

Election statement

28th October 2020

I am writing to confirm my desire to stand for election of the Chair for ILAE-Eastern Mediterranean 2021-2025. It has been an enormous privilege to serve as a member over the term 2013-2017.

During this time I have really become aware of the challenges and opportunities posed by Eastern Mediterranean epilepsy community. We have taken enormous strides forward and I am passionate about being part of the team to continue. The mission of the ILAE, to ensure that all individuals world-wide have the educational and research resources that are essential in understanding, diagnosing and treating persons with epilepsy, is integral to the vision we set ourselves in moving forward, and I feel we are continuing to do this.

In my work as a pediatric neurologist I specialize in the care of children with epilepsy, striving to improve our understanding of underlying causes and consequently outcomes. I have a major research interest as well as service commitment. Poor recognition and inequality of care is apparent in the Eastern Mediterranean areas, both in resource rich as well as resource poor countries and I am dedicated to working toward more equality of care across Eastern Mediterranean regions, in all aspects of the epilepsies. Great benefits can be achieved through joint working. There is a long history of working with the ILAE; it is important to continue not only this work, together in partnership with other ILAE chapters and international organization to promote epilepsy education and research.

Over the past years we have established Saudi Epilepsy Society and then GCC society, and we helped to establish Bahrain chapter as part to increase epilepsy chapters in the Eastern Mediterranean region. However it is paramount to consider the educational needs as well as research gaps that remain, acknowledging the differing requirements across Eastern Mediterranean communities. We can only do this through continuing to work as a team, collaborative working with other organizations. I and my team were very proud by the recent election of Dr J Helen Cross as a president of ILAE. She has clear mission and vision to move forward to continue in develop various goals of ILAE. I am going to work very closely and support Dr. Cross to continue the journey of ILAE by all means.

I was able to understand how the ILAE functions and I am very eager to continue improve and develop the wonderful effort that has been done over the last years.

I would be grateful for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Raidah Saleem AlBaradie

Director Neuroscience Center & Comprehensive Epilepsy Program
King Fahd Specialist Hospital
Dammam