

Dear Friends and Colleagues,
Dear Executive Board Members of the ILAE European Chapters,



It is my pleasure and great honour to inform you that I am willing to run for the second term of the Board of Members of the ILAE Europe for the 2021-2024 term being the candidate of the Italian chapter of the ILAE.

I am child neurologist and epileptologist working in Rome at Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital. My interest in epilepsy comes since 20 years ago when I was doing my residency.

My vision is to expand the knowledge of epilepsy with the largest and most reliable sources to achieve both awareness and understanding in the epilepsy field.

I will be able to meet the time demands with the team members and scheduling all the data collecting tasks.

ILAE Europe Members responsibility is to continually improve all aspects of the information and knowledge in epilepsy mediated by the different Chapters, in the last years I used all efforts in order to fulfil with this responsibility. I supported different educational activities all over the countries of ILAE Europe. My purpose is to continue and improve such programs and also focusing on environmental stewardship, activities to benefit society, and a commitment to build shareholder value contributing to make ILAE Europe a truly sustainable instrument for the epilepsy community.

To achieve sustainable growth, I imagine a vision with clear goals.

- Sustain and implement educational activities endorsed by the ILAE Europe and continue the job done since now in order to implement the participation of epileptologists in international educational events and in order to facilitate collaborations.
- Working with Young Epilepsy Section (YES) of ILAE Europe in order to be more inclusive and involve more and more young physicians, trying also to involve younger physicians in the national and international events.
- Identification of a study group devoted to the identification of public or private research calls to be diffused in all Chapters in order to encourage people from different Chapters to submit grants with the ILAE Europe endorsement. ILAE Europe might also support selected advocates with secretarial, administrative and editing tools.
- Within the current networks established following the ERNs on epilepsy and also within the current spontaneous networks it would be worthwhile to give the chance to residents, doctorate and post-doctorate to attend epilepsy centres abroad within an educational programs in order to share the most recent diagnostic and therapeutic tools implementing the care of patients with epilepsy in all the ILAE European Chapters.

- Increase the collaboration with patient's advocacy groups all over the Chapters included in the ILAE Europe (on website and within congresses) in order to diffuse and support activities promoted by these groups.
- Increase the involvement of ILAE European Chapters Presidents giving them active participation to some of the strategic purposes of the ILAE Europe and share the strategies of the next four years of activity.
- Convey with Universities, educational programs proposed and endorsed by the CEA trying to create a European degree for epileptologist.

I fully agree with the ILAE Europe mission and I spent the past nine years as a member of the Italian chapter.

Following the interest in didactic activities in epilepsy I am in charge of the organization of the International Course on Drug Resistant Epilepsies – endorsed by the ILAE Europe - that is held yearly in Italy in Tagliacozzo (AQ), and Video-EEG Course in Epilepsy that is held yearly in Madrid; both of the courses are endorsed by the ILAE Europe. Moreover, I am habitual teacher in other ILAE Europe endorsed courses.

In this role, I collaborated with other colleagues to plan, coordinate, and implement a variety of events that benefited the epileptology community. I am tutor for the Virtual Epilepsy Academy (VIREPA) of the ILAE leading the course on non-epileptic paroxysmal disorders and co-leading the course on EEG in epileptic syndromes in infants and childhood.

In September 2016 I received the Young Investigator Award from the CEA-ILAE. From March 2017 I am member of the Task Force on “Nosology and Definition” of the ILAE , from April 2020 I am member of the ILAE's Global Advocacy Council. In October 2021 I received the John Stobo Pritchard Award, from the International Child Neurology Association.

I have a consultative approach coupled with a “can-do” attitude, and you can be assured that I will always represent the ILAE Europe in a professional and diligent manner. I have a very strong set of interpersonal skills.

I am incredibly excited about the possibility of continuing this work within the ILAE Europe and would appreciate if you might support me for the Board of Members. Your support will be much appreciated.

With many thanks and Kind Regards



Nicola Specchio, MD, PhD
Head Epilepsy Unit, Department of Neuroscience, Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, IRCCS, Rome, Italy