

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) has made remarkable strides as the world's leading multidisciplinary and multinational society of physicians and health professionals engaging in multifaceted aspects regarding epilepsy care for more than 100 years to date. I feel honored to have made a contribution to this organization which is home to many committed and talented professionals in the world who foster the vision to see a world in which no person's life is limited by epilepsy. I have had the enormous privilege to serve in diverse capacities at the national level (Chapter founder/ President-Epilepsy Society Uganda), and at the regional level (Treasurer / Chair ILAE-Africa). Furthermore, I have had the great opportunity to participate in several ILAE task forces: Neonatal seizures guidelines (2008-2009); Educational commission (2009-2012); Reviewing the operational definition of epilepsy (2012-2013); Seizures and epilepsies in the tropics (2014-2017); Update of Neonatal seizures guidelines (2019-2020); ILAE Nosology (2020) and Global Advocacy (2020-2021).

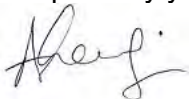
Specifically, in collaboration with other partners like the British Paediatric Neurology Association, the ILAE-Africa executive has supported a number of Paediatric Epilepsy Training (PET) Courses across the continent in Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, Namibia, Angola, South Africa and Uganda and together with the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) held a number of joint IBRO/ ILAE-Africa Anglophone and Francophone teaching courses across the continent. In addition, there has been revamping of several multidisciplinary activities in various countries concerned with raising the awareness of epilepsy at the community and national levels. All these activities support the ILAE mission to guarantee that **“health professionals, patients and their care providers, governments, and the public world-wide have the educational and research resources that are essential in understanding, diagnosing and treating epilepsy”**

Our President-Elect, Professor Helen Cross, has highlighted five key priority areas for the next term: determining the local needs of our chapters; meeting the needs of other epilepsy professionals worldwide; expanding our education portfolio; reviewing the way we conduct our congresses and fostering collaborative networks with similar international organizations so as enhance our global reach and impact.

I am confident that I can positively contribute to the implementation of these goals on the background of my professional expertise and experience gained while serving the ILAE. I will if elected, ensure that the President elect's key priority areas are upheld, and what is more in pursuing this goal my specific concerns would be to:

1. **Foster patient and community involvement** in the development of epilepsy healthcare programs in partnership with the epilepsy professionals that are suited to their respective circumstances in the various regions.
2. **Empower the chapters** to become strong epilepsy advocates by exploring unique avenues tailored to their individual situations that enable them to function and communicate effectively in their diverse communities.
3. **Facilitate career guidance and development in epilepsy care and research** through various e-learning and face to face platforms by engaging emerging researchers with established leaders, as well as promoting south to south and north to south research collaborations.
4. **Support the development of national epilepsy guidelines** in collaboration with other global partners like the IBE, WHO, WFN that will ensure that a similar message regarding epilepsy professional care resonates worldwide.
5. **Strengthen and sustain efforts to raise epilepsy awareness** through the development of innovative communication strategies in liaison with various stakeholders especially in regions with a high burden of epilepsy such as Africa, Asia and Latin America where the preventable epilepsies play a major role.

Respectfully yours,



Angelina Kakooza-Mwesige