

Dear friends and colleagues

It is a great honour to confirm my desire to stand for election of the management committee of the International League Against Epilepsy and I sincerely thank all the ILAE chapters who nominated me. During my recent mandate as Regional chair (of the Eastern Mediterranean Region), I enjoyed working with management and the Executive Committee in the development and implementation of the ILAE strategic goals. During three terms in ILAE-EMR, I became aware of the challenges that the international community is facing to carry out the mission of the ILAE and during my term as a regional chair I implemented in the EMR the main actions defined in strategic goals. The experience as EMR chair was fascinating and very instructive, but certain objectives could not be achieved. Working on the management committee will allow me to continue in this effort and achieve more challenging objectives. For the next term and in accordance with the program of our elected president Pr Helen Cross, and in collaboration with the other members of the management and the executive committee, I will commit to:

- **Strengthen and diversify education actions:** In addition to continue education effort for specialist and due to low number of specialists in certain regions we need to consider that training actions should also be aimed at primary health care. We will make this training available whatever the geographic, economic and linguistic situation of the region. An international training program for trainers in epileptology will guarantee the sustainability of the action.

- **Assistance for chapters:** Currently, the presence of regional presidents on the executive committee has considerably improved communication between the commissions and the ILAE. In order to improve communication with the chapters, it is important to set up within the regional commissions offices of directors comprising the presidents or representatives of each chapter in order to discuss at regional level the best way to apply the objectives of the ILAE, to help chapters to be affiliated to ILAE, help chapters for optimal functioning and also to promote communication with local government/ministry of health to implement the strategic plan on epilepsy care.

- **Strengthen collaboration with other organizations:** A long-standing privileged relationship between the ILAE and IBE has existed. I would work to strengthen this relationship, especially in certain parts of the world where the IBE is poorly represented. Despite a similar prevalence and impact, epilepsy is lagging behind other diseases regarding funding and lobbying; that's why we need to work with other international organizations such as the WHO, WFN, and ICNA. We will work together to identify the priorities of adults and children with epilepsy, and to take action together to improve their impact.

- **Development of research in developing countries:** I would work to make research more accessible in certain countries. I would work for the establishment of a commission which will include a representation of the 6 regions of the ILAE which will be responsible for helping to initiate research, to identify needs and priorities according to countries and regions, building a research network, writing projects and grant applications.

My commitment with ILAE so that no one is limited by epilepsy is long-standing and I am passionate about continuing and achieving more goals.

I would be grateful for your support

Yours sincerely

Pr Chahnez Charfi Triki