

STATEMENT

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Dear President and Officers of the ILAE Chapter, colleagues and friends,

I am extremely grateful and honored to have been nominated to participate in the elections that will select the next management committee of the ILAE. The transformative initiatives that the ILAE leadership has undertaken the last years have opened new avenues to improve epilepsy care and research globally and I would be honored to have the possibility to contribute my efforts and experience to achieve these goals. I have had the privilege of serving in various functions within the ILAE's organizational entities over the years which allowed me to learn from the esteemed colleagues and leaders in the field about the global and regional needs to address to achieve a better future for our epilepsy community.

As editor-in-chief of *Epilepsia Open*, the open access journal of ILAE, I strived to create a platform for the dissemination of high quality epilepsy research, provide career and mentoring opportunities for the younger generation of investigators, increase the geographic representation of our authors, and engage the lived experience community into the editorial world globally. We provided a forum to report not only on important advances of epilepsy research but also on public health, socioeconomic aspects, access to medicines and care issues that are critical to improve the quality of life and care of our patient populations and advance the goals of the Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders (IGAP).

I have also served at the leadership of various ILAE organizational entities, such as the Neurobiology Commission, the Joint Translational Task Force of the American Epilepsy Society (AES) and ILAE, and the Research & Innovation Task Force. Through these roles, I was able to contribute to the mission of the ILAE by providing education, training, networking, career development opportunities to the younger generation of investigators as well as to those living in lower resource region. I helped generate infrastructure and resources to improve the quality of epilepsy research, provide possibilities for collaborations and data sharing, as well as improve the translation of preclinical findings into applications that can successfully be used in the clinics to benefit our patients.

Through the Research and Innovation Task Force, we explored solutions and proposals to help ILAE achieve the IGAP goals for research, including the engagement of non-epilepsy scientists in epilepsy resource for new solutions, create initiatives to build research infrastructure and capacity in lower resource regions, build an advocacy plan for research, and strengthen the role of ILAE in catalyzing research growth.

As practicing epileptologist and researcher, I realize the importance of implementing actions that advance both epilepsy care and research as well as consider the community's perspectives. If elected, I will work with the president and the leadership of the League and its chapters to advance the priority areas for the coming term. Specifically, I will work towards:

- 1) advancing the implementation of the **IGAP** and its strategic goals and objectives;
- 2) **fostering research and innovation globally** by creating action plans that consider local capacity, needs and environment, so as to expand, augment and sustain epilepsy research progress at the regional and global level, including at lower resource regions;
- 3) increase **education, training, networking and career development** opportunities;
- 4) increase **collaborations** within and beyond the epilepsy community to advance epilepsy care and research;
- 5) continuing and building on the success of the Global Advocacy Council and strengthen and expand **advocacy** strategies globally, including for epilepsy research, and considering regional environment and resources. Strengthen the collaborations with WHO, ILAE, and IBE in this goal;
- 6) reducing the **socioeconomic and medical impact** of epilepsy;
- 7) providing **resources and best practices** to further improve epilepsy care and research globally;
- 8) ensuring **greater representation of chapters** within the organizational bodies of the ILAE to increase visibility of regional issues and potential solutions.

I would be honored to be elected in the management committee of the ILAE so as to further advance the strategic goals of ILAE and its vision for a better future for the epilepsy community. I am honored and grateful for the support of the chapters which nominated me during the nomination process. I would be grateful for your support during this voting process.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "A. Galanopoulou". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'A' being particularly large and stylized.

Aristea Galanopoulou MD PhD