
6. **Guekht A**, Mizinova M, Kaimovsky I, Danilenko O, Bianchi E, Beghi E. The direct costs of epilepsy in Russia. A prospective cost-of-illness study from a single center in Moscow. *Epilepsy Behav*. 2016;64(Pt A):122-126.

7. Covanis A, **Guekht A**, Li S, Secco M, Shakir R, Perucca E. From global campaign to global commitment: The World Health Assembly's Resolution on epilepsy. *Epilepsia*. 2015; 56(11):1651-7.
8. **Guekht A**, Mizinova M, Ershov A, Guz D, Kaimovsky I, Messina P, Beghi E. In-hospital costs in patients with seizures and epilepsy after stroke. *Epilepsia*. 2015;56(8):1309-13.
9. Melikyan E, **Guekht A**, Milchakova L, Lebedeva A, Bondareva I, Gusev E. Health-related quality of life in Russian adults with epilepsy: the effect of socio-demographic and clinical factors. *Epilepsy Behav*. 2012;25(4):670-5.
10. **Guekht A**, Bornstein NM. Seizures after stroke. *Handb Clin Neurol*. 2012;108:569-83.
11. Halász P, Cramer JA, Hodoba D, Członkowska A, **Guekht A**, Maia J, Elger C, Almeida L, Soares-da-Silva P; BIA-2093-301 Study Group Long-term efficacy and safety of eslicarbazepine acetate: results of a 1-year open-label extension study in partial-onset seizures in adults with epilepsy. *Epilepsia*. 2010; 51(10):1963-9.
12. **Guekht A**, Hauser WA, Milchakova L, Churillin Y, Shpak A, Gusev E. The epidemiology of epilepsy in the Russian Federation. *Epilepsy Res*. 2010;92(2-3):209-18.
13. **Guekht AB**. Withdrawal of antiepileptic drugs in seizure-free patients: chance or jeopardy? *Nat Clin Pract Neurol*. 2008;4(11):598-9.
14. Naritoku DK, Warnock CR, Messenheimer JA, Borgohain R, Evers S, **Guekht AB**, Karlov VA, Lee BI, Pohl LR Lamotrigine extended-release as adjunctive therapy for partial seizures. *Neurology*. 2007 16;69(16):1610-8
15. **Guekht AB**, Korczyn AD, Bondareva IB, Gusev EI. Placebo responses in randomized trials of antiepileptic drugs. *Epilepsy Behav*. 2010;17(1):64-9.