

It has been my great pleasure to work with the League for the past sixteen years as the information officer and the Secretary General. I have learned that our members have extraordinary skills and dedication across the chapters and regions and that the League is a diverse organization geographically and culturally as well as in available resources and professional interests. To be a successful international community we need to understand and support this great variety.

The League has started addressing this broad range of interests by creating interest sections so that each of us may find colleagues with shared professional interests. In the League we are often professionally and geographically isolated with little interaction with colleagues from other regions or with other interests. I would like to continue and expand these sections and interests groups to improve these essential interactions. This step will provide more opportunities to work with each other and insure that the League is truly international. It will also further the goals of the Global Campaign that I have supported and publicized since I began with the League in 2007.

We want the League to be the international epilepsy community's resource for improving skills and for networking. One of my priorities as president would be to support greater involvement of the entire community in developing the activities that best serve your needs. There is no single solution for our many challenges, but working together can help us focus our efforts to make sure that your League addresses your greatest needs

Changing the League to meet your needs will require your guidance. The League is made up of professionals that range from early in their careers to recognized leaders. The interests range from primary epileptology to molecular biology and everything in between. Our tent needs to be very large to bring everyone together, but we must allow different areas of interest to meet and share ideas. You must tell us what will support your needs. As president I will be asking many of you to help guide the League to this next step. We will create a number of committees that guide the operations of the League and help set priorities. That approach is the best way to move forward. We have started this process for our congresses, and I want to make sure it continues. The League should be your organization that addresses your many professional needs.

Serving as the editor for *Epigraph* and *SharpWaves* (our new podcast series) has been my great pleasure. I have been able to emphasize how our colleagues are addressing the many problems of epilepsy throughout the world. The stories highlight the challenges that we face in providing care as well as the creativity of our colleagues in solving these challenges. The stories have given me greater insight into how the League can be useful to you.

I hope you will grant me the privilege of working with you to create the League that serves your needs.