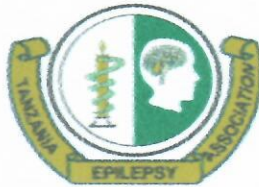


TANZANIA EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION



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On behalf of People living with epilepsy in Tanzania and in particular at Mahenge epilepsy clinic and on behalf of TEA members and my own behalf would like express our shock and disbelief at the demise of my mentor and founder of the first epilepsy clinic in Tanzania. She had come to Ifakara Swiss Tropical institute which was built near the Catholic large hospital in late 1950's as young doctor to study Schistosomiasis. During her visit to Mahenge on one of the many outreach activities she saw children with epilepsy being taken care by sisters with no treatment for their seizures. She started treating 20 children at the dispensary with Phenobarb which was supplied from Europe. She started in 1962 at Mission Dispensary Kwiros Mahenge

On completion of her research she returned to Europe. Nevertheless she continued contacts with the Nurses at dispensary. When the supply of Phenobarbitone was erratic she arranged shipment of the drugs and kept voluntary commitment even when she migrated to Canada. The clinic was taken over and shifted to the government hospital in 1980's. Currently the clinic has over 400 registered patients and over 1000 patients in dispensaries supervised by staff at the clinic

She had published her work and detailed features of various seizure types including the Head Nodding. We commenced research and clinical care in the late 1980's to early 1990's. Our findings were similar to her findings of the highest prevalence in certain villages in Mahenge

Around 2009 we studied the Head Nodding in detail and we confirmed that it is an atypical absence seizure which is endemic in the area. She was an inspiration to all the studies of epilepsy in Tanzania in particular, Mahenge area

She was instrumental in applying for several research grants many were funded. I mention here 2 of the many grants :

1. International Development Research Centre Canada (IDRC) 1992:

Community case-controlled of risk factors for Epilepsy in Mahenge USA \$53,000

2. Savoy Foundation Canada 2006:

Epilepsy in Mahenge: The association with onchocerciasis USA \$ 8,500

The vocational rehabilitation of patients from the Epilepsy clinic was initiated by her with pilot of 10 patients who were employed by the Rector at Catholic Seminary Kasita and were paid by Louise's friends from Canada 2009-2012 was a great success. 7 of 10 patients were able to work and became independent and supported their families.

It is a challenge to our association to keep her legacy. She had a vision of starting a Mahenge Vocational Rehabilitation of PWE. We hope with friends from Canada we can start a vocational rehabilitation Centre for people living with epilepsy at the Mahenge Epilepsy Clinic

We will miss her wisdom, guidance and her commitment to improve quality of life for people with epilepsy at Mahenge and for our Association

Louise has lived a life to the full that was bestowed on her by God. **2 Timothy 4:7 " I have fought the fine fight, I have run the race to the finish, I have observed the faith"**

A word of condolences to Martica and the whole family **"Give thanks for everything, This is God's will for you all in Jesus Christ"** **1 Thessalonians 5: 18**

Let her Rest In Peace; Amen


Prof William BP Matuja

On behalf of TEA members and people living with Epilepsy in Tanzania