A number of eminent neurologists have contributed to the understanding of Epilepsy. Here, I outline the contribution of 4 leading neuroscientists to the advancement of our understanding of epilepsy:

**William Richard Gowers**

(1845-1915)

Probably the “greatest clinical neurologist of all times”, William Gowers was born in Hackney, London. Owing to the death of his father and all his siblings’ at an early age, his schooling and early career forays were somewhat constrained. He initially took up farming but later became a medical apprentice. Whilst working as an apprentice, he decided to study and completed his studies and joined the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic (now the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery), Queen Square, London as a medical registrar. He was later promoted as a physician and continued to work at the National Hospital till 1910. His systematic collection of paint data, astute clinical observations and excellent teaching skills fetched him an international reputation for centuries to come. A number of derivations are eponymous to Gowers: the Gower’s sign in Duchenne muscular dystrophy, the Gower’s tract - the ventral spinocerebellar tract and the Gower’s Round, which is a clinical meeting held weekly at the National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery even today and the Sir William Gower’s Centre for assessment of epilepsy at the National Society of Epilepsy site. He wrote several neurology textbooks and monograms but perhaps the most remarkable contributions have been to the documentation of epilepsy and related disorders.

**William Gordon Lennox**

(1884-1960)

An American neurologist best known for his contributions to epilepsy, he first worked as a missionary doctor in China. It was in China that he acquired interest in epilepsy. His most notable contribution to epilepsy was the description of the Lennox Gastaut syndrome, which he alluded to in considerable detail in his book, Epilepsy and Related Disorders, published in 1960. This book was co-authored by his daughter, Margaret Lennox. He is also known as a most vocal advocate for the cause of epilepsy on an international scale inasmuch as he was the President of the International League Against Epilepsy from 1935 to 1946 and Editor of the first international journal devoted to epilepsy, the “Jacksonian march”. Together with David Ferrier, he co-founded the journal, Brain, which is even today is one of the highest impact factor-journals in neurology. In addition, he also co-founded the forerunner of the National Society for Epilepsy in the U.K.

**John Hughlings Jackson**

(1835-1911)

Another British neurologist, who worked at the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, London, he is most notably remembered for his work on epilepsy. He trained in a number of eminent hospitals in London and eventually joined the National Hospital as a physician. Here he observed and described the march of focal clonic motor seizures from the thumb to the hand and then to the arm, eponymously known as the “Jacksonian march”. Together with David Ferrier, he co-founded the journal, Brain, which is even today is one of the highest impact factor-journals in neurology. In addition, he also co-founded the forerunner of the National Society for Epilepsy in the U.K.
Epilepsia from 1946 to 1950. He retired from Havard University in 1958 at the age of 74 and died two years later.

**Henri Gastaut (1915-1995)**

Born in Monaco, Henri Gastaut obtained his medical degree from the University of Marseille, France and worked and lived in Marseille all his life. Although, he initially was a Professor of Pathology, his interest in electroencephalography earned for him a permanent chair and position in Electroencephalography in the University of Marseille till his retirement in 1885. His notable contributions to epilepsy have been the descriptions of occipital lobe epilepsies, known as Gastaut syndrome and of course, the eponymous, Lennox Gastaut Syndrome. His later years were spent in the development of classifications of epilepsy and although the classification has gone through several revisions under the ILAE banner, the origins of the classification were from several international meetings organised by Gastaut in Marseille.

**Simon Shorvon (1948-)**

Born to parents, who were both psychiatrists, Simon Shorvon first took up neurosurgery as a career option but later opted for medical neurology. He became Registrar at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in 1979 and continues to work there till date. His most notable contribution to the field of epilepsy was to develop the concept of monotherapy along with his mentor, Ted Reynolds. Earlier to this, the administration of cocktails of epilepsy medicines to epilepsy with epilepsy was commonplace. Reynolds and Shorvon emphasised the safety and importance of monotherapy for epilepsy. Another of his contributions was the development of the concept of treatment gap in resource-poor countries, which brought to light the fact that up to 90% of people with epilepsy in resource-poor countries were deprived of treatment with appropriate anti-epileptic drugs. He has authored or edited eight widely-read textbooks on epilepsy and was jointly, the Editor-in-chief of Epilepsia.