
Statement

It reminds me in 2005, the Young Investigator Award from the ILAE supported me to attend the 26th IEC in Paris. At that time, I, a junior researcher, at the very beginning of my career, stepped into the epilepsy community with the guidance of ILAE. In China, we call it "destiny". Almost 20 years later, that callow youth has grown up to be a professor with expertise in epilepsy research, what an amazing journey!

In the last 10 years, as the vice president of IBE WP region, I gained lots of experience of caring epilepsy, not only from my international colleagues, but also from those outstanding people with epilepsy. I understand that the fundamental prerequisite of eliminating stigma and discrimination is to efficiently control the seizures, therefore to achieve that no life is limited by epilepsy.

That is indeed an extremely difficult process, especially in remote and resource-poor areas. As a representative of low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), I truly understand the obstacles and challenges, including large population, high disease burden, insufficient funding, poor medical conditions, limited accessibility of anti-seizure medications, and inadequate attention by local governments. By implementing the 10-year Intersectoral Global Action Plan for Epilepsy and other Neurological Disorders (IGAP), ILAE needs to focus on supporting the campaign against epilepsy in LMICs where 80% of the world people with epilepsy live. Strategies may include maximizing the representativeness and participation of chapters in LMICs, strengthening the advocating of epilepsy caring, promoting resource sharing among chapters in developed and developing regions through multilateral actions, coordinating various forces to expand the social influence of ILAE.

I would like to thank those who nominated me as the candidate to run in the election for the Management Committee of ILAE. I treasure this opportunity to serve ILAE and to serve all the people with epilepsy and their carers around the world.