

I seek to help ILAE fulfill its mission: a World where no person's life is limited by epilepsy. The current leadership under Dr. Helen Cross and the incoming President, Dr. Alla Guekht, have committed to achieving this goal by implementing the Intersectorial Global Action Plan (IGAP) promulgated by the World Health Assembly. This is a big challenge and an exciting opportunity for the global epilepsy community, which spans borders and unites us in our mission.

It is urgent that we operationalize IGAP, particularly in low—and middle-income countries. ILAE's expertise in identifying and bridging epilepsy treatment gaps is invaluable. Collaboration with all chapters, including yours, is crucial to making a real difference. Our partnership with patient advocacy groups and government bodies is essential for implementing IGAP in individual countries. Together, we can enhance programs to help chapters lead this process, making you an integral part of the team.

We must ensure that primary ILAE revenue sources, Congresses, and publications continue to thrive. ILAE journals, *Epilepsia*, *Epilepsia*, and *Epileptic Disorders*, are respected by scientists and clinicians. Building on this excellence is a key to their success. Our congresses are well-attended and have the potential to attract more attendees by building on diversity and excellence in programming. This will attract more commercial support. With this potential for growth and improvement, we can raise philanthropic funds for our IGAP and other programming, bringing hope and optimism for the future.

ILAE's excellence is reflected in its definitions, standardized terminology, classifications, guidelines, and reports from the guidelines commission. These enjoy global acceptance due to the scientific rigor, inclusive debate, and deliberation of expert volunteers worldwide. These standards and guidelines must be implementable in low—and middle-income countries, as this will significantly impact the global fight against epilepsy.

I was born and raised in India, where I studied medicine, before moving to the United States for further education and training. I serve as the Chair of the Board of the ILAE-North America, which has focused on bridging the treatment gap in small island developing states in the Caribbean and epilepsy healthcare disparities in the United States and Canada. We are now advocating for a national epilepsy plan for the United States. I am the Eugene Meyer III Professor of Neuroscience & Neurology and the Brain Institute Director at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, United States. My laboratory studies the neurobiological mechanisms underlying status epilepticus and epilepsy. I co-led the Established Status Epilepticus Treatment Trial (ESETT), an NIH-supported 60-site, randomized, blinded, comparative effectiveness clinical trial of three drugs for treating status epilepticus. I served as the President of the American Epilepsy Society in 2010. I have served on the editorial boards of *Neurology*, *Annals of Neurology*, *Experimental Neurology*, *Epilepsy Research*, *Epilepsy Currents*, and multiple NIH review panels. I received the Epilepsy Research Recognition Award for Basic Science conferred by the American Epilepsy Society, the Ambassador For Epilepsy Award from the International League against Epilepsy, and the Jacob Javits Award from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.