

July 7, 2020

LETTER OF INTENT—Election of Management Committee- ILAE - Taoufik Alsaadi

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am writing to indicate my commitment to standing for election to the ILAE-Management Committee. The mission of the ILAE; to promote epilepsy education for health care providers and to ensure that all individuals across all regions have the necessary educational and research resources needed to understand, diagnose and treat persons with epilepsy, is a goal that I truly believe in and support. If elected as a member of the ILAE management committee, I will continue to strive to serve the ILAE constituency and to further attain our common goals as we stand up together in the fight for epilepsy. In my past many years working with the League at different calibers, I have learned how important the League is in the global efforts to improve the lives of people with epilepsy. The World Health Organization epilepsy resolutions, which the League actively supported have laid a great foundation for advocating for a better epilepsy care and for assuring the right resources for all healthcare providers, caring for patients with epilepsy. These efforts must continue.

My commitment to epilepsy education, ILAE and its task forces is long standing. During the 2013-2017 term, I was privileged to serve as a Vice-President of ILAE-EMR. I have also worked at different subcommittees and taskforces for the ILAE, working towards improving standards in the care of people with epilepsy. I have also participated, as a faculty member, in several educational courses that aimed at updating our healthcare providers with the recent developments in the field and I have shared the most up-to date recommendations for assessment and management of patients with epilepsy. Over the past years, I have really become aware of the challenges and opportunities posed by our epilepsy community. At the same time, I have heard comments from many members in different chapters that they feel that ILAE added very little value to their professional lives. I completely understand their concerns and I would really like to work with you all to change that perception. The League must change to be more supportive of all members; successful organizations equally involve all members in governance and work with all of them in setting the group's direction. As a member of the ILAE management committee, I would greatly expand the input from our members in determining our core activities of education, career development and advocacy to assure that representation in the League is as diverse as its members. Together, we can support all the members' professional efforts and advance our chapters' goals.

We are an organization of more than 120 chapters that span the cultural and economic diversity of the world, but we are brought together by our passion, and desire to improve the lives of people with epilepsy. There is much that we can learn from one another's experiences about possible new ways of doing things. My overall goal as a

member of the ILAE- Management Committee is to make the League the place where our members strengthen their skills and advance their careers. Stronger chapters will translate into an effective international epilepsy community that can achieve our global mission. It is our responsibility to develop programs and find the resources that help our chapters become more effective and forceful epilepsy advocates

During the past years, serving as President of the Emirati League Against Epilepsy (ELAE), I witnessed the positive impact, following the ILAE mission, in improving the standards of epilepsy care. However, poor recognition and inequality of care is apparent in many areas around the world, both in resource rich as well as in resource poor countries. As a member of the Management Committee of the ILAE, I will work towards finding innovative ways to improve recognition of epilepsy as a health care priority in every part of the world. I am highly committed to educate and alleviate the sufferings of patients with epilepsy, taking into consideration, the educational needs and research gaps that remain, acknowledging the range of needs in different regions of the world, and I am very enthusiastic about being part of the team to take this forward so that ILAE can have an effective and equal impact on epilepsy care in all regions. This also calls to establish a career development curriculum to help our members achieve their professional goals and to support international networking. I am truly confident that we can only do this through our continuing efforts to work as a team. Similarly, I will work hard to bring other countries who are not currently members of the ILAE to join our forces and to have access to all educational and research resources that are essential in understanding, diagnosing and treating persons with epilepsy, according to the ILAE mission.

I look forward to working with you on moving the League forward so that it can be more helpful to you and your colleagues in achieving your goals.

Taoufik Alsaadi, MD, FAAN

President, ELAE