

Dear Colleagues,

It is a distinct honor for me to be nominated as a candidate for Chair of the ILAE - North American Commission of the International League Against Epilepsy. I am very proud of the work of the ILAE and, in particular, of ILAE - North America and it would be a privilege to serve as your chair.

I am an adult neurologist and epileptologist and have been working at Western University in London, Ontario, Canada since 2004. I am a Professor of Neurology and Epidemiology, the Jack Cowin Chair in Epilepsy Research, the Co-Director of the Epilepsy Program and the Director of the EEG Laboratory at the London Health Sciences Center. Prior to this, I obtained my training in neurology, epileptology and epidemiology in the United States. My training and experience in the American system and my subsequent career in Canada have allowed me to understand the differences between the two health systems, the advantages and disadvantages, but most importantly, the common goal which is to care for those in most need. Being a native of Peru has also made me recognize the unique and privilege position where I am located, and the importance to support those in most urgent need.

My research interests have been to study the epidemiology of the epilepsies as well as the outcome of different treatments offered to those with epilepsy, with an emphasis in the evaluation of potential disparities in care. As a result of my collaborative research, I have realized the great achievements that can be obtained when working with other colleagues with common shared goals. Furthermore, I have had the opportunity to work with the current chair, Dr. Nathalie Jette, and our current president of ILAE, Dr. Samuel Wiebe, in different research and educational projects in Canada. I am very familiar with the ILAE priorities and I share the areas highlighted by Dr. Helen Cross as priorities for the ILAE, including inclusivity and diversity, expansion of education, and review of congresses and partner organizations, in the years to come.

Should I be elected to lead this Commission, I would bring my experience as a former President of the Canadian League Against Epilepsy (CLAE), a former Director of Education of the CLAE, and my experience as a member of different committees and Task Forces within the CLAE, American Epilepsy Society (AES), and ILAE. Furthermore, I have participated in this Commission as a member of the Executive Committee, the Global Task Force, the Education Committee and the Chair of a Task Force on Disparities in Epilepsy Care in North America. I have also participated in the leadership of many initiatives to improve epilepsy care (Provincial Epilepsy Strategy) and research (EpLink) in the Province of Ontario and in Canada. All these interactions with North American colleagues have been the most gratifying experiences, and have allowed me to understand better the needs of the region, particularly those areas in most need. Outside of North America, I have been able to collaborate with colleagues in Latin America through different task forces and research, as well as educational initiatives. One of the most gratifying of all, has been the development of the first two epilepsy surgery programs in Peru.

If I were elected chair of ILAE - North America, I would work with our region members to achieve all key ILAE priorities. I would also focus on the following:

- Support the creation and development of strategies to improve epilepsy care and education in the English Caribbean Region, the area of most need within our region
- Continue to support the North American Epilepsy Congress, and try to engage all chapters in the Region.

- Establish collaborative relationships with other chapters and regions of ILAE.
- Support the Leadership Development Course offered at the International Epilepsy Congress and to incorporate it in our Regional Congress
- Develop a stronger relationship with PAHO, towards the goal of improving epilepsy care in the region, particularly the English Caribbean

Our current Chair will leave very big shoes to fill. However, if elected I would be committed to continue to work collaboratively with all of my colleagues internationally, with our incoming President Dr. Helen Cross and with the ILAE Management Committee to improve the lives of persons living with epilepsy and to enhance education in the region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jorge G. Burneo", is centered on a white rectangular background.

Jorge G. Burneo